

Winona Middle School



COURSE DESCRIPTION BOOK

2018-2019

Winona Area Public Schools

Our Vision:

We are a community that inspires all students to be life-long learners who strive to fulfill their unique potential and improve our society.

Our Mission:

To empower students of all ages to be life-long learners who demonstrate creative thinking, critical analysis, and problem solving skills in an ever changing and challenging world.

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians:

The registration guide and course description book has been designed to assist you in planning for your next year's school program. Please take time to review the options that you have with your parents/guardians prior to making any final decisions. Our counselors are also available to answer any additional questions you may have. It is always our goal to make sure that our students and parents understand the choices we offer in our programming and that they feel comfortable in making those choices. Please understand that we strive to meet registration requests to the best of our ability. At times, certain classes may not be offered if the number of student requests is not sufficient to support the class.

Sincerely,

Mark Winter
Principal

Completed registration forms are due in Student Services by Thursday February 15 for students currently in Grades 5-7.

Students wishing to be considered for an Honors course should indicate interest by marking an X next to that class on the registration form. Then, the minimum requirements listed below will be checked before placing that students in the class.

Honors Course Minimum Requirements:

Language Arts	*Score Meets or Exceeds previous year Reading MCA's *B- or higher in at least 3 quarters of previous year's Language Arts class *Previous year Language Arts teacher approval
Math	*Score Meets or Exceeds previous year Math MCA's *B- or higher in at least 3 quarters of previous year's Math class *Previous year Math teacher approval
Science	*B- or higher in at least 3 quarters of previous year's Science class *Previous year Science teacher approval
Social Studies	*Score Meets or Exceeds previous year Reading MCA's *B- or higher in at least 3 quarters of previous year's Social Studies class *Previous year Social Studies teacher approval

5th Grade Course Descriptions

Language Arts:

In 5th grade Reading/Language Arts, students will learn and apply the Minnesota fifth grade reading and language arts standards. There is a strong emphasis on fiction and nonfiction reading. Students will learn about and compare and contrast the following fiction genres: realistic fiction, historical fiction, science fiction, fantasy, traditional literature, mystery, and poetry along with graphic novels and plays. They will be learning the five elements of a story (characters, setting, plot, conflict, and theme) and will apply them when reading fiction books. They will also learn about the following nonfiction genres: informational text, biography, and autobiography. Students will focus on the following reading strategies throughout the school year while reading fiction and nonfiction texts: predict, context clues, infer, evaluate, and summarize.

Math:

In Grade 5, instructional time should focus on three critical areas: (1) developing fluency with addition and subtraction of fractions, (2) the introduction of algebraic concepts and fluency of basic order of operations, (3) along with these concepts, fifth grade students will be exposed to two- and three- dimensional geometry.

Science:

Students in 5th grade Science learn a combination of Earth, Life, and Physical Sciences. Students will discover the many ways the Earth's surface changes rapidly and also the ways it can change slowly over time. Students will learn about the forces on Earth that start and stop motion and the forces that change the speed and direction of motion. All 5th grade Science students will learn the process of the Scientific Method by participating and designing their own experiments. They will construct a Science Fair board from their own investigation and be able to participate in our annual Winona Middle School Science Fair in February. Students will also learn about the advantages and disadvantages of renewable and nonrenewable energy sources. At the end of the year, students will learn about different habitats of Minnesota and the world. Students will learn about the animals and plants that live in those habitats and how they are able to survive because of special adaptations they possess. We wrap up this unit by taking a trip to the Minnesota Zoo where students will be able to see many of the animals we had been studying.

Social Studies

Fifth grade Social Studies has a heavy emphasis on History beginning with the Mesoamericans and ending with the Revolutionary War. Social Studies has a smaller emphasis on Maps and Globes, Government, Economics and Civics.

Physical Education:

Students will experience a variety of activities in Physical Education. Lifetime fitness will be stressed through individual, dual, and team sports. Students will learn the rules and proper procedures for successful participation in all units studied. Written examinations and skill check lists are part of the curriculum. A physician's note is required to be excused from this class for more than one day. **Physical Education Uniforms are required** and can be purchased at the Winona Middle School Physical Education Department.

Band:

Fifth grade band is an elective course. In fifth grade band, you will learn a band instrument and perform exciting music in a lesson setting, as well as in a full band setting. Students will perform a concert with a full band. Fifth grade band will provide a strong foundation for band in sixth grade.

Orchestra:

The Orchestra program is open to all students who have studied an orchestral string instrument. New students who have completed at least one year of study on their instrument are encouraged to audition for the Orchestra. The Orchestra has at least two evening performances each year. Weekly lessons are required.

General Music 5:

5th Grade General Music is a continuation of elementary music. In this class students will sing, play instruments, and incorporate movement with music. Students will work on music reading skills and counting rhythms using numbers. Classes will perform in a concert in January.

6th Grade Course Descriptions

Language Arts:

A student's language arts experience will focus on the common core standards and Minnesota State standards in language arts. Our goal is to create and instill literacy and writing skills with our students. We read a variety of material, including novels, high interest short stories and nonfiction articles, which involve learning backgrounds to our stories, reading skills, and strategies. Students also read materials of their choice for their year-long reading requirement. Students write in a variety of forms and methods, of which many topics are in conjunction with the in class reading. They express their thoughts and ideas in many different types of writing, including but not limited to: persuasive, descriptive, informative, and creative. Writing skills and methods will be embedded within these lessons.

Math:

A student's math experience will be focused upon the Minnesota standards in mathematics. Major emphasis will be placed on fractions, proportions, percentages, geometry, and probability. Students will also be taught pre-algebra skills which include the use of formulas. Emphasis on real-world applications of mathematical concepts are used as much as possible. Classroom instruction includes lesson presentations, daily practice, quizzes, and tests.

Honors Math:

Honors Math includes a wider range and greater depth of subject matter than that of the regular course. Major emphasis will be placed on number theory, understanding rational numbers, computation, two-dimensional geometry and measurement, probability, statistics, and introducing algebraic concepts.

Science:

Science concentrates mainly on the physical sciences, including units in Matter, Energy, Motion, Engineering, and Technology. Activities, labs, projects, investigations, and experiments are used along with technology to enhance critical thinking skills and the scientific method.

Social Studies:

In Minnesota Studies, students explore history, government, geography, and economics, placing Minnesota and its people within the context of the national story. They will engage in historical inquiry, examine the relationship within government, and analyze how geography affected settlement and city growth. Students learn about the unique role Minnesota played, and continues to play, in regional, national and global politics.

Honors Social Studies:

In Honors Minnesota Studies, students will study history, government, geography, and economics, placing Minnesota and its people within the context of the national story. They will engage in historical inquiry, examine the relationship within government, and analyze how geography affected settlement and city growth. Students will learn about the unique role Minnesota played, and continues to play, in regional, national, and global politics. Students will complete the core curriculum at a faster pace than peers, and will research a History Day topic related the yearly theme. Students will be required to complete a research project using one of the media required by National History Day by the March regional presentation. Research projects may include one of the following: paper (individual only), individual exhibit, group exhibit, individual performance, group performance, individual documentary, group documentary, individual website, or group website.

Art 6:

The students will identify and apply the elements and principles of design. The students participate in artistic experiences that enhance the individual's level of self-expression. The students focus on the artistic process as well as the product. Some of the units explored are ceramics, computer art, drawing, painting, and mixed media.

Industrial Technology 6 – Innovative Robotic Engineering (EV3)

Students, along with a partner, will be exploring Lego Robotics by using computer programming to do the following: Move forward, move in reverse, turn right, turn left, work through a maze and other interesting activities. This class is in line with the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) initiative. Measurement, trial and error, and creativity are an important part of this innovative class.

Physical Education:

Physical Education has students experience a variety of activities. Lifetime fitness is stressed through individual, dual, and team sports. Students learn the rules and proper procedures for successful participation in all units studied. Participation and effort are emphasized. In addition, written examinations are part of the curriculum. A physician's note is required to be excused from this class for more than one day. **Physical Education Uniforms** are required and can be purchased from the Winona Middle School Physical Education Department.

Health 6:

This course is designed to promote awareness of physical, mental, emotional and social developmental needs for optimal health throughout life. This course is designed to assist each student in developing decision-making skills in the area of personal health promotion in order to maintain a lifestyle that promotes wellness. Students will be provided with accurate, up-to-date health related information using a variety of educational instructional activities such as; group activities, presentations, lecture, independent work, guest speakers, videos and hands-on learning.

Band:

The Band program is open to all students who have been recommended by their fifth grade band instructor. All new/transfer students who have had musical training in band are also encouraged to join. Students who have not previously been in band are encouraged to sign up for the "lessons only" option. These students will then be placed in full band rehearsals as soon as they are ready. Weekly small group lessons are given to all band students. The full band performs two evening concerts each year.

Orchestra:

The Orchestra program is open to all students who have studied an orchestral string instrument. New students who have completed at least one year of study on their instrument are encouraged to audition for the Orchestra. The Orchestra has at least two evening performances each year. Weekly lessons are required.

Choir:

Students are introduced to a variety of vocal techniques, sight singing, musical styles, and theory through various projects and class performances. Students in this class learn fundamental choral principles through a variety of non-traditional, hands-on, and interactive ways. Students perform two concerts per year.

Exploring Music:

Students in Exploring Music continue to learn about music without having a performance. Students study, listen, and write about music, as well as complete projects, do group work, discuss, and evaluate music of all styles and time periods. In 6th grade students study what music is and how it is created, create a plan for a performing group's tour, and learn about jazz music.

7th Grade Course Descriptions

Language Arts:

The language arts curriculum includes the following literacy and communication skills: reading, writing, language, speaking, listening, media literacy and critical thinking. The curriculum includes young adult contemporary and classic literature, nonfiction, short stories, poetry and drama. The students are challenged to analyze what they read and make connections to their lives and the world around them. In nonfiction, specific emphasis is placed on active reading strategies that improve comprehension. In fiction, particular emphasis is placed on character development, plot, conflict, setting, point of view and theme. Novels are taught as whole class instruction as well as small group literature circles. In addition, a free-choice reading requirement is included to provide practice and encourage the love of reading. Writing is taught as a process of skills that provides students practice in planning, drafting, revising, editing and publishing their work. The Six Traits of Writing is used for instruction and assessment in the following: Ideas, Organization, Word choice, Voice, Sentence fluency and Conventions (spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar and usage). The focus of writing is on a persuasive, narrative, and informative/explanatory writing. A word-study approach to spelling and vocabulary is used that includes Greek and Latin affixes and roots. All of these writing skills are reinforced through the students' writing exercises and are incorporated within literature units to provide a balanced literacy approach.

Honors Language Arts:

Honors language arts is a course for students who have strong reading and writing skills to be challenged at a deeper level. This course will approach the ELA standards with more depth and breadth with an advanced approach to understanding the standards. Students will be exposed to a variety of methods of learning, which may include independent learning, critical and creative thinking and problem solving skills. Overall, the curriculum will move at an accelerated pace with a more concentrated focus.

Math:

A student's math experience includes a strong emphasis on Algebra and concentrates on fractions, decimals, integers, proportions, two and three dimensional geometry, statistics, and probability. The class provides students with practical, real world applications involving the use of these skills through daily practice, quizzes, tests, and projects. Students will have the opportunity to work independently, in pairs, and small groups.

Honors Math:

Honors math includes a wider range and greater depth of subject matter than that of the regular course. These topics include similarity, proportional reasoning, integers, three-dimensional measurement, probability and expected value, measures of center and data variability.

Science:

Science process skills are developed through the study of the life sciences. Activities, labs, projects, investigations, and experiments are used along with multimedia technology in exploring the principles and patterns that govern Earth's living systems. Units include; ecology, cells, body systems, disease, genetics, natural selection, environmental issues, and the scientific methods.

Honors Science:

Enrollment In Honors Life Science students will study ideas such as cells, genetics, ecology and living organisms. Students in this course will complete complex activities and assignments which may require more time and effort than is expected in the general Life Science course. Students taking this course must be self-motivated, willing to accept the rigorous expectations and able to read and comprehend advanced non-fiction material.

Social Studies:

Seventh grade social studies will cover American History from 1800-present. There will be short units covering economics, civics and geography. A multimedia approach involving texts, educational videos, and up-to-date technology will be utilized. Student-oriented projects and group work will supplement the units.

Honors Social Studies:

Seventh grade social studies will cover American History from 1800-present. There will be short units covering economics, civics and geography. A multimedia approach involving texts, educational videos, and up-to-date technology will be utilized. Student-oriented projects and group work will supplement the units. Students will complete the core curriculum at a faster pace than peers and will research a History Day topic related to the yearly theme. Students will be required to complete a research project using one of the media required by National History Day by the March regional presentation. Research projects may include one of the following: paper (individual only), individual exhibit, group exhibit, individual performance, group performance, individual documentary, group documentary, individual website, or group website.

Innovative Design Technology I – Tech 7

Innovative Design Technology 7 class is an introduction to basic woodworking and bridge engineering utilizing the Drill Press, Bandsaw, Combination Sander, and Spindle Sander. The students will be constructing the giant clothespin, with emphasis on measurement, work with a partner to create a bridge, using engineering designs and vocabulary, and build a CO2 car using measurement, layout, aerodynamics, critical thinking and creativity. Hands on activities and imagination are emphasized in the Industrial Tech classroom.

7th Grade Art:

Art 7 is designed for 7th grade art students to identify and use the elements and principles of art to communicate ideas. Students will participate in artistic experiences that build creative skills, enhance self-expression and focus on the artistic process as well as the final product. Students will have the opportunity to explore art through 2D and 3D art works such as ceramics (clay) including hand building and potters wheel, drawing, painting, mixed media and art appreciation. This class meets for 2 quarters.

Spanish Ia:

This is the first half of Spanish 1. Students will learn to exchange information, ask questions and give opinions. Listening, speaking, reading, and writing in Spanish are skills that will be developed. Students will be expected to practice using their Spanish outside of the classroom. A wide variety of methods are used to acquaint the students with the Spanish language, culture, history and tradition.

German Ia:

This is the first half of German 1. Students will learn to exchange information, ask questions and give opinions. Listening, speaking, reading, and writing in German are skills that will be developed. Students will be expected to practice using their German outside of the classroom. A wide variety of methods are used to acquaint the students with the German language, culture, history and tradition.

Physical Education:

Students will experience a variety of activities in Physical Education. Lifetime fitness will be stressed through individual, dual, and team sports. Students will learn the rules and proper procedures for successful participation in all units studied. Written examinations and skill check lists are part of the curriculum. A physician's note is required to be excused from this class for more than one day. **Physical Education Uniforms are required** and can be purchased at the Winona Middle School Physical Education Department.

Band:

The seventh grade band is open to all students who have successfully completed the sixth grade band level and have the recommendation of their previous band director. All new/transfer students who have had at least one year of musical training in the instrumental area are encouraged to join band. A wide variety of music is studied and performed in band class. Weekly band lessons are required of each band member as well as performing in two evening concerts. An option of "lessons only" is available to students who have not met the requirements for band participation.

Orchestra:

The Orchestra program is open to all students who have studied an orchestral string instrument. New students who have completed at least two years of study on their string instrument are encouraged to audition for the Orchestra. The Orchestra has at least two evening performances each year. Weekly lessons are required.

Choir:

Choir is a study of music through listening, singing, reading, and writing. Students who enjoy music and wish to improve their vocal and music reading skills will have an opportunity to do so by studying music of various styles. Students will be required to sing alone and with others in a variety of settings. Appropriate participation in a large group is expected. Two or three public performances are given each year in conjunction with other Middle School choirs.

Exploring Music:

In this class, students will learn about music from many cities across the USA, including New Orleans, Memphis, Nashville, Philadelphia, New York, Chicago, Detroit, and LA. Students will learn about each city, listen to a wide variety of styles of music, and have individual as well as group projects focused on aspects of music that are unique for each city.

8th Grade Course Descriptions

Language Arts:

Language Arts in 8th grade focuses on reading, writing, speaking, language, and media literacy. We will write several formal papers including a memoir, a creative writing piece, a persuasive essay, a research paper, and several pieces analyzing specific works of literature. Students will work through each step in the writing process and all formal writing will be evaluated using the 6+1 Traits of Writing. Students will read one class novel (*The Giver*) and participate in literature circles based upon their reading level and interest. There is also an independent reading requirement where each student will select and read books of their choosing throughout the year. A persuasive speech and media project will accompany the persuasive writing unit. Ongoing topics will include vocabulary focusing primarily on Greek and Latin roots, journaling, nonfiction articles, and grammar.

Honors Language Arts:

Honors Language Arts is a course for students who have strong reading and writing skills to be challenged at a deeper level. It will be a continuation of learning and developing the strong skills from 7th grade Honors Language Arts. This course will approach the ELA standards with more depth and breadth, with an advanced approach to understanding the standards. Students will be exposed to a variety of methods of learning, which may include independent learning, critical and creative thinking and problem solving skills. Overall, the curriculum will move at an accelerated pace with more concentrated focus.

Math:

The focus of 8th grade math is the study of algebra including data handling, linear relationships, exponential relationships, quadratic relationships, solving linear equations and inequalities, solving quadratic equations, Pythagorean Theorem, properties of radicals, properties of exponents and polynomial expressions.

Honors Math:

Honors math includes a wider range and greater depth of subject matter than that of the regular course. This course is designed to build on algebraic and geometric concepts. It develops advanced algebra skills such as systems of equations, advanced polynomials, complex numbers, and quadratics.

Science:

8th grade Earth Science provides students with the opportunity to explore our dynamic Earth including features, forces, the atmosphere, and our place in the universe. We will investigate our planet through a variety of inquiry based field investigations, labs and guest speakers. Students will be required to develop and maintain an organized science journal to reference throughout the year.

Honors Science:

Earth Science provides students with the opportunity to explore our dynamic Earth including features, forces, the atmosphere, and our place in the universe. We will investigate our planet through a variety of inquiry based field investigations, labs and guest speakers. Students will be required to develop and maintain an organized science journal to reference throughout the year. This course will include complex activities, projects and presentations which will require more time and effort than is expected in the general Earth Science course. This will allow us to expand the breadth and depth of most Earth Science concepts.

Social Studies:

Grade eight features geography as the lead discipline with a strong secondary emphasis on contemporary world history and economics. Content drawn from citizenship, government, and economics, enriches the study of world regional geography, and further develops the interdisciplinary social studies approach.

Honors Social Studies:

Grade eight features geography as the lead discipline with a strong secondary emphasis on contemporary world history and economics. Content drawn from citizenship, government, and economics, enriches the study of world regional geography, and further develops the interdisciplinary social studies approach. As part of World's Best Workforce students will create a Post-Secondary Learning Plan and would be required to participate in a job shadow and a visit to a post-secondary school as possible. Students will complete the core curriculum at a faster pace than peers and will research a History Day topic related to the yearly theme. Students will be required to complete a research project using one of the media required by National History Day by the March regional presentation. Research projects may include one of the following: paper (individual only), individual exhibit, group exhibit, individual performance, group performance, individual documentary, group documentary, individual website, or group website.

Spanish Ia:

This the first half of Spanish 1. Students will learn to exchange information, ask questions and give opinions. Listening, speaking, reading, and writing in Spanish are skills that will be developed. Students will be expected to practice using their Spanish outside of the classroom. A wide variety of methods are used to acquaint the students with the Spanish language, culture, history and tradition.

Spanish Ib (part 2):

This is the second half of Spanish 1. Students will continue to exchange information, ask questions and give opinions. Listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills from the first half of the class will be extended and expanded. Students will be expected to practice using their Spanish outside of the classroom. A wide variety of methods are used to acquaint the students with the Spanish language, culture, history and tradition.

*Spanish 1a is a prerequisite for Spanish 1b

*Spanish 1a and 1b is required before Spanish 2 can be taken at WSHS.

German Ia:

This the first half of German 1. Students will learn to exchange information, ask questions and give opinions. Listening, speaking, reading, and writing in German are skills that will be developed. Students will be expected to practice using their German outside of the classroom. A wide variety of methods are used to acquaint the students with the German language, culture, history and tradition.

German Ib (part 2):

This is the second half of German 1. Students will continue to exchange information, ask questions and give opinions. Listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills from the first half of the class will be extended and expanded. Students will be expected to practice using their German outside of the classroom. A wide variety of methods are used to acquaint the students with the German language, culture, history and tradition.

*German 1a is a prerequisite for German 1b

*German 1a and 1b is required before German 2 can be taken at WSHS.

Physical Education:

Eighth graders experience a variety of activities in Physical Education. Lifetime fitness is stressed through individual, dual, and team sports. Students learn the rules and proper procedures for successful participation in all units studied. Written examinations and skill checklists are part of the Physical Education Curriculum. A physician's note is required to be excused from this class for more than one day. **Physical Education Uniforms are required** and can be purchased from the Winona Middle School Physical Education Department.

Health 8:

The 8th Grade Health class at WMS will build off the skills and materials learned in 6th Grade. The goal of the class will be to continue to provide students with the basic knowledge and skills needed to help students live a healthy lifestyle. To achieve this goal, the students will learn and actively participate in a variety of health-related activities. These activities are aimed to improve their decision-making skills and help to solve everyday problems that teenagers might encounter. Areas of emphasis throughout the class will include physical health, social health, mental health, life skills, nutrition, safety, growth and development, sexually transmitted diseases, tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs and mental health/suicide prevention. Students will gain knowledge through a variety of different learning tools such as guest speakers, technology, group activities, role-playing, presentations, projects, and active communication between the class and teacher. Our goal is to provide the students with the knowledge and skills to lead a happy and healthy life.

Band:

The eighth grade band is open to all students who have successfully completed the seventh grade band level and have the recommendation of their previous band director. All new/transfer students who have had at least one year of musical training in the instrumental area are encouraged to join band. A wide variety of music is studied and performed in band class. The 8th grade band performs two evening concerts and travels to a band festival every year. Weekly band lessons are required of each band member.

Orchestra:

The Orchestra program is open to all students who have studied an orchestral string instrument. New students who have completed at least three years of study on their string instrument are encouraged to audition for the Orchestra. The Orchestra has at least two evening performances each year. Weekly lessons are required.

Choir:

Choir 8 is an extension of the Choir 7 curriculum. Further development of sight-reading and choral performance techniques will form the foundation of this class. Two or three evening performances by this group are given yearly in conjunction with the other Middle School choirs. Additional ensemble opportunities may be available to students through special audition or small group work.

Music Creation with Technology:

In this class, students will learn how to use their devices in relation to music. Students will engage in a wide variety of projects using devices, including creating music word clouds, composing music with specific structure and purpose, and working with music in videos.

Intro to Guitar:

In this class, students will learn the basic techniques for how to play acoustic guitar. Students will be provided with a school guitar to use for the duration of the class. Topics of study for this class include how guitars are made, tuning, basic chords, and notes to play simple melodies.

Music Theater:

In this course, students will have the opportunity to study and perform music from a variety of musicals, as well as learn about aspects of musical theater. Students will also write a song in the style of a musical.

2D Art Design:

2D Art Design is designed for art students to identify and use the elements and principles of art to communicate ideas. Students will participate in artistic experiences that build creative skills, enhance self-expression and focus on the artistic process as well as the final product. Students will have the opportunity to explore art through 2D art works such as drawing, painting, mixed media and art appreciation.

ClayWorks/3D Art Design:

ClayWorks/3D Art Design is designed for art students to identify and use the elements and principles of art to communicate ideas. Students will participate in artistic experiences that build creative skills, enhance self-expression and focus on the artistic process as well as the final product. Through carving, constructing and modeling, students will use a variety of materials, tools and techniques to transform 2D ideas into 3D forms. Students will use drawing throughout this course as a planning tool for both ClayWorks and 3D artwork. Students will have the opportunity to explore art through 3D artworks such as ceramics (clay) - hand building and potters wheel, papier mache, wire, wood, mixed media, and art appreciation.

*Students will spend ½ quarter for ClayWorks and ½ quarter for 3D artworks.

Innovative Design Technology II - Tech 8

Innovative Design Technology II class consists of building small, useable projects. Students will be using hand and power tools to make projects such as: a small bench, a tool/flower box and a cutting board. Emphasis will be on measurement, proper usage of power and hand tools, safety in the classroom, and producing a finished project to be proud of.