



**WATERFORD
MIDDLE SCHOOLS**

**COURSE
DESCRIPTIONS
2018-2019**

Mason Middle School

Pierce Middle School

Michigan Career Pathways

Arts and Communications

Careers related to the humanities and the performing, visual, literary, and media arts. Sample career titles include artist, journalist and model. These careers are interesting to people who value creativity.

Business, Management, Marketing and Technology

Careers related to all aspects of business including accounting, business administration, finance, information and processing and marketing. Examples of career titles in this pathway include bank teller, business manager and auto salesperson. You may be interested in this career if you are good with math and enjoy being the leader of a club or captain of a team.

Engineering/Manufacturing and Industrial Technology

Careers related to technologies necessary to design, develop, install or maintain physical systems. Working with tools, equipment and other kinds of machinery is important to people who have careers in this pathway. Sample career titles include mechanic, airplane pilot and engineer.

Health Sciences

Careers related to the promotion of health as well as the treatment of injuries, conditions, and disease. Examples of career titles in this pathway are dentist, nurse and veterinarian.

Human Services

Careers related to child care, civil service, education, hospitality, and the social services. Career titles in this pathway include counselor, teacher and attorney.

Natural Resources and Agriscience

Careers related to natural resources, agriculture, and the environment. Meteorologist, marine biologist and farmer are career titles in this pathway.

Welcome to Waterford Middle Schools

Our middle schools are located in Waterford, Michigan, and are home to approximately 2,000 students. Students, parents and staff work together in a student-centered environment promoting academics, self-esteem, exploration and nurturing lifelong learning. A supportive climate encourages healthy risk takers and fosters responsible citizenship. High value is placed on curiosity, creativity, cooperative learning, and principled decision-making. Integral to our positive school culture is the high level of parent volunteerism enjoyed throughout the school year.

As an active learning center, our school day begins well before the first hour and often ends during the evening hours. Sporting events, club meetings, drama, and musical performances represent a few of the before and after school activities where students are involved. Teachers provide additional support and encouragement for students during this time.

In our middle schools we take special pride in the importance of celebrations and in nurturing a positive school climate. Formal and informal recognitions take place in our school throughout the year to honor individual and collective achievements. Recognizing the successes of students through awards, school achievement, and being a positive, helpful member of the school has a far-reaching and lasting, positive impact on the students, parents, and staff.

It is our pleasure and honor to welcome you and your family to middle school.

6TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

REQUIRED COURSE INFORMATION

All 6th grade students are required to take the following courses for the entire year:

- Language Arts
- Social Studies
- Mathematics
- Science

Every attempt is made to schedule 6th grade students into the following:

- Physical Education
- Grammar & Writing

Students are automatically assigned to the following CORE courses.

Accelerated Math 6

Year

**Administrative Permission Required*

Students will learn concepts and skills that will continue to develop the Grade Level Content Expectations for mathematics. They connect the mathematics that they learn to real world situations. The emphasis is on the topics of representations and calculations of fractions percent's, proportionality, rational numbers, equations and graphs. Students also study measurement, geometry and probability.

Mathematics 6

Year

Students will connect the mathematics that they learn to real world situations. Students develop computation and problem solving skills. The emphasis is on the topics of representations and calculations of fractions, decimals, percent's, ratios, integers, rational numbers, algebraic expressions, equations and graphs. Students also study measurements, geometry and probability.

Accelerated Language Arts 6

Year

**Administrative Permission Required*

Students in this course will move at an accelerated pace to gain proficiency in a combination of sixth and seventh grade standards. Students will improve their reading comprehension and writing skills as they build a foundational understanding of the three major genres of narrative, informational, and argumentative reading and writing. Students will read in a variety of contexts: whole-class texts, independent reading, and small discussion groups. Students in the accelerated courses should expect to encounter texts that are more complex than those in the regular grade-level class; additionally, they should expect to move at a faster pace.

Language Arts 6

Year

Students will explore the connections between reading and writing by engaging in components of readers' and writers' workshops. Students will improve their reading comprehension and writing skills as they gain proficiency in the three major genres of narrative, informational, and argumentative reading and writing. Sixth grade students will focus on building a solid foundational understanding of each of the major genres including their components and organizational structures. Students will read in a variety of contexts including whole-class texts and independent reading.

Science 6**Year**

Students build their science literacy and inquiry skills by studying the following topics: The Solar System, the Changing Earth, Weather Systems and Ecological Dynamics.

Social Studies 6**Year**

Students focus on three units: Geography Tools and Concepts, Latin America and Europe. Citizenship, social studies skills, current events and other important topics are integrated throughout the year.

Writing & Grammar 6**Mason 10-week / Pierce Semester**

Composition is taught including pre-writes, peer review and editing. Journal entries, essays and prose are used to reinforce students' understanding of narrative elements. Grammar is taught within the context of the students writing and to reinforce proper use of parts of speech and punctuation.

ADDITIONAL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**Art 6****Mason 10-week / Pierce Semester**

Explore the elements and principles of art in a variety of media including paint, clay, paper mache and colored pencils. Students learn drawing techniques, basic understandings of color, and the principles of design. Units of study encourage self-expression and stress the importance of originality.

Band 6**Year**

This course provides the opportunity for the student to select and learn to play a brass or wind instrument. Students will develop rehearsal skills, technical skills, proper tone, and play as a balanced ensemble. **Students are required to rent or own an instrument and to perform in two concerts throughout the year.**

Chorus 6**Semester**

Students who like to sing will explore musical concepts through active participation in a chorus. Opportunities for playing instruments, movement, listening and creating music will be offered. Students will learn to read and write music with an introduction to the musical keyboard/synthesizer.

Computers 6**Mason 10-week / Pierce Semester**

Students will become more effective and efficient computer users by developing and practicing proper touch-typing and basic keyboarding skills using Micro-Type Multimedia software. They will also learn basic computer terminology and operation.

ESOL 6**Year**

**Administrative Permission Required*

This course is designed to help transition students into a new linguistic environment. This class will focus on basic speaking, reading and writing skills required to learn a new language. Differentiated instruction will allow students, from non-English speaking to fluent speakers, to grow in their command of the language.

Life Skills 6**Mason 10-week / Pierce Semester**

Students will develop awareness of the need to become responsible individuals. The program focuses on how self-awareness relates to decisions made in relationships, family life, babysitting and nutrition.

Math Lab 6**Semester**

**Administrative Permission Required*

Students will build confidence in mathematical skills and receive support to help them achieve success in their CORE math course.

Music 6**Mason 10-week / Pierce Semester**

Students will explore musical concepts through singing, playing instruments and composing simple melodies. Students will learn to read and write music and perform choral singing.

Orchestra 6**Year**

This course provides the opportunity for the student to select and learn a string instrument. Students will learn to read and write music and perform choral singing.

Physical Education/Health 6**Semester**

Students will be introduced to various components of health and fitness. Physical education will focus on physical fitness components to develop and maintain cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance, and flexibility. Students will also participate in a health program. This will cover the different aspects of physical, mental/emotional, and social health. These aspects along with the fitness components will improve each student's overall well-being.

Rainforest 6**(Mason Campus)****10-week**

Students will study the climate, vegetation, and location of rainforests. Local and worldwide effects of deforestation are studied in balance with the importance and benefits of rainforests. Students will utilize language arts skills as they research and report on rainforests. A civics project is incorporated that will help save rainforests from further destruction.

Reading Enrichment 6**Semester**

**Administrative Permission Required*

This program is designed to improve student's reading strategies. Students work on fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension skills based on their need. The length of this course, semester or year, varies with each student.

Technology 6**Mason 10-week / Pierce Semester**

Students will be introduced to all three areas of technology and explore its evolution. This includes sketching, drawing, designing, and constructing using computer software to problem solve. Student projects include balloon cars, transportation technology, animation, pop bottle rockets, hot air balloons, prosthetic limbs, and many more. Students will use hand tools, hot glue guns, craft knives and various building materials to complete projects.

World Languages 6**Mason 10-week / Pierce Semester**

Students gain knowledge of various topics including the alphabet, basic greetings, numbers, days of the week, months, and classroom vocabulary and commands. Various cultural aspects are introduced, including holidays and festivals.

Anchor Program 6**Semester****Application Only*

This program is offered for students who are interested in acting as a positive role model to a peer with special needs. Anchors are assigned a “buddy” and are expected to act as a positive role model, friend, and a helper to that student. Anchors provide the “buddies” with authentic social experiences and expose the “buddies” to functions and social manners that exist within the general population. Anchors are given the opportunity to attend field trips and special classroom functions with their “buddy”. Anchor meetings are held on a weekly to bi-weekly basis. Anchor meetings are mandatory, due to specialized training needed in assisting students with special needs.

*Additional core related electives will be added as enrollment dictates.
Students will be assigned to these classes as needed to complete their schedule.*

7TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

REQUIRED COURSE INFORMATION

All 7th grade students are required to take the following courses for the entire year:

- Language Arts
- Social Studies
- Mathematics
- Science

Every attempt is made to schedule all 7th grade students into Physical Education (semester class).

Students are automatically assigned the following CORE courses:

Accelerated Math 7**Year****Administrative Permission Required*

Students will connect the mathematics that they learn to real world situations. Students develop computation and problem solving skills in all of the math strands. The emphasis is on the topics of representations and calculations of rates, ratios, proportions, rational numbers, real numbers and roots. In algebra the topics are multiple representations of linear and non-linear relationships, functions, graphs, quadratics, and factoring. Students solve equations, systems and inequalities.

Mathematics 7**Year**

Students will connect the mathematics that they learn to real world situations. Students develop computation and problem-solving skills in all of the math strands. The emphasis is on the topics of representations and calculations of rates, ratios, proportions, rational numbers, and roots. In algebra the topics are proportional and linear relationships, functions, graphs, algebraic properties, expressions and equations. Students also study geometry, similarity, data graphs and statistics.

Accelerated Language Arts 7**Year**

**Administrative Permission Required*

Students in this course will move at an accelerated pace to gain proficiency in a combination of seventh and eighth grade standards. Students will improve their reading comprehension and writing skills as they gain proficiency in the three major genres of narrative, informational, and argumentative reading and writing. Students will read in a variety of contexts: whole-class texts, independent reading, and small discussion groups. Students in the accelerated courses should expect to encounter texts that are more complex than those in the regular grade-level class; additionally, they should expect to move at a faster pace.

Language Arts 7**Year**

Students will continue to gain proficiency making connections between reading and writing by engaging in components of readers' and writers' workshops. Students will improve their reading comprehension and writing skills as they deepen their understanding in the three major genres of narrative, informational, and argumentative reading and writing. Seventh grade students will focus especially on the connection between informational text and narrative reading as they deepen their understanding of historical fiction as a genre and craft. Students will read in a variety of contexts including whole-class texts and independent reading.

Science 7**Year**

Students use inquiry skills within the overarching themes of "Diversity and Limits" while building their science literacy by studying the following topics: Chemical and Physical Changes in Matter, Organization of a Life, Heredity, Evolution, Waves and Energy.

Social Studies 7**Year**

Students focus on three units: Africa, Asia and The Ancient World. Citizenship, social studies skills, current events and other important topics are integrated throughout the year.

ADDITIONAL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**Art 7****Mason 10-week / Pierce Semester**

Students will explore the elements and principles of art in a variety of media including paint, clay, paper mache and colored pencils. Students learn drawing techniques, basic understanding of color, and the principles of design through their original work. Students will gain an understanding of two and three-dimensional art. Units of study encourage self-expression and stress the importance of originality.

Band 7**Year**

This course provides opportunities such as Solo and Ensemble Festival, Percussion Ensemble, and Middle School honors Band. Symphony Band will also be participating in Band Festival. Required performances include two concerts, a pre-festival performance, Band Festival and the Memorial Day Parade.

Chorus 7**Semester or Year**

Students who love to sing are encouraged to join in the fun. Performance and singing techniques will be covered through a variety of music. Students will learn to read and sing music involving two-art arrangements and perform in a required formal concert at the end of the semester.

Computers 7**Mason 10-week / Pierce Semester**

Students will be exposed to computer systems and experience a variety of computer applications. Students will learn to create multimedia presentations, to edit and enhance graphics, to use word processing skills, to create a spreadsheet and graph, and basic Internet skills, using Microsoft Office Suite Applications.

ESOL 7**Year**

**Administrative Permission Required*

This course is designed to help transition students into a new linguistic environment. This class will focus on basic speaking, reading and writing skills required to learn a new language. Differentiated instruction will allow students, from non-English speaking to fluent speakers, to grow in their command of the language.

Life Skills 7**Mason 10-week / Pierce Semester**

Students will gain knowledge and practical experience in goal-setting, communication, decision-making, consumerism and basic survival skills. Kitchen skills and safety guidelines are examined and expanded as important elements of success in the kitchen.

Math Lab 7**Mason 10-week / Pierce Semester**

**Administrative Permission Required*

Students will build confidence in mathematical skills. Students will receive support to help them achieve success in their CORE math course.

Orchestra 7**Year**

This course will introduce techniques such as vibrato and shifting, while focusing on playing with good intonation, playing position, and tone. Students are required to perform in two regular concerts, a pre-festival performance, Orchestra Festival, and District Festival to be held outside of school hours.

Physical Education 7**Semester**

Students will continue learning how to develop and maintain cardiovascular endurance, increase strength, flexibility and agility. Various activities such as soccer, volleyball, basketball, and team handball are incorporated to help improve the students' progress and level of physical fitness.

Reading Enrichment 7**Semester****Administrative Permission Required*

This program is designed to improve students' reading strategies. Students work on fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension skills based on their needs. The length of this course, semester or year, varies with each student.

Speech and Drama**(Mason Campus)****10-week**

Students can let their imaginations soar, allow them to explore their creativity and learn the tools they need to express their thoughts and ideas. The speech and drama course will focus primarily on developing on-going confidence, self-esteem and strengthen verbal communication skills.

Technology 7**Mason 10-week / Pierce Semester**

Students are further introduced to the systems model approach for problem solving. They will also become more familiar with, and use a design portfolio that will allow them to problem solve using the design loop. Projects range from boats, bridges, earthquake towers, DC-powered planes, electronics, slot cars, and many more. Students will use hand and power tools, hot wire cutters, software, and various building materials to complete their projects.

World Language 7**Mason 10-week / Pierce Semester**

Students will discover how to introduce themselves, talk about likes and dislikes as well as daily activities and needs. It is a program that centers on the students and their daily lives. The students learn conversational skills.

Not a prerequisite for Spanish I or French I*Anchor Program 7****Semester****Application only*

This program is offered for students who are interested in acting as a positive role model to a peer with special needs. Anchors are assigned a "buddy" and are expected to act as a positive role model, friend, and a helper to that student. Anchors provide the "buddies" with authentic social experiences and expose the "buddies" to functions and social manners that exist within the general population. Anchors are given the opportunity to attend field trips and special classroom functions with their "buddy". Anchor meetings are held on a weekly to bi-weekly basis. Anchor meetings are mandatory, due to specialized training needed in assisting students with special needs.

Additional core related electives will be added as enrollment dictates.

Students will be assigned to these classes as needed to complete their schedule.

8TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Required Course Information

All 8th grade students are required to take the following courses for the entire year:

- Language Arts
- Social Studies
- Mathematics
- Science

Students are automatically assigned their CORE courses.

Algebra I

Year

**Administrative Permission Required*

Students learn algebraic concepts related to number systems, calculations using real and complex numbers and precision. Algebraic content includes expressions and inequalities; functions (linear, polynomial, power and logarithmic); mathematical modeling and linear regression. Students use graphing calculators. Problem-solving strategies help students learn to think critically, work cooperatively, and communicate ideas to deepen their understanding.

Please Note: Upon successful completion of this year-long course, students may go into Geometry, and one high school credit is earned in the Waterford School District.

Geometry (Mason Campus)

Year

Geometry is the study of shape, its structure and measure that describe the physical space in which we live. Students will learn in depth descriptions, characteristics, relationships and computations related to geometric figures. Geometry will be the platform for learning about reasoning and proof. Techniques of algebra will be used in geometric applications. The course will have an additional emphasis on applications to the world around us. These concepts will be illustrated through real-world application projects where students will work collaboratively to solve problems. The Mathematical Practice Standards are applied throughout the course and together with the content standards.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I

Mathematics 8

Year

Students will connect the mathematics that they learn to real-world situations. Students develop computation and problem-solving skills in all of the math strands. The emphasis is on the topics of representations and calculations of real numbers, roots, and applications of percent's. In algebra the topics are multiple representations of linear and non-linear relationships, functions, graphs, quadratics and factoring. Students solve equations, systems and inequalities. Students also study geometry, data graphs and probability.

Language Arts I**Year**

**Administrative Permission Required*

Language Arts I is a skill-based course that focuses on reading, writing, language, and speaking and listening. In this course, students will connect an introduction of literacy classics to modern-day experiences. Students will use a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts to practice and master skills necessary for future LA courses, the MME exam, and for possible AP coursework.

Please Note: Upon successful completion of this year-long course, students may go into Language Arts II, and one high school credit is earned in the Waterford School District.

Language Arts 8**Year**

Students will continue to gain proficiency making connections between reading and writing by engaging in components of readers' and writers' workshops. Students will improve their reading comprehension and writing skills as they deepen their understanding in the three major genres of narrative, informational, and argumentative reading and writing. Eighth grade students will focus especially on the analyzing authors' craft and purpose as they navigate the connections between the genres of science fiction, informational, and argumentative texts. Students will read in a variety of contexts including whole-class texts and independent reading.

Science 8**Year**

This course fulfills the course requirements for eighth grade students and blends the disciplinary of core ideas of Physical Science with science and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing usable knowledge to explain natural phenomena across the science disciplines. Students will answer the following questions: how can one explain the structure, properties, and interactions of matter? How can one explain and predict interactions between objects and within systems of objects? What is energy and how are waves used to transfer energy and information? Specific concepts studied will include: forms of energy, wave phenomenon, electromagnetism, and physical and chemical interactions.

Social Studies 8**Year**

Students focus on American History from the American Revolution through Reconstruction. Significant people, events and ideas are explored. Citizenship, social studies skills, current events and other important topics are integrated throughout the year.

ADDITIONAL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**Aquaponics 8****(Pierce Campus)****Semester**

Students will learn to combine the technologies of aquaculture and hydroponics. They will plant seedlings, stock fish, calculate production variables, track water quality, and harvest products. Students learn and understand the needs of fish and plants, understand nutrient cycling, become familiar with basic business practices, and develop an appreciation for agriculture.

Art 8**Mason 10-week / Pierce Semester**

This course offers students the opportunity to draw, create sculptures and work with clay concentrating on the principles of design. Shading and value will become an integral area of study. Various artists' work and how they translate to your own art are studied. The traditional art course is broken into two units of study. Students may take more than one art course as their schedule allows.

Advanced Art 8**Semester**

**This class is by teacher recommendation.*

This course offers talented art students the opportunity to further explore the elements and principles of art. Students will use a variety of materials in conjunction with higher-level thinking skills to complete projects. This class requires high motivation, self-direction and discipline.

Band 8**Year**

This class emphasizes high-level, pre-high school performance preparation. The focus is on individual as well as group musicianship. There are great opportunities available to members such as Solo and Ensemble Festival and Percussion Ensemble. Band 8 will also be participating in Band Festival. Required performances include two concerts, a pre-festival performance, Band Festival, and the Memorial Day Parade.

Chorale 8**Year**

All students who enjoy singing and want to further develop their singing skills will have the opportunity to study higher-level musical concepts in this year-long choral performance class. Students will be required to perform both in and out of school, alone and with others using a variety of musical styles, languages and historical periods.

Computer Applications 8**Mason 10-week / Pierce Semester**

Students will develop more advanced skills using Microsoft Office Suite. They will also continue to improve their Internet research skills as they gather information for projects. The Internet, digital cameras, and scanners will be incorporated into the creation of various projects.

ESOL 8**Year**

**Administrative Permission Required*

This course is designed to help transition students into a new linguistic environment. This class will focus on basic speaking, reading and writing skills required to learn a new language. Differentiated instruction will allow students, from non-English speaking to fluent speakers, to grow in their command of the language.

Life Skills 8**Mason 10-week / Pierce Semester**

Students examine their roles as consumers and future home and community leaders. Through career exploration and goal setting, students will discover individual characteristics that will make them successful in society. Kitchen labs include nutrient exploration, meal planning and meal preparation.

Math Lab 8 **Semester**

**Administrative Permission Required*

Students will build confidence in mathematical skills. Students will receive support to help them achieve success in their CORE math class.

Orchestra 8 **Year**

This course will emphasize high-level, pre-high school performance abilities. Students will have the opportunity to perform in small ensembles as well as the large group. Required performances include two concerts, a pre-festival performance, Orchestra Festival, Solo and Ensemble Festival, and District Festival to be held outside school hours.

Publications **Semester**

Students will be engaged in the writing process on a daily basis. They will have a daily writing prompt along with the writing of an article for the school newspaper. Students will brainstorm their own article ideas and then take them through the whole writing process and end up with an article published in *The Pirate Press*.

Reading Enrichment 8 **Semester**

**Administrative Permission Required*

This program is designed to improve students' reading strategies. Students work on fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension skills based on their needs. The length of this course, semester or year, varies with each student.

Technology 8 **Mason 10-week / Pierce Semester**

Students will create a portfolio which helps them in problem solving. Projects include CO₂ cars, electronics, architecture, mousetrap cars, monster trucks and solid fuel rockets. Students use application software in their projects

Anchor Program 8 **Semester**

**Application only*

This program is offered for students who are interested in acting as a positive role model to a peer with special needs. Anchors are assigned a "buddy" and are expected to act as a positive role model, friend, and a helper to that student. Anchors provide the "buddies" with authentic social experiences and expose the "buddies" to functions and social manners that exist within the general population. Anchors are given the opportunity to attend field trips and special classroom functions with their "buddy". Anchor meetings are held on a weekly to bi-weekly basis. Anchor meetings are mandatory, due to specialized training needed in assisting students with special needs.

Upon successful completion of one semester of the credit-bearing classes listed below, .5 high school credit will be granted and the grade earned will count towards the student's high school GPA. The following credit classes will be held if enrollment is sufficient.

Health **Semester**

This course offers an opportunity for students to better understand the dynamics of good health. This course may include mental, physical and social aspects of good health.

Please Note: Upon successful completion of this semester course, students will earn .5 high school credit in the Waterford School District.

Personal Fitness **Semester**

Students will further perfect their skills and increase their level of physical fitness. Students will participate in team sports with a stronger emphasis on skill development, higher knowledge level, and game strategies to participate at highly competitive level.

Please Note: Upon successful completion of this semester course, students will earn .5 high school credit in the Waterford School District.

Spanish I **Year**

This course introduces the student to the sound and structure of the Spanish language. The student learns the language by developing listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.

Please Note: Upon successful completion of this year long course, students will earn one high school credit in the Waterford School District.

French I (Pierce Campus) **Year**

This course introduces the student to the sound and structure of the French language. The student learns the language by developing listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.

Please Note: Upon successful completion of this year long course, students will earn one high school credit in the Waterford School District.

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District Goals

The fundamental purpose of the Waterford School District is to ensure high levels of learning for all students, as evidenced by the following goals:

- We will ensure that all students successfully complete every course and every grade level and demonstrate proficiency on local, state, and national assessments.
- We will eliminate gaps in student achievement in all demographic areas.
- We will provide challenging learning experiences for every student every day.

District website: www.waterford.k12.mi.us

Inspire, educate, and empower our students for their future!