



**Program of Studies
2025 - 2026**

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Matthew McGuire

Assistant Principals
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Diane Ready
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BASIC INFORMATION

About this Booklet

This booklet is designed to provide the community with a description of the courses being offered at the Qualters Middle School for the 2025-2026 school year. Classes are presented in order, by grade, with on-team, full year courses listed first, followed by off-team, trimester-long specials. At the end of the book are sequence grids, by department, that show the most likely path students will follow as they progress through each discipline in grades 6-12 in the Mansfield Public Schools.

School Structure

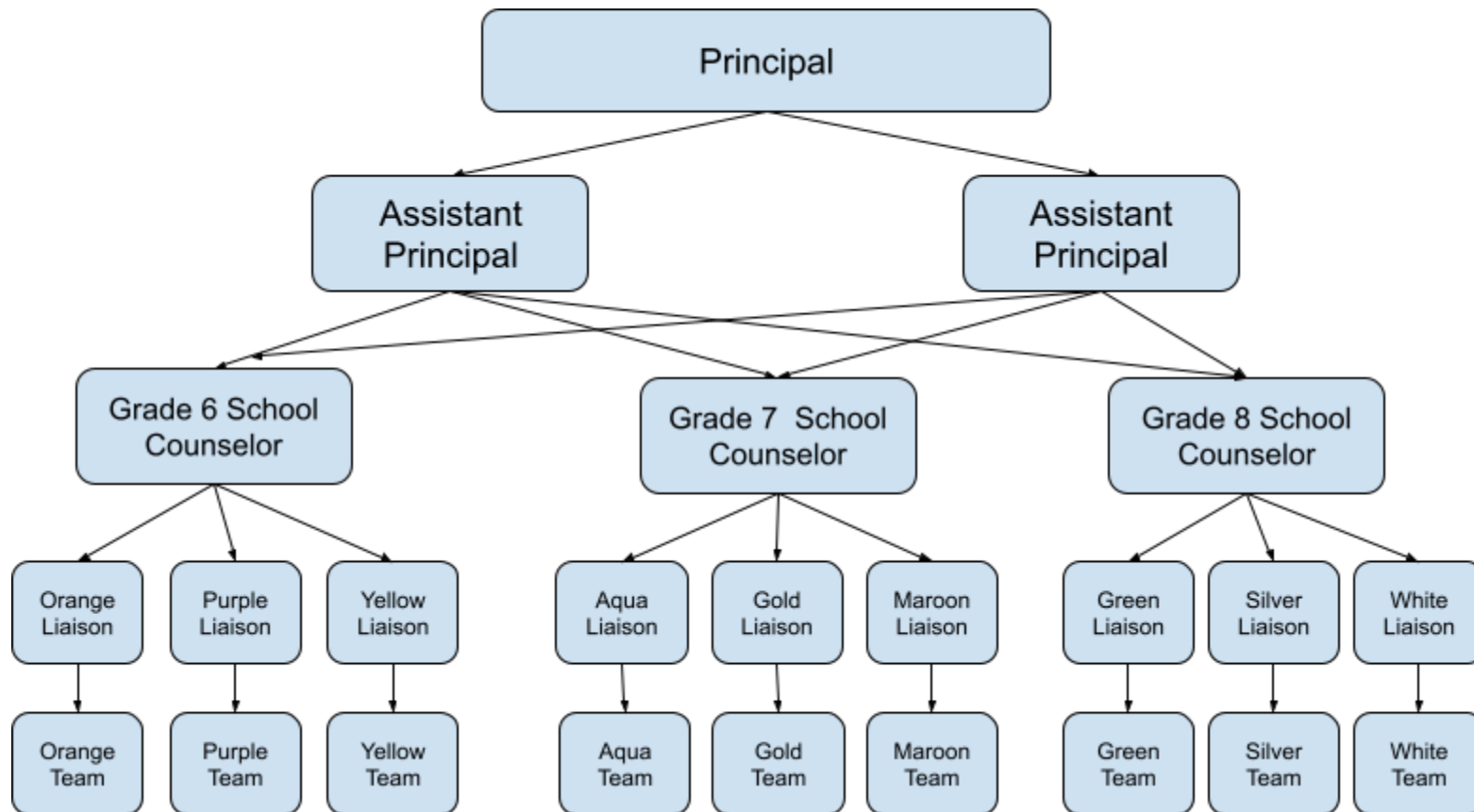
The Qualters Middle School uses a team teaching system that is a foundational element of the middle school model. There are a total of nine teams, three per grade, at QMS. Each team is made up of five teachers: English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Special Education. Each team has a designated Team Liaison who manages most matters on-team. All courses are heterogeneously grouped (unleveled), except for math courses.

Core courses include English Language Arts, Social Studies, Science and Mathematics.

Specials courses include Wellness, Science and Engineering, Language Exploration, Art, Theater, Computers, Computer Applications. These courses meet for a trimester and provide students with experiences in areas beyond the core subjects. Students participate in up to six specials per year. These courses vary by grade and are each described in this document.

Mixed use period courses include Hive, interventions, ensembles, study skills, and enrichment courses.

SCHOOL STRUCTURE DIAGRAM



MASTER SCHEDULE

The Qualters Middle School uses a seven-day schedule with seven fifty-minute periods per day. Students are expected to be seated in their first period class at 7:25 am. Each day, courses rotate with the last period of the day becoming the first period the next day. There are three lunches per day; each grade has its own lunch.

Sample Schedule

Period	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	7:25 - 8:15 1	7:25 - 8:15 7	7:25 - 8:15 6	7:25 - 8:15 5	7:25 - 8:15 4	7:25 - 8:15 3	7:25 - 8:15 2
2	8:17-9:07 2	8:17-9:07 1	8:17-9:07 7	8:17-9:07 6	8:17-9:07 5	8:17-9:07 4	8:17-9:07 3
3	9:09-9:59 3	9:09-9:59 2	9:09-9:59 1	9:09-9:59 7	9:09-9:59 6	9:09-9:59 5	9:09-9:59 4
4	10:01 - 10:51 4	10:01 - 10:51 3	10:01 - 10:51 2	10:01 - 10:51 1	10:01 - 10:51 7	10:01 - 10:51 6	10:01 - 10:51 5
5	10:53 - 11:13 LUNCH	10:53 - 11:13 LUNCH	10:53 - 11:18 3	10:53 - 11:18 2	10:53 - 11:43 1	10:53 - 11:43 7	10:53 - 11:43 6
	11:15 - 12:05 5	11:15 - 12:05 4	11:20 - 11:40 LUNCH	11:20 - 11:40 LUNCH			
			11:42 - 12:05 3	11:42 - 12:05 2	11:45-12:05 LUNCH	11:45-12:05 LUNCH	11:45-12:05 LUNCH
6	12:07-12:57 6	12:07-12:57 5	12:07-12:57 4	12:07-12:57 3	12:07-12:57 2	12:07-12:57 1	12:07-12:57 7
7	12:59 - 1:49 7	12:59 - 1:49 6	12:59 - 1:49 5	12:59 - 1:49 4	12:59 - 1:49 3	12:59 - 1:49 2	12:59 - 1:49 1

QMS COURSE OFFERINGS BY DEPARTMENT

Department heads may be reached by email or by phone at Mansfield High School (508) 261-7540.

Please note when emailing any staff member - use first.last name@mansfieldschools.com

Business & Technology

Department Head: Nicole Redding

Digital Literacy 6
Computer Enrichment 6
Business Enrichment 6
Computer Applications 8

English Language Arts (ELA)

Department Head: Katherine Struzziero

English 6
English 7
English 8
Fundamentals of English 6-8
Literacy 6
Literacy 7
Literacy 8

Mathematics

Department Head: Jaime Mintz

Math Skills 6-8
Math 6
Math 6 Enriched
Math 7
Math 7 Pre-Algebra
Math 8
Math 8 Algebra

Social Studies

Department Head: William Hocking

Social Studies 6 - World Geography and Ancient Civilizations I
Social Studies 7 - World Geography and Ancient Civilizations II
Social Studies 8 - Civics

Visual Arts

Department Head: Derek Harding

Visual Art 6
Visual Art 7
Art Enrichment 8

World Languages

Department Head: Carolina DiBiase

World Language Exploration 6
French 1A 7
French 1B 8
Spanish 1A 7
Spanish 1B 8

Wellness

Department Head: Natalie Johnson

Physical Education 6 – 8
Health Education 6 – 8

Science

Department Head: Janet Hogan

Science 6
Science & Engineering 6
Science 7 Science
Science & Engineering 7
Science 8 Science
Science Enrichment 7 - The Science of Sound and Music
Science Enrichment 8 - Science in the News

Performing Arts

Department Head: Sheila Newton

Theater 6 - Music & Theater
Theater 7 - Drama & Theater
Theater Enrichment 7
Band 6 – 8
Chorus 6 – 8
Orchestra 6 – 8

Intervention and Services

Academic Learning Center 6-8
English Learners 6-8
Study Skills 6-8
Hive 6-8

GRADE 6

CORE COURSES

English Language Arts 6

Grade 6

Full Year

Students read a variety of genres, including selections from fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama. The course will focus on multiple themes such as conflict and resolution, ethical and moral decision-making, diversity and multiculturalism. Students will read independently as well as participate in shared and whole-class reading. Students examine the elements of a story such as plot and character development, conflict, theme and symbolism, as well as analyze the author's use of figurative language through the different readings. Students will practice different types of writing, including narrative, argument, and analysis. Students will work on improving their vocabulary acquisition and their grammar usage throughout the year. Students entering grade 6 should have a solid command of their knowledge of the eight parts of speech in order to understand the parts of a sentence. This course helps students to develop their ability to read, write, and think critically about the literature as well as the world around them. This course is aligned with the Massachusetts 2017 English Language Arts and Literacy Framework.

Science 6

Grade 6

Full Year

This course integrates Earth and space and life and physical sciences to provide students with relevant and engaging opportunities to interact with the world around them. Using the theme of structure and function, students will develop and use a model of the Earth-Sun-Moon system to explain the causes of lunar phases and eclipses, analyze seafloor maps, investigate cells, interpret fossil records, and construct arguments on the interactions of body systems. Students will use science practices to plan and construct experiments on energy, matter and its interactions, forces, motion and waves. This course is aligned with the Middle School strand of the Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Framework.

Social Studies 6 - World Geography and Ancient Civilizations 1

Grade 6

Full Year

Students will begin a two-year study of world history and geography by studying the major ancient civilizations and the development of prehistoric societies. In addition, students will focus on area studies of Western Asia, the Middle East, North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, Central America, the Caribbean Islands, and South America. In each unit the students will examine the ways in which geography impacted the development of these societies through research, documentaries, and literary analysis. Throughout the course, students will have opportunities to enhance their reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills. This course is aligned to the 2018 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for History and Social Studies.

Mathematics 6

Math Level Placement

Middle school mathematics prepares students for success in learning Algebra and lays the critical foundation for advanced mathematical thinking in high school. Middle school is a time when concrete mathematical reasoning changes to abstract algebraic thinking. This change is a process that occurs at different times for each student. As a result, it is extremely important that students are in the right place at the right time so that they can develop a deep understanding of mathematics. Toward this end, teachers, the Mathematics Department chair, and administrators meet on a regular basis each spring to discuss placement for the following year. Student placement will be based on data from district screeners as well as various state and local assessments. The mathematical pathways presented are most typical, though alternative pathways exist. For information on non-traditional pathways, please contact Ms. Mintz, Mathematics Department Chair. The placement process begins in the spring for the following school year and is a collaborative process between the school and home.

Math 6

Grade 6

Full Year

This comprehensive, standards-based course is intended to enable students to develop their conceptual understanding, computational facility, and problem-solving skills. This course will provide all students the opportunity to make continual progress in developing the mathematical skills they need to achieve success on important assessments. The focus in the beginning of the course will be on whole number, fraction, and decimal operations as well as number patterns. Later on, the focus of the course changes to topics such as ratios and proportional relationships, expressions, equations, inequalities, two-and three-dimensional geometry, statistics, and data analysis. Real-life applications will be presented throughout the course in order to show students the usefulness of mathematics in the real world. This course is aligned with the 2017 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics. This comprehensive, standards-based course is intended to enable students to develop their conceptual understanding, computational facility, and problem-solving skills.

Math 6 Enriched

Grade 6, by recommendation

Full Year

The Math 6 Enriched course is designed to be similar to the Math 6 course, in terms of math content, however it delves deeper into mathematical concepts and moves at a more accelerated and rigorous pace as compared to Math 6. This course is aligned with the 2017 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics.

SPECIALS COURSES**Language Exploration****Placement in Literacy or World Language**

It is important that middle level students gain the literacy skills they need moving into high school. Students who demonstrate they are on track with those literacy skills are recommended to take either French or Spanish in seventh and eighth grade. We recommend that students who demonstrate a need for more accelerated growth on reading screeners, common assessments, and the ELA MCAS take Literacy in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. Students who take Literacy in 7th grade should expect to take it in 8th grade and then start either Spanish I or French I freshman year at Mansfield High School. Upon successful completion of French or Spanish in 7th and 8th grade, students may enroll in French II or Spanish II freshman year at Mansfield High School.

World Language 6

Grade 6

Trimester

In World Language, students will begin learning the French and Spanish language along with exploring cultures of Spanish-speaking and French-speaking places around the world. Through this exploration, students will be able to make an informed decision about their world language selection moving into seventh grade.

Literacy 6

Grade 6

Trimester

The purpose of this class is to provide students with an opportunity to enhance their literacy skills. Students will gain additional practice with close reading and critical analysis with the use of independent reading selections as well as writing prompts. This sixth grade course will expand upon and enrich the literacy and content literacy standards in the Massachusetts 2017 English Language Arts and Literacy Framework, specifically elements of plot, fiction/nonfiction, and writing skills. Students who take Literacy 6 will be prepared for Literacy 7 or a World Language.

Reading 6

Grade 6

Full Year

This class is designed for students who qualify for specially designed instruction in reading identified in their IEP. It is for students with significant difficulties with decoding and encoding. This course follows a structured, multi-sensory, language-based approach, with an emphasis on sound and syllable segmentation. Taught by a highly-qualified special education teacher, it incorporates essential reading components, including instruction in decoding, encoding, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

Digital Literacy 6

Grade 6

Trimester

This course will provide students with an introduction to technology. Students will become knowledge constructors using digital tools skillfully and critically in order to create artifacts that showcase their understanding. Students will also learn how to be compliant with Mansfield Public Schools' Responsible Use Policy, gain an understanding of digital citizenship, improve their typing skills, learn some of the effects of modern technology, and be introduced to coding. Additionally, students will learn how to efficiently use the Google Workspace of applications and apply these tools to their daily practice. This course is aligned with the current Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks for Digital Literacy and Computer Sciences as well as the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) standards.

Theater 6 *

Grade 6

Trimester

In the sixth grade course students will be given an opportunity to create, perform, devise, and collaborate in the Theater. Students will study units in improvisation, script performance, staging techniques, script writing, and general performance practices.

Visual Art 6 *

Grade 6

Trimester

This introductory course is intended to help students develop their creative skills. An emphasis is placed on the principles and elements of design, observational drawing, and portraiture. Using light, shadow, shade, tone, and color, students learn to manipulate design elements in a variety of two- and three-dimensional media to create representational and abstract artwork. Various techniques are introduced and students are encouraged to develop their own style of work. Students become familiar with the challenges of design, basic art elements, and proper use of scale and perspective, and are introduced to specialized media.

- ❖ Starting with the 24-25 school year, students will take theater and art in 6th or 7th grade. Whatever is not taken in 6th grade will be taken in 7th.

Science & Engineering 6

Grade 6

Trimester

Grade six students will utilize all steps of the engineering design process to identify criteria and constraints of a design problem by solving challenges using a variety of materials. Specific focus will be on technical drawing, orthographic projection, and model building. Projects will also focus on systems design encompassing communication, structural, transportation, and manufacturing systems. This course is aligned with the Middle School Technology Strand of the Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Framework.

Wellness 6

Students will spend one trimester in Wellness each year. Both courses spend time covering the physical education and health curriculums.

Physical Education 6

Grade 6

Trimester

During the Physical Education component of the course, students will combine fundamental skills into more complex movement forms in modified games, rhythmic activities, recreational activities, team sports, and individual and dual sports. The objective of this course is for students to improve their fitness and to further develop fundamental sports skills to allow them to successfully participate in various games and activities. Major aspects of this course are goal-setting, targeted and developmentally appropriate training activities, and instruction in a wide range of activities, sports skills, and movement patterns along with social skill development including cooperation, teamwork, sportsmanship, and

confidence. Some units may include fitness, soccer, target games, basketball, badminton, volleyball, and softball. Physical education teachers use the QMS gym, fitness center, multipurpose room, outdoor track, and the turf field to cover these topics.

Health 6

Grade 6

Trimester

Students will start with an introduction to the wellness triangle and how it incorporates the combination of different areas of physical, social, and mental/emotional health. Sixth graders will then transition into our interactive Second Step social-emotional learning program covering topics that focus on introducing them to middle school. These topics include communication skills, being an ally, disagreeing respectfully, and recognizing bullying. Students will explore the importance of sleep, learn about the basic functions of the human body systems, and the dangers of vaping. Additional topics included are sun safety, concussion, fire safety and physical fitness.

MIXED USE PERIOD

Each day, students have one period a day that allows for a variety of experiences. During this period, students may have access to the following opportunities:

Hive 6

The goal of Hive is to help support students during the school day. Teachers may provide instructional support in various areas such as organization, how to study, how to prioritize school work, and goal setting. Teachers may pull groups of students together for content-specific academic support or extra help as needed.

The Academic Learning Center (ALC) 6

This is a separate classroom, coordinated by a licensed educator, where a variety of academic supports are provided to students in need. Students are referred to the ALC through a cooperative effort of their teachers, administrators, Guidance Counselors, and School Nurses. When students are receiving services through the Academic Learning Center, parents/guardians are notified and given the option to opt their child out of these services.

English Learners 6

QMS offers instruction for English Learners using a pull-out model. The frequency and duration of services is determined by individual student proficiency levels and in accordance with state requirements. Instruction focuses on developing the English language skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing, with an emphasis on using academic language so students can participate meaningfully in their content area classrooms.

Math Skills 6

This course is designed to help students gain a deeper understanding of the mathematics taught at their grade level. Students will learn to develop procedural skills in mathematics, strengthen their conceptual understanding, and solve a variety of application problems. They will also learn how to improve their test-taking skills by practicing technology-enhanced questions and constructed response questions in preparation for state assessments. Students are enrolled in this course through a referral process.

Fundamentals of English 6

This course is designed to help students acquire a solid foundation in decoding, encoding, fluency, comprehension and vocabulary. Students will strengthen their reading comprehension, close reading, and critical analysis skills through consistent practice, and improve their overall reading skills through targeted instruction. Students in grades six are enrolled in this class through a referral process.

Study Skills 6

This class is offered by recommendation only for special education students. Instruction focuses on developing self-advocacy, self-determination, and executive functioning skills while supporting student success across content-area classes through specially designed instruction. The reinforcement of skills and concept development in the core curriculum areas are emphasized. Students in this class focus on developing strategies to improve self-awareness, self-advocacy, organizational skills and to gain independence in managing their academic responsibilities.

Ensembles

Students will develop a sincere appreciation for a varied repertoire of music, an informed ear that can assess both one's own performance and the performance of others, an improved ability to play their instrument or sing with musicality, proper technique, and accuracy, and the skills to function as a positive member of both the ensemble and the greater community. Students may have opportunities to audition for festivals but must be enrolled in the respective class to be eligible. Lessons and ensembles occur during the school day, and there may be additional, optional ensembles that take place after school. There is no fee for lessons or ensembles. For Band or Orchestra, students may rent or purchase instruments privately, though some large instruments may be provided by the school. Information on instrument rentals is available from the directors.

Note: Open to all students at any grade level; prior music experience not necessary.

Band 6

Grade 6

Full Year

Sixth Grade Band is a performing ensemble open to all students who wish to learn a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. Students are required to attend full ensemble rehearsals during their Hive Block and weekly small-group lessons. Students will perform evening concerts, in-school concerts, and participate in regional music competitions. Students will also attend field trips throughout the school year and have the opportunity for advanced, extra-curricular musical opportunities through the band program. Students will develop a sincere appreciation for a varied repertoire of music, an informed ear that can assess both one's own performance and the performance of others, an improved ability to play their instrument with musicality, proper technique, and accuracy, and the skills to function as a positive member of both the ensemble and the greater community.

Chorus 6

Grade 6

Full Year

Sixth Grade Chorus is a performing ensemble that welcomes students interested in singing. The focus will be on choral repertoire with one and two-part songs in various languages, alongside basic music theory and sight-singing skills. Students participate in evening and in-school concerts, regional music competitions, and field trips, with opportunities for advanced musical experiences. The course aims to cultivate an appreciation for diverse music, develop critical listening skills, enhance vocal technique, and promote positive ensemble and community engagement.

Orchestra 6

Grade 6

Full Year

Sixth Grade Orchestra is a performing ensemble open to all students who wish to learn a stringed orchestra instrument (violin, viola, cello, double bass). Students are required to attend full ensemble rehearsals during their Hive Block and weekly small-group lessons. Students will perform evening concerts, in-school concerts, and participate in regional music competitions. Students will also attend field trips throughout the school year and have the opportunity for advanced, extra-curricular musical opportunities through the orchestra program. Students will develop a sincere appreciation for a varied repertoire of music, an informed ear that can assess both one's own performance and the performance of others, an improved ability to play their instrument with musicality, proper technique, and accuracy, and the skills to function as a positive member of both the ensemble and the greater community.

Enrichment Courses

Enrichment courses are an expanded learning opportunity for some students. They are not considered part of the common curricular offerings at QMS. Below are the requirements for participation in Enrichment Courses:

- The student must be in good academic standing.
- Students must have positive attendance habits.

Business Enrichment 6 - Smart Money Moves

Grade 6

Trimester

Think money skills are just for grown-ups? Think again! You'll learn real-life money skills that will help you make smart choices now and in the future. Through interactive lessons and online simulations, you'll practice how to budget, save, and spend wisely. You'll also explore how to set personal goals, think about different career options, and plan for life after high school—including college or other paths. This course will help you build the money skills you need to take charge of your future and start planning the life you want!

Computer Enrichment 6 - Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skills for Sixth Graders

Grade 6

Trimester

This sixth-grade course is designed to enhance problem-solving abilities, logical reasoning, and language skills using puzzles, logic problems, rhetoric, and strategic games. The goal is not only to boost academic skills, but also help in everyday decision-making.

GRADE 7

CORE COURSES

English Language Arts 7

Grade 7

Full Year

Students will continue their study of a variety of genres, including selections from fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama throughout this year. This course will focus on the themes of self-discovery and overcoming obstacles. Through the different readings, students will practice the skills that they need to read critically and to write independently. Students will write frequently and learn to develop a multi-paragraph essay. Reading skills will be assessed through a normed reading screener and other common assessments. Types of writing will include narrative, argument, and analysis. Students will study vocabulary and grammar to improve their reading comprehension and writing skills throughout the year. Students should have a strong command of their knowledge of the parts of a sentence in order to be best prepared to understand the grammar units on clauses and phrases. This course is aligned with the Massachusetts 2017 English Language Arts and Literacy Framework.

Science 7

Grade 7

Full Year

Science at the middle school level prepares students to engage in scientific inquiry methodology and process. Students develop the skills of asking scientific questions, defining problems, developing and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, and communicating evidence. Students work cooperatively completing hands-on laboratory investigations, as well as independently completing research-based projects and virtual labs. Course work is focused on systems and cycles found within Earth and Space science, life science, and physical science such as plate tectonics, relationships between and among organisms, and kinetic energy, mass, and speed of an object. Students use a wide variety of tools to build their vocabulary and scientific understanding. We strive to make this course engaging, rigorous, and centered around real-world examples. This course is aligned with the grade 7 science strand of the Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Framework.

Social Studies 7 - World Geography and Ancient Civilizations II

Grade 7

Full Year

Building on their understanding of world geography and civilizations from grade six, students will examine the physical and political geography and ancient societies of South and East Asia, Oceania, and Europe. The second half of the course will include an extensive study of the development of government in Greece and Rome. Throughout the course instructional strategies will allow students to enhance their reading,

writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills. Students will be asked to analyze primary sources (written documents, pictures, and other historical artifacts) and draw conclusions about the creators of the source. Within each unit, students participate in hands-on interactive activities, high-interest projects and a variety of assessments. Students will further enhance their research skills through a capstone project on Ancient Civilization. This course is aligned to the 2018 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for History and Social Studies.

Mathematics 7

Math Level Placement

Middle school mathematics prepares students for success in learning Algebra and lays the critical foundation for advanced mathematical thinking in high school. Middle school is a time when concrete mathematical reasoning changes to abstract algebraic thinking. This change is a process that occurs at different times for each student. As a result, it is extremely important that students are in the right place at the right time so that they can develop a deep understanding of mathematics. Toward this end, teachers, the Mathematics Department chair, and administrators meet on a regular basis each spring to discuss placement for the following year. Student placement will be based on data from district screeners as well as various state and local assessments. The mathematical pathways presented are most typical, though alternative pathways exist. For information on non-traditional pathways, please contact Ms. Mintz, Mathematics Department Chair. The placement process begins in the spring for the following school year and is a collaborative process between the school and home.

Math 7

Grade 7

Full Year

This comprehensive, standards-based course is intended to enable students to develop their conceptual understanding, computational facility, and problem-solving skills. This course will provide all students the opportunity to make continual progress in developing the mathematical skills they need to achieve success on important assessments. The focus in the beginning of the course will be on rational numbers and their operations as well as their algebraic representations. Later, the focus of the course changes to ratio and proportional relationships, the geometry of two- and three-dimensional objects, statistics, and data analysis. Real-life applications will be presented throughout the course in order to show students the usefulness of mathematics in the real world. This course is aligned with the 2017 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics.

Math 7 Pre-Algebra

Grade 7, by recommendation

Full Year

This course is primarily intended for those students who have achieved mastery of the basic mathematical skills and concepts of a seventh grade mathematics course and can demonstrate a thorough grasp of mathematical practice and theory. It will provide students with an in-depth and

rigorous approach to the foundation necessary for algebraic thinking. It will also prepare them for future study of quadratic and exponential functions, geometry, probability, and data analysis. Problem solving will be emphasized throughout this course. Students are recommended for this course based on data from various state and local assessments, term grades, and teacher recommendations. Real-life applications will be presented throughout the course in order to show students the usefulness of mathematics in the real world. Upon successful completion of this course, students will have a strong foundation in the mathematical skills necessary for the Algebra course offered in the eighth grade. This course is aligned with the 2017 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics.

Languages

Placement in Literacy or World Language

It is important that middle level students gain the literacy skills they need moving into high school. Students who demonstrate they are on track with those literacy skills are recommended to take either French or Spanish in seventh and eighth grade. We recommend that students who demonstrate a need for more accelerated growth on reading screeners, common assessments, and the ELA MCAS take Literacy in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. Students who take Literacy in 7th grade should expect to take it in 8th grade and then start either Spanish I or French I freshman year at Mansfield High School. Students who take French or Spanish in 7th and 8th grade should expect to take French II or Spanish II freshman year at Mansfield High School.

French or Spanish 7

Grade 7

Full Year

In the seventh grade language course, students learn basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in a world language, as well as cultural exploration. Emphasis on the aural/oral skills is encouraged, in addition to stressing the basic grammatical patterns of the language, through in-class and online activities. Diverse sources, including authentic resources, introduce the student to the culture, customs, and civilization of the French- or Spanish-speaking world.

Literacy 7

Grade 7

Full Year

Students will continue to gain additional practice with close reading and critical analysis through personal reading. This seventh grade course will expand upon and enrich the literacy and content literacy standards in the Massachusetts 2017 English Language Arts and Literacy Framework. The focus of this class will be the four main components of literacy: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students who take Literacy 7 will also take Literacy 8 and should anticipate taking Spanish 1 or French 1 Freshman year at Mansfield High School.

Reading 7

Grade 7

Full Year

This class is designed for students who qualify for specially designed instruction in reading identified in their IEP. It is for students with significant difficulties with decoding and encoding. This course follows a structured, multi-sensory, language-based approach, with an emphasis on sound and syllable segmentation. Taught by a highly-qualified special education teacher, it incorporates essential reading components, including instruction in decoding, encoding, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

SPECIALS COURSES

All 7th grade students will be placed in one arts class, either theater or visual art.

Theater 7

Grade 7

Trimester

In the seventh grade Theater course, students will be given the opportunity to devise, perform, collaborate, and continue their studies with a focus on theater. Modules in this class will include improvisation, public speaking, story adaptation, and performance, as well as directing, technical directing, stage managing, and acting in a one-act comedy.

Visual Art 7

Grade 7

Trimester

This course involves advanced investigation of the principles and elements of art. Students develop critical thinking and visual problem-solving skills, advanced artistic knowledge, and vocabulary based upon the foundation established in grade six. Continued color mixing, analysis, and application will be fundamental skills taught in this class. Research and class critiques help students to internalize specialized arts vocabulary and habits of mind.

Science & Engineering 7

Grade 7

Trimester

Grade seven students will utilize all steps of the engineering design process to identify criteria and constraints of a design problem by solving challenges using a variety of materials. Specific focus will be on technical drawing, orthographic projection, and model building. Projects will

also focus on systems design encompassing communication, structural, transportation, and manufacturing systems. This course is aligned with the Middle School Technology Strand of the Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Framework.

Wellness 7

Students will spend one trimester in Wellness each year. Both courses spend time covering the physical education and health curriculums.

Physical Education 7

Grade 7

Trimester

Students will continue to develop competence in modified versions of various games as well as rhythmic and recreational activities and will apply similar concepts from one sport or movement setting to another. Students continue to develop responsible personal and social behaviors by demonstrating decision-making skills, conflict-resolution skills, appropriate etiquette, and respect for others. Major aspects of this course are goal-setting, targeted and developmentally-appropriate training activities, and instruction in a wide range of activities, sports skills, and movement patterns along with social skill development including cooperation, teamwork, sportsmanship, and confidence. Some units may include fitness, soccer, flag football, floor hockey, handball, volleyball, speedball, basketball, and frisbee. Physical education teachers use the QMS gym, fitness center, multipurpose room, outdoor track, and the turf field to cover these topics.

Health 7

Grade 7

Trimester

Students will learn about building self-esteem, harassment, thoughts/emotions, decision, and vaping. During the human development unit, using the Advocates for Youth Rights, Respect, and Responsibility Curriculum, students will learn about the changes that occur in adolescents, gender roles, boundaries, romantic relationships, and the differences between liking and loving. Each unit includes note-taking, discussions, handouts, projects, and assessments.

MIXED USE PERIOD

Each day, students have one period a day that allows for a variety of experiences. During this period, students may have access to the following opportunities:

Hive 7

The goal of Hive is to help support students during the school day. Teachers may provide instructional support in various areas such as organization, how to study, how to prioritize school work, and goal setting. Teachers may pull groups of students together for content-specific academic support or extra help as needed.

The Academic Learning Center (ALC) 7

This is a separate classroom, coordinated by a licensed educator, where a variety of academic supports are provided to students in need. Students are referred to the ALC through a cooperative effort of their teachers, administrators, Guidance Counselors, and School Nurses. When students are receiving services through the Academic Learning Center, parents/guardians are notified and given the option to opt their child out of these services.

English Learners 7

QMS offers instruction for English Learners using a pull-out model. The frequency and duration of services is determined by individual student proficiency levels and in accordance with state requirements. Instruction focuses on developing the English language skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing, with an emphasis on using academic language so students can participate meaningfully in their content area classrooms.

Math Skills 7

This course is designed to help students gain a deeper understanding of the mathematics taught at their grade level. Students will learn to develop procedural skills in mathematics, strengthen their conceptual understanding, and solve a variety of application problems. They will also learn how to improve their test-taking skills by practicing technology-enhanced questions and constructed response questions in preparation for state assessments. Students are enrolled in this course through a referral process.

Fundamentals of English 7

This course is designed to help students acquire a solid foundation in decoding, encoding, fluency, comprehension and vocabulary. Students will strengthen their reading comprehension, close reading, and critical analysis skills through consistent practice, and improve their overall reading skills through targeted instruction. Students in grade seven are enrolled in this class through a referral process.

Study Skills 7

This class is offered by recommendation only for special education students. Instruction focuses on developing self-advocacy, self-determination, and executive functioning skills while supporting student success across content-area classes through specially designed instruction. The reinforcement of skills and concept development in the core curriculum areas are emphasized. Students in this class focus on developing strategies to improve self-awareness, self-advocacy, organizational skills and to gain independence in managing their academic responsibilities.

Ensembles

Students will develop a sincere appreciation for a varied repertoire of music, an informed ear that can assess both one's own performance and the performance of others, an improved ability to play their instrument or sing with musicality, proper technique, and accuracy, and the skills to function as a positive member of both the ensemble and the greater community. Students may have opportunities to audition for festivals but must be enrolled in the respective class to be eligible. Lessons and ensembles occur during the school day, and there may be additional, optional ensembles that take place after school. There is no fee for lessons or ensembles. For Band or Orchestra, students may rent or purchase instruments privately, though some large instruments may be provided by the school. Information on instrument rentals is available from the directors.

Note: Open to all students at any grade level; prior music experience not necessary.

Band 7

Grade 7

Full Year

Seventh Grade Band is a performing ensemble open to both continuing student musicians and beginning band students. Seventh Grade Band meets daily during the Hive Block. Continuing students will develop deeper understanding of their instruments, perform literature of increased difficulty, and have opportunities to participate in solo festivals. Students will perform evening concerts, in-school concerts, and participate in regional music competitions. Students will also attend field trips throughout the school year and have the opportunity for advanced, extra-curricular musical opportunities through the band program. Students will develop a sincere appreciation for a varied repertoire of music, an informed ear that can assess both one's own performance and the performance of others, an improved ability to play their instrument with musicality, proper technique, and accuracy, and the skills to function as a positive member of both the ensemble and the greater community.

Chorus 7

Grade 7

Full Year

Seventh Grade Chorus is a performing ensemble that welcomes new and returning students interested in singing. The focus will be on choral repertoire with two and three-part songs in various languages, alongside basic music theory and sight-singing skills. Students participate in evening and in-school concerts, regional music competitions, and field trips, with opportunities for advanced musical experiences. The course aims to cultivate an appreciation for diverse music, develop critical listening skills, enhance vocal technique, and promote positive ensemble and community engagement, with potential for festival auditions contingent on class enrollment.

Orchestra 7

Grade 7

Full Year

Seventh Grade Orchestra is a performing ensemble open to both continuing student musicians and beginning string instrument students. Continuing students will develop deeper understanding of their instrument, perform literature of increased difficulty, and have opportunities to participate in solo festivals. Students who choose orchestra will meet daily during the Hive Block. Students will perform evening concerts, in-school concerts, and participate in regional music competitions. Students will also attend field trips throughout the school year and have the opportunity for advanced, extra-curricular musical opportunities through the orchestra program. Students will develop a sincere appreciation for a varied repertoire of music, an informed ear that can assess both one's own performance and the performance of others, an improved ability to play their instrument with musicality, proper technique, and accuracy, and the skills to function as a positive member of both the ensemble and the greater community.

Enrichment Courses

Enrichment courses are an expanded learning opportunity for some students. They are not considered part of the common curricular offerings at QMS. Below are the requirements for participation in Enrichment Courses:

- The student must be in good academic standing.
- Students must have positive attendance habits.

Science Enrichment 7 - The Science of Sound and Music

Grade 7

Trimester

This class will explore the connections between science and sound/music. Exploration topics may include: the science of music practice, building string and percussion instruments, analysis of different types of sound waves, subtractive analog synthesis, sequencing, and geometric relationships in music theory. Lesson design will be project-based and adaptable to each students' needs and abilities.

Theater Enrichment 7 - Theater

Grade 7

Trimester

7th Grade Theater Enrichment will base each trimester on student experience and interest. Topics will range from, but will not be limited to, music theater research and performance, script analysis, video editing and production, set design and technical theater, as well as creating and performing original work. Students will engage in both guided and open explorations on various performance and technical-based topics throughout the trimester.

GRADE 8

CORE COURSES

English Language Arts 8

Grade 8

Full Year

The eighth grade English curriculum focuses on themes related to differences, conflict and resolution, and relationships. These themes are taught through a variety of genres, including short stories, novels, poetry, nonfiction, and drama. Reading skills will continue to be assessed through the Fastbridge reading program. Students will write multi-paragraph essays as well as shorter responses to the literature. Writing will include narrative, argument, compare/contrast, and literary critical analysis. Students will continue to study vocabulary and grammar to improve reading comprehension and writing skills throughout the year. Students will apply their prior knowledge of phrases and clauses in order to analyse how these grammatical concepts are being used in the context of a sentence. This course is aligned with the Massachusetts 2017 English Language Arts and Literacy Framework.

Science 8

Grade 8

Full Year

Students engage in challenging activities designed to explore concepts in Earth Science, Life Science, and Physical Science. Students develop the skills of asking scientific questions, defining problems, developing and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, and communicating evidence. Students work cooperatively completing hands-on laboratory investigations, as well as independently completing research-based projects and virtual labs. Course work is focused on cause and effect. Topics include the cause of seasons and tides; causes of plate tectonics and weather or climate; the role of genetics in reproduction, heredity, and artificial selection; and how atoms and molecules interact to explain the world around them. Students use a wide variety of tools to build their vocabulary and scientific understanding. This course is aligned with the grade 8 science strand of the Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Framework. Students will take a MCAS exam on culminating content from grades 6, 7, & 8.

Social Studies 8 - Civics

Grade 8

Full Year

Students will study the roots and foundations of U.S. democracy through primary source documents such as the United States Constitution and the Massachusetts Constitution. In addition, students will examine how our democracy has developed over time, and the role of individuals in

maintaining a healthy democracy at the local, state, and national levels. Throughout the year, students can expect to enhance their reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills through projects, primary sources, and historical analysis. This course is aligned to the 2018 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for History and Social Studies.

Mathematics 8

Math Level Placement

Middle school mathematics prepares students for success in learning Algebra and lays the critical foundation for advanced mathematical thinking in high school. Middle school is a time when concrete mathematical reasoning changes to abstract algebraic thinking. This change is a process that occurs at different times for each student. As a result, it is extremely important that students are in the right place at the right time so that they can develop a deep understanding of mathematics. Toward this end, teachers, the Mathematics Department chair, and administrators meet on a regular basis each spring to discuss placement for the following year. Student placement will be based on data from district screeners as well as various state and local assessments. The mathematical pathways presented are most typical, though alternative pathways exist. For information on non-traditional pathways, please contact Ms. Mintz, Mathematics Department Chair. In rare cases, alternative pathways may result in students taking Geometry (course 214) as described in the Mansfield High School Program of Studies. The placement process begins in the spring for the following school year and is a collaborative process between the school and home.

Math 8

Grade 8

Full Year

This comprehensive, standards-based course is intended to enable students to develop their conceptual understanding, computational facility, and problem-solving skills. This course will provide all students the opportunity to make continual progress in developing the mathematical skills they need to achieve success on important assessments. Major concepts such as rational numbers and real number operations, expressions and equations, systems of linear equations, functions, congruence, similarity, volume formulas, the Pythagorean Theorem, and mathematical models are emphasized so that students will enter the next grade with a strong foundation in mathematics as well as the necessary prerequisite skills for an Algebra 1 course in high school. Real-life applications will be presented throughout the course in order to show students the usefulness of mathematics in the real world. This course is aligned to the 2017 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics.

Math 8 Algebra

Grade 8, by recommendation

Full Year

This standards-based course is primarily intended for those students who have achieved mastery of the skills and concepts of the Math 7 Pre-Algebra (formally Math 7 Accelerated) course and can demonstrate a thorough grasp of mathematical practice and theory. This course will provide students with an in-depth and rigorous approach to algebraic thinking. Problem-solving will be emphasized and the graphing calculator will be introduced and used throughout much of the course. Students are recommended for this course based on data from various state and local assessments, term grades, and teacher recommendations. Real-life applications will be presented throughout the course in order to show students the usefulness of mathematics in the real world. Topics to be studied include polynomial operations, multiple factoring techniques, systems of equations, inequalities and absolute values, rational and radical expressions and equations, relations and functions, and quadratic equations. Upon successful completion of this course, students will have a strong foundation in the mathematical skills necessary for advanced courses at the high school. This course is aligned to the 2017 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics.

Languages

Placement in Literacy or World Language

It is important that middle level students gain the literacy skills they need moving into high school. Students who demonstrate they are on track with those literacy skills are recommended to take either French or Spanish in seventh and eighth grade. We recommend that students who demonstrate a need for more accelerated growth on reading screeners, common assessments, and the ELA MCAS take Literacy in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. Students who take Literacy in 7th grade should expect to take it in 8th grade and then start either Spanish I or French I freshman year at Mansfield High School. Students who take French or Spanish in 7th and 8th grade should expect to take French II or Spanish II freshman year at Mansfield High School.

French or Spanish 8

Grade 8

Full Year

As a continuation of the seventh grade French or Spanish course, this course will reinforce and expand upon the basic skills of learning a world language (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) as well as cultural exploration. Emphasis on the aural/oral skills is encouraged, in addition to stressing the basic grammatical patterns of the language. The student acquires these skills by in-class and online activities which include interpersonal interactions and interpretive reading, listening and viewing. Diverse sources, including authentic resources, introduce the student to the culture, customs, and civilization of the French- or Spanish-speaking world.

Literacy 8

Grade 8

Full Year

Students will continue to gain additional practice with close reading and critical analysis through personal reading of a variety of texts. This eighth grade course will expand upon and enrich the literacy and content literacy standards in the Massachusetts 2017 English Language Arts and Literacy Framework. The focus of this class will be a continuation of the four main components of literacy: reading, writing, speaking, and listening at a higher level. Students who take Literacy 8 should anticipate taking Spanish 1 or French 1 Freshman year at Mansfield High School.

Reading 8

Grade 8

Full Year

This class is designed for students who qualify for specially designed instruction in reading identified in their IEP. It is for students with significant difficulties with decoding and encoding. This course follows a structured, multi-sensory, language-based approach, with an emphasis on sound and syllable segmentation. Taught by a highly-qualified special education teacher, it incorporates essential reading components, including instruction in decoding, encoding, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

SPECIALS COURSES

Computer Applications 8

Grade 8

Trimester

Students will engage in project-based learning to gain an understanding of the many ways digital tools are used, and how they impact their daily lives. They will engage with in-depth units of coding, web design, 3D modeling, digital drawing, privacy and safety online, and image editing. This course is aligned with the current Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks for Digital Literacy and Computer Sciences as well as the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) standards.

Wellness 8

Students will spend one trimester in Wellness each year. Both courses spend time covering the physical education and health curriculums.

Physical Education 8

Grade 8

Trimester

Students demonstrate competence in skillful movement in modified game situations and a variety of rhythmic and recreational activities, transitioning from modified versions of movement forms to more complex applications across all types of activities. Students set goals, track progress, and participate in activities to improve health-related fitness. Major aspects of this course are goal-setting (setting up for interests in high school sports), targeted and developmentally-appropriate training activities, and instruction in a wide range of activities, sports skills, and movement patterns along with social skill development including cooperation, teamwork, sportsmanship, and confidence. Some units may include fitness, soccer, pickleball, floor hockey, football, handball, speedball, basketball, ultimate Frisbee, and advanced volleyball. Physical education teachers use the QMS gym, fitness center, multipurpose room, outdoor track, and the turf field to cover these topics.

Health 8

Grade 8

Trimester

This course will cover various topics related to adolescent health and well being. Students will investigate proper nutrition, mental and emotional health, including body image and eating disorders, and explore the impact that drugs, such as vaping, marijuana and opioids, have on individuals and communities. In the latter half of the course, students will cover physical fitness, mental illness, chronic disease, and human development. During our human development unit using the Advocates for Youth Rights, Respect, and Responsibility curriculum, students will learn about the influences on decision making, healthy relationships, communication skills, sexual abuse, birth control and sexually-transmitted diseases. Additional topics include diseases and physical fitness. Each unit includes note-taking, discussions, handouts, projects, and assessments.

MIXED USE PERIOD

Each day, students have one period a day that allows for a variety of experiences. During this period, students may have access to the following opportunities:

Hive 8

The goal of Hive is to help support students during the school day. Teachers may provide instructional support in various areas such as organization, how to study, how to prioritize school work, and goal setting. Teachers may pull groups of students together for content-specific academic support or extra help as needed.

The Academic Learning Center (ALC) 8

This is a separate classroom, coordinated by a licensed educator, where a variety of academic supports are provided to students in need. Students are referred to the ALC through a cooperative effort of their teachers, administrators, Guidance Counselors, and School Nurses. When students are receiving services through the Academic Learning Center, parents/guardians are notified and given the option to opt their child out of these services.

English Learners 8

QMS offers instruction for English Learners using a pull-out model. The frequency and duration of services is determined by individual student proficiency levels and in accordance with state requirements. Instruction focuses on developing the English language skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing, with an emphasis on using academic language so students can participate meaningfully in their content area classrooms.

Math Skills 8

This course is designed to help students gain a deeper understanding of the mathematics taught at their grade level. Students will learn to develop procedural skills in mathematics, strengthen their conceptual understanding, and solve a variety of application problems. They will also learn how to improve their test-taking skills by practicing technology-enhanced questions and constructed response questions in preparation for state assessments. Students are enrolled in this course through a referral process.

Fundamentals of English 8

This course is designed to help students acquire a solid foundation in decoding, encoding, fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary. Students will strengthen their reading comprehension, close reading, and critical analysis skills through consistent practice, and improve their overall reading skills through targeted instruction. Students in grade eight are enrolled in this class through a referral process.

Study Skills 8

This class is offered by recommendation only for special education students. Instruction focuses on developing self-advocacy, self-determination, and executive functioning skills while supporting student success across content-area classes through specially designed instruction. The reinforcement of skills and concept development in the core curriculum areas are emphasized. Students in this class focus on developing strategies to improve self-awareness, self-advocacy, organizational skills and to gain independence in managing their academic responsibilities.

Ensembles

Students will develop a sincere appreciation for a varied repertoire of music, an informed ear that can assess both one's own performance and the performance of others, an improved ability to play their instrument or sing with musicality, proper technique, and accuracy, and the skills to function as a positive member of both the ensemble and the greater community. Students may have opportunities to audition for festivals but must be enrolled in the respective class to be eligible. Lessons and ensembles occur during the school day, and there may be additional, optional ensembles that take place after school. There is no fee for lessons or ensembles. For Band or Orchestra, students may rent or purchase instruments privately, though some large instruments may be provided by the school. Information on instrument rentals is available from the directors.

Note: Open to all students at any grade level; prior music experience not necessary.

Band 8

Grade 8

Full Year

Eighth Grade Band is a performance ensemble open to all students who wish to continue with a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. Students who choose band will meet during the Hive Block. Students will perform evening concerts, in-school concerts, community events, and participate in regional music competitions. Students will also attend field trips throughout the school year and have the opportunity for advanced, extra-curricular musical opportunities through the band program. Students will develop a sincere appreciation for a varied repertoire of music, an informed ear that can assess both one's own performance and the performance of others, an improved ability to play their instrument with musicality, proper technique, and accuracy, and the skills to function as a positive member of both the ensemble and the greater community.

Chorus 8

Grade 8

Eighth Grade Chorus is a performing ensemble that welcomes both new and returning students interested in singing, focusing on choral repertoire with two and three-part songs in various languages, alongside basic music theory and sight-singing skills. Students participate in evening and in-school concerts, regional music competitions, and field trips, with opportunities for advanced musical experiences. The course aims to cultivate an appreciation for diverse music, develop critical listening skills, enhance vocal technique, and promote positive ensemble and community engagement, with potential for festival auditions contingent on class enrollment.

Orchestra 8

Grade 8

Full Year

Eighth Grade Orchestra is a performing ensemble open to all students who wish to learn a stringed orchestra instrument (violin, viola, cello, double bass). Students who choose orchestra will meet daily during the Hive Block. Students will perform evening concerts, in-school concerts, and participate in regional music competitions. Students will also attend field trips throughout the school year and have the opportunity for advanced, extra-curricular musical opportunities through the orchestra program. Students will develop a sincere appreciation for a varied repertoire of music, an informed ear that can assess both one's own performance and the performance of others, an improved ability to play their instrument with musicality, proper technique, and accuracy, and the skills to function as a positive member of both the ensemble and the greater community.

Enrichment Courses

Enrichment courses are an expanded learning opportunity for some students. They are not considered part of the common curricular offerings at QMS. Below are the requirements for participation in Enrichment Courses:

- The student must be in good academic standing.
- Students must have positive attendance habits.

Art Enrichment 8

Grade 8

Trimester

The 8th Grade Visual Arts enrichment course offers an exploration of methods of creative thinking and the creative process. Emphasis of the course is on idea generation, design, and projects that reflect varied and independent student interests and interpretation. Students will learn to approach creativity and design through various visual arts media throughout the course. Students will engage in both guided and open exploration to cultivate their artistic skills and unique perspectives, fostering a deeper understanding of the creative process and self expression.

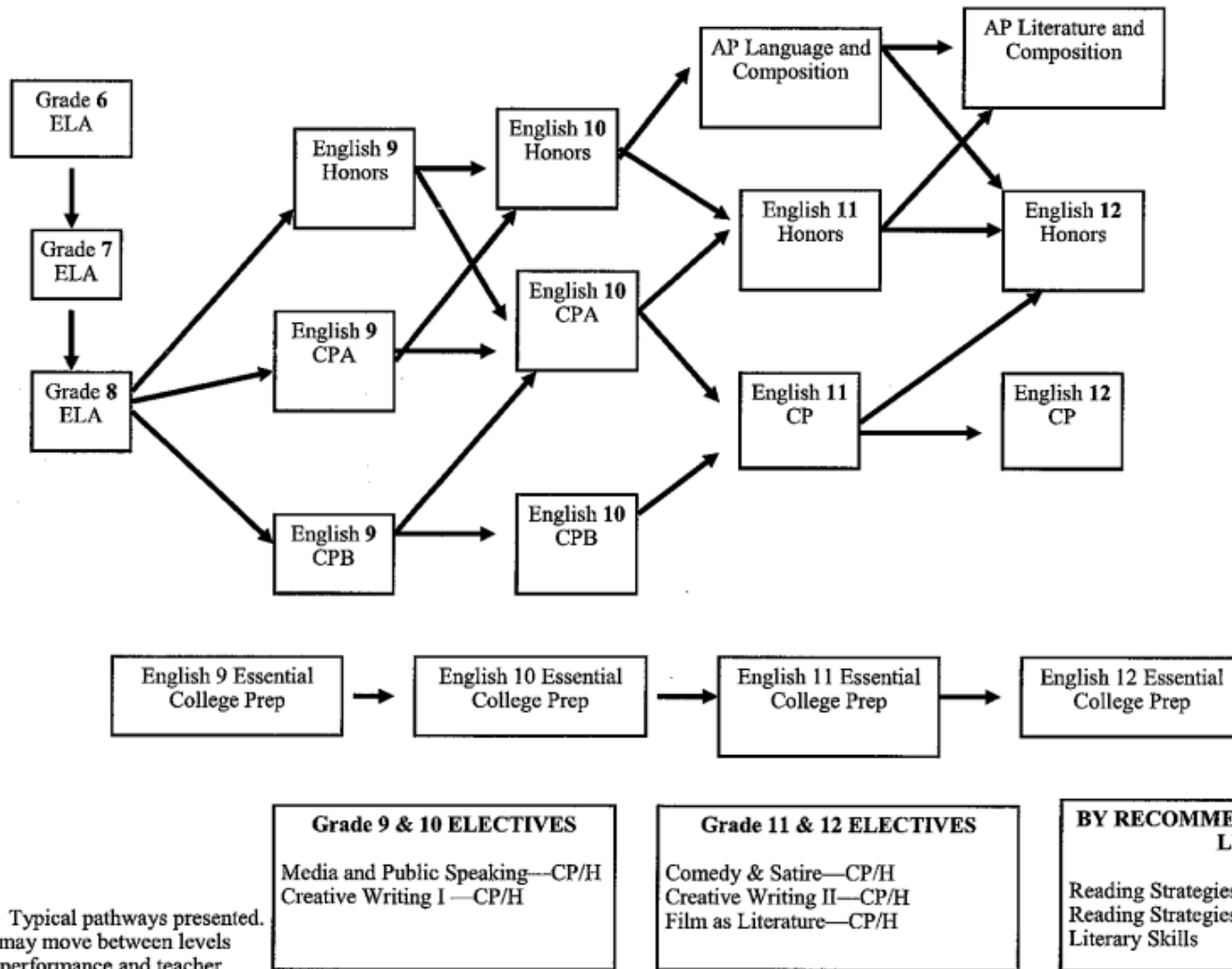
Science Enrichment 8 - Science in the News

Grade 8

Trimester

This class will explore current issues in science to make connections with the Massachusetts Science & Engineering Frameworks. We will explore the places where science and society overlap. We combine lab work, build skills, science knowledge, and student interest to unique projects. Topics may include climate change, artificial intelligence, space travel, and biotechnology.

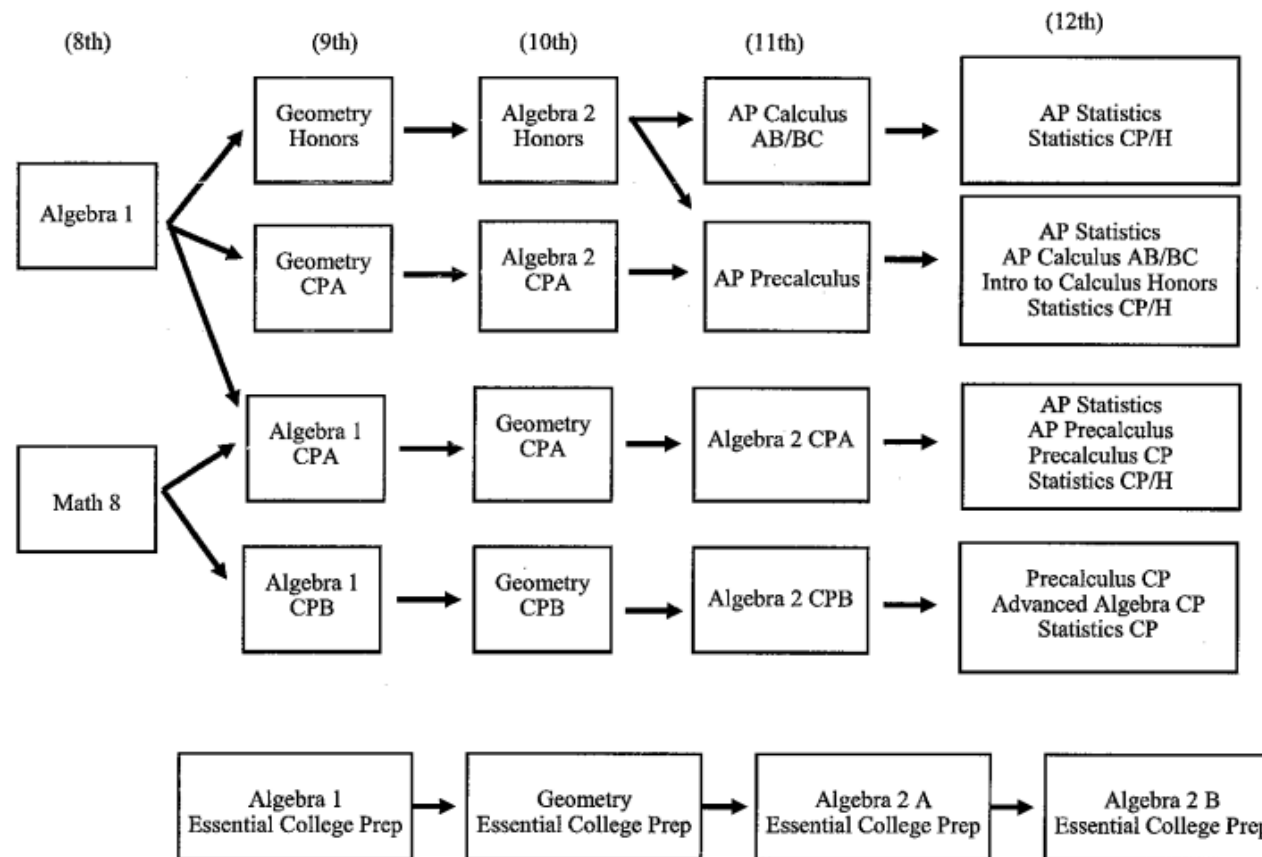
ENGLISH SEQUENCE GRID



***NOTE:** Typical pathways presented. Students may move between levels based on performance and teacher recommendations.

All English courses are aligned to the Massachusetts English Curriculum Frameworks and follow the suggested pathways outlined in the document. The Honors and College Prep courses are designed to prepare students for success at a four-year college or university. The Foundations/Essential courses, for recommended students only, prepares them for a two-year college or career readiness.

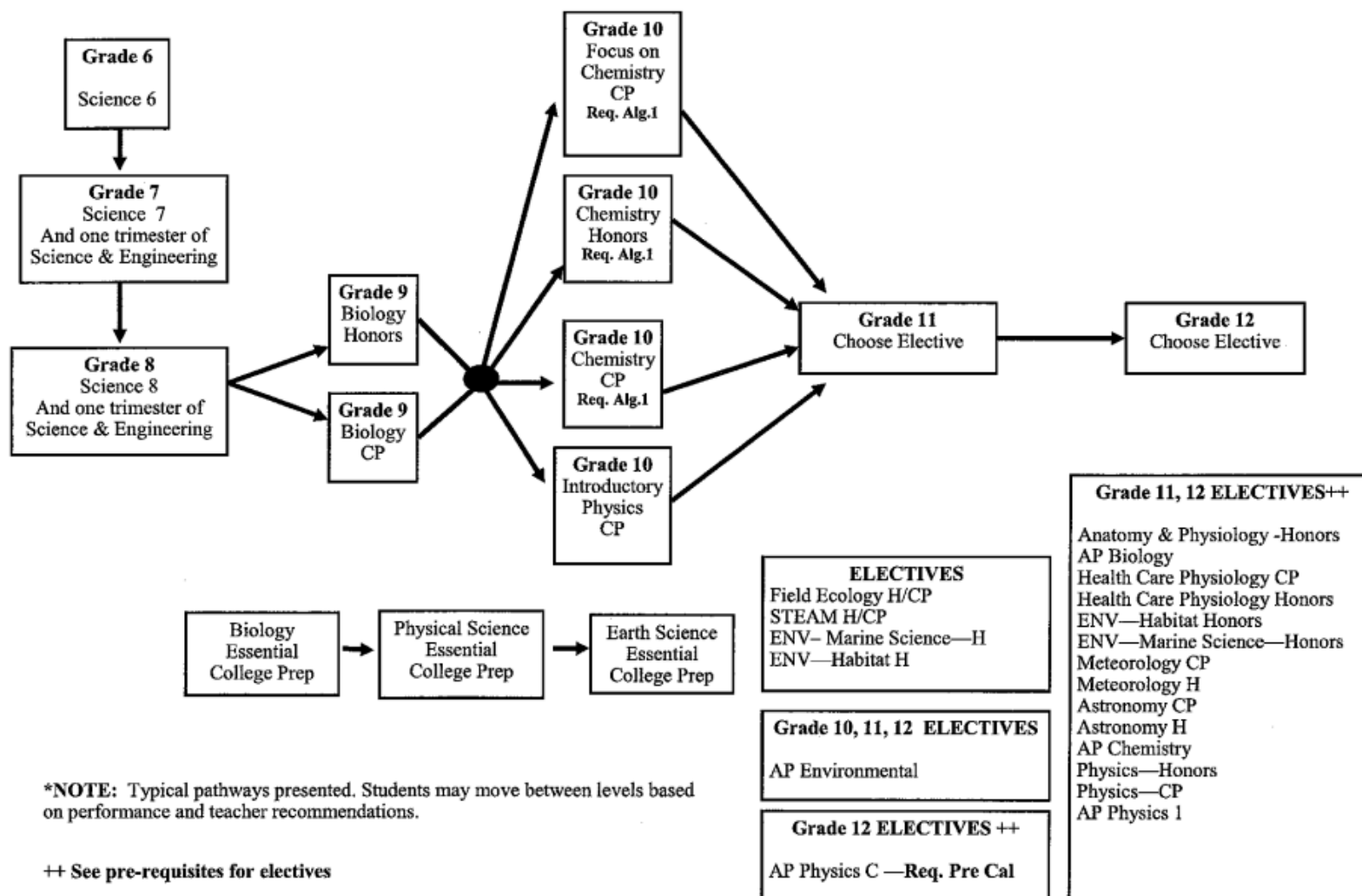
MATH SEQUENCE GRID



Mathematical pathways presented are most typical, though alternate pathways exist.

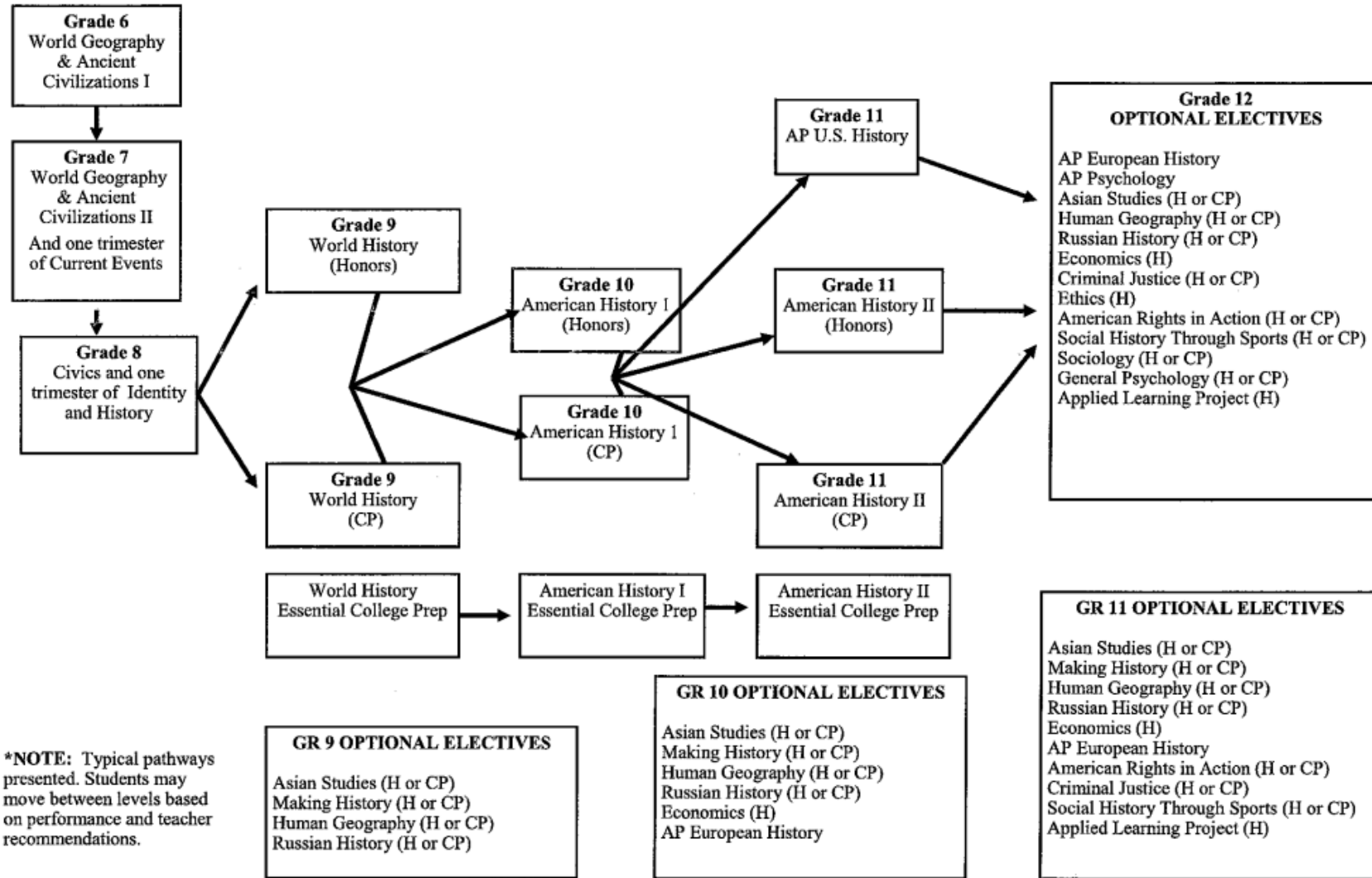
All mathematics courses are aligned to the 2017 Massachusetts Mathematics Curriculum Frameworks and follow the suggested pathways outlined in the document. The Honors and College Prep courses are designed to prepare students for success at a four-year college or university. The Principles/Essential courses, for recommended students only, prepares them for a two-year college or career readiness.

SCIENCE SEQUENCE GRID



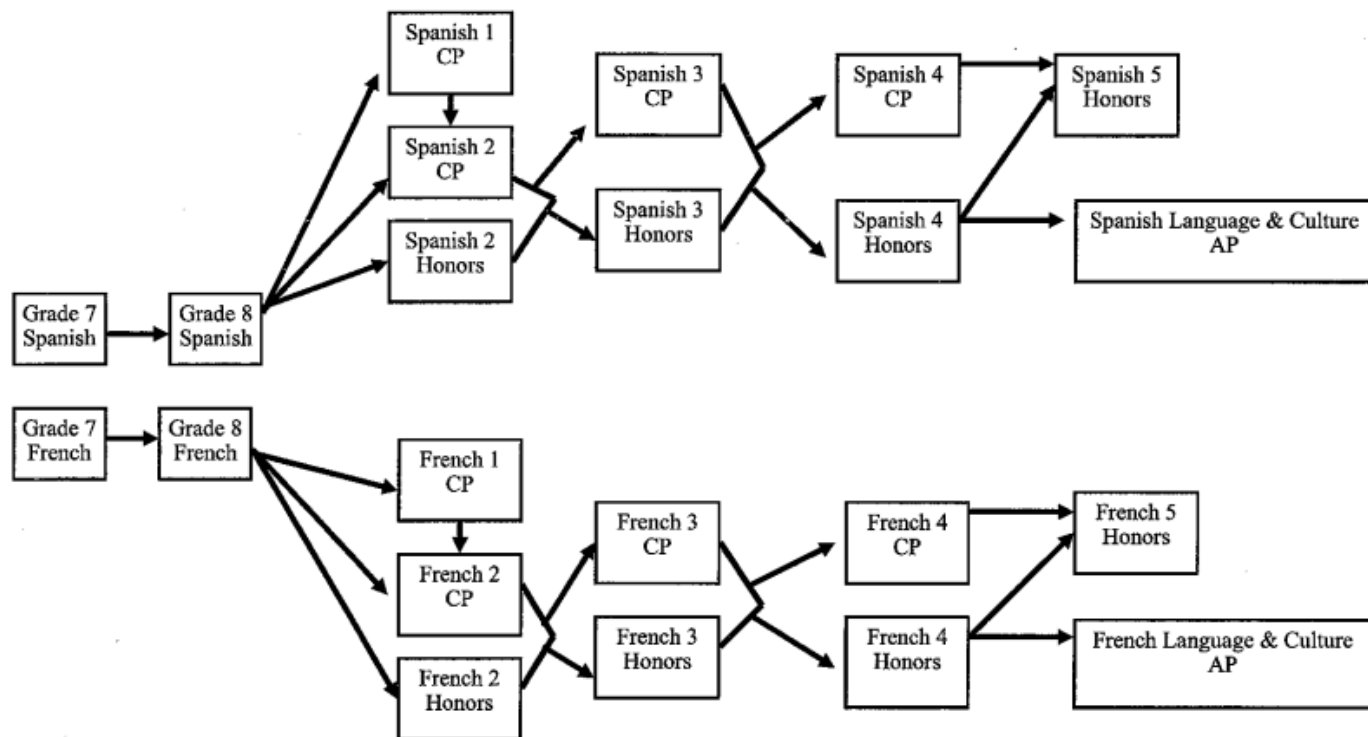
All science courses are aligned to the Massachusetts Science Curriculum Frameworks and follow the suggested pathways outlined in the document. The Honors and College Prep courses are designed to prepare students for success at a four-year college or university. The Principles/Essential courses, for recommended students only, prepares them for a two-year college or career readiness.

SOCIAL STUDIES SEQUENCE GRID



All social studies courses are aligned to the Massachusetts Social Studies Curriculum Frameworks and follow the suggested pathways outlined in the document. The Honors and College Prep courses are designed to prepare students for success at a four-year college or university. The Foundations/Essential courses, for recommended students only, prepares them for a two-year college or career readiness.

WORLD LANGUAGE SEQUENCE GRID

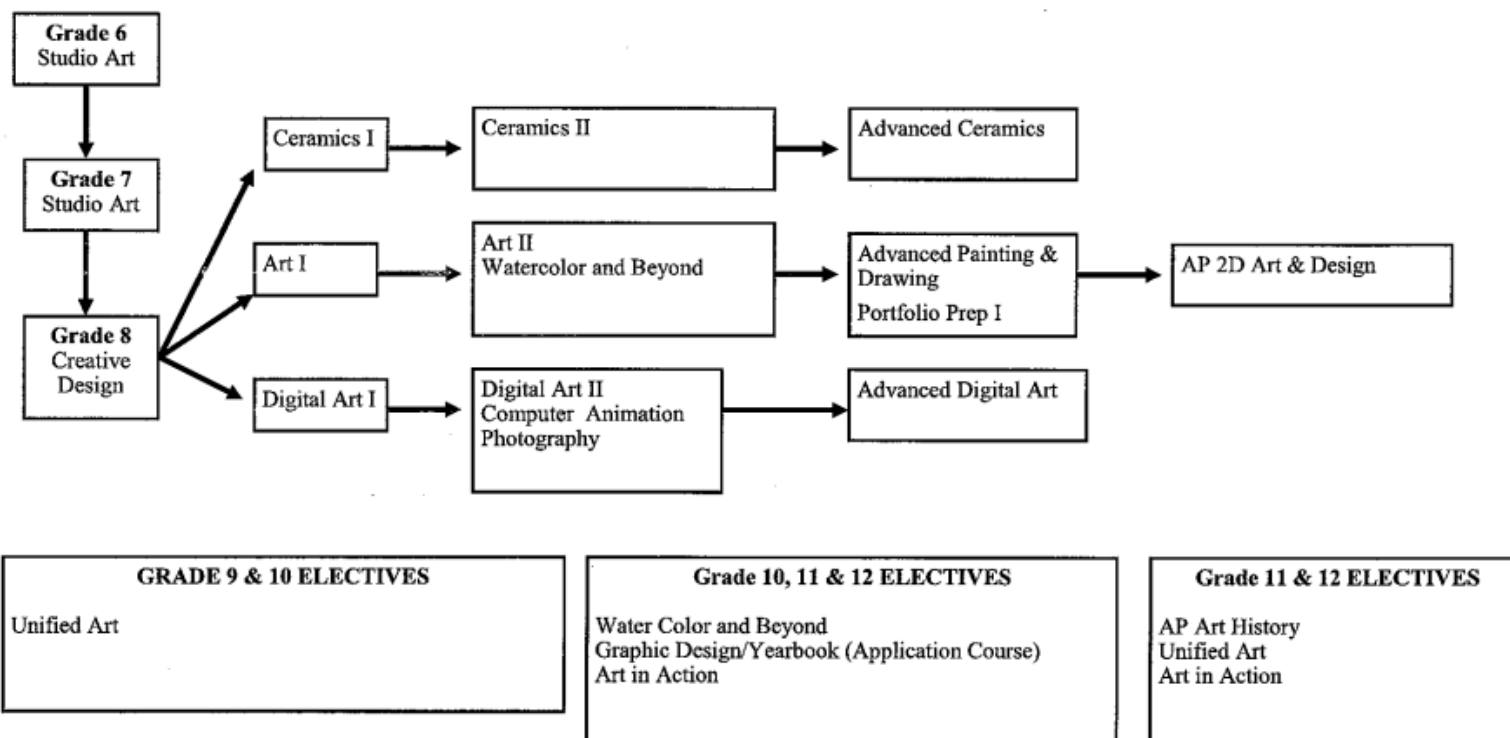


GRADE 11 & 12 ELECTIVES

World Language Practicum—Honors
 Hispanic Culture Through Film—CP/H
 Portuguese Culture —CP/H

***NOTE:** Typical pathways presented. Students may move between levels based on performance and teacher recommendations.

VISUAL ARTS SEQUENCE GRID



***NOTE:** Typical pathways presented. Students may move between levels based on performance and teacher recommendations.