

# Middle School Course Guide

## Core Courses

### Language Arts

#### Middle School English/Language Arts

In middle school English Language Arts, students will read and analyze various types of texts, including essays, articles, short stories, novels, poetry, and speeches. We will learn how to write in argumentative, narrative, and informational styles and how to use language effectively. We also practice collaborating and discussing in various formats with our peers. Much of our work is done and submitted through Google Classroom; we also use a grade-level textbook throughout the year. Class time will be provided for work completion, and students will have access to teacher-created planners, organizers, models, and time-management strategies.

### Math

#### Math 7

In Grade 7 mathematics, students will focus on developing an understanding of and applying proportional relationships. Students develop an understanding of operations with rational numbers and will work with expressions and linear equations. In addition, students will solve problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions. Students will work with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume. Finally, students will learn how to draw inferences about populations based on samples.

#### Math 8

In grade 8 mathematics, students will learn to formulate and reason about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data (two variables) with a linear equation. Students will learn how to solve linear equations and systems of linear equations. Students will learn the concept of a function and will use functions to describe quantitative relationships. Students will analyze two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence. Students will learn the Pythagorean Theorem and how to use it.

### Physical Education

#### Middle School PE

The Middle School Physical Education curriculum will concentrate on all areas of human body development. Classes will stress the importance of student participation, body growth, eating healthy, exercise, health promotion, and sportsmanship. Students will perform various skills throughout each topic and will express the importance of each one. We will practice technique and playing the game correctly, and demonstrate that good sportsmanship is more important than the outcome of the game.

Physical fitness can't be acquired over a short period of time. It takes time to develop a good level of physical fitness, which includes cardiovascular strength, muscle strength, flexibility, and muscle endurance. The Springville Physical Education program is inclined to fit the needs of all students--improving fitness levels is the goal of the physical education program.

### Science

#### Middle School Science

In middle school science, students will get an introduction to biological, physical, and earth sciences. Over the course of seventh and eighth grade, we will explore ecosystems, adaptations, fossils, genetics, magnetism, electrical circuits, color, waves, sound, weather, the atmosphere, and the moon. Our class is heavily based in hands-on activities and class discussions. We will learn and practice new vocabulary terms while expanding our mental models for abstract concepts like the geologic time scale or how the

seasons are made. The majority of our work is completed and turned in digitally which helps support student organization and allows every student access to accommodations like speech-to-text and text readers.

## **Social Studies**

### **Geography**

Students in seventh grade Geography spend the year exploring what makes the world go round. We look at physical characteristics of the planet, human interactions with the environment, and spend time trying to absorb and experience various cultures from locations all around the globe.

### **US History**

Eighth graders cover the history of North America from the earliest native civilizations to the creation of Jamestown and the American Revolution before finally ending the year analyzing the American Civil War. We will discuss various political, historical, and economic influences throughout the decades and the influences those factors had on The United States of America during those eras.

## **Cocurricular Courses**

### **Music**

#### **Instrumental Music**

The Concert Band is the core performance group in the instrumental music program and members are enrolled for a full academic year. Concert Band is open to any student, although those without prior instrumental experience may be asked to take additional lessons with the director prior to enrolling. Students will study both Western and international traditions of music primarily through performance. In addition, students are encouraged to participate in other ensembles including marching band, drumline, and jazz band. Participation in all concerts is required. Band is open to students in seventh and eighth grade, meeting every other day.

#### **Vocal Music**

MS choir is a performance- and participation-based class offered to 7th and 8th graders. Students are expected to actively participate during classes and at the 3 concerts each school year. Grades are based on weekly participation and concert attendance/participation. Students will learn the basics of singing skills and performance etiquette while building their talents and confidence. This full-year class meets every other day.

## **Exploratories**

### **Agriculture**

#### **Ag 7**

This exploratory course is an introductory course to agriculture, food, and natural resources. We look at multiple topics related to agriculture and leadership. You will experience hands-on activities, projects, and problems. Topics include the study of agriculture, plants, and natural resources. Along with the classroom work, students will be encouraged to join and be involved in the FFA. Each student will have the opportunity to work on individual leadership skills and personal development. This course meets every other day for one quarter.

#### **Ag 8**

This exploratory course is an introductory course to agriculture, food, and natural resources. We look at multiple topics related to agriculture and leadership. You will experience hands-on activities, projects, and problems. Topics include the study of communication, the science of agriculture, animals, and food science. Along with the classroom work, students will be encouraged to join and be involved in the FFA.

Each student will have the opportunity to work on individual leadership skills and personal development. This course meets every other day for one quarter.

## **Art**

### **Art 7**

Seventh grade Art is designed as an overview of the subject of art. Students will learn about different media, including drawing, painting, and clay, as well as many other materials. Students will also explore basic art history. Students will complete many projects over the course of the semester based on the content, materials and techniques learned in the course. Students will leave this course with strong knowledge of art, ample experience with different materials, and the ability to use creative problem solving. This course meets every other day for one semester.

### **Art 8**

Eight grade Art is designed as an extension of 7th grade art. In this course, students will continue to develop the skills they learned in 7th grade, with the goal to improve creative thinking and artistic technique. Students will have more opportunities to explore art history in greater depth. The vocabulary and techniques learned in 8th grade art will lay the foundation for high school art classes. This course meets every other day for one semester.

## **Business**

### **Business 7**

After introducing key soft skills needed, we will look at real-world challenges surrounding personal finance, digital citizenship, and a future beyond school. This course will discuss the importance of budgeting and saving and being able to identify wants versus needs. This course meets every other day for one quarter.

### **Business 8**

We will focus on recognizing and developing top soft skills needed to be successful. Students will be able to identify and evaluate personal goals, priorities, attitudes, and interests with the goal of helping them make informed decisions about their careers. We will also spend time on different business topics such as lending, credit, supply, demand, budgeting and business characteristics. This course meets every other day for one quarter.

## **Computer Science**

### **Programming**

This introductory Computer Science course for seventh grade students will cover topics such as problem solving, programming, user centered design, and data, while inspiring students as they build their apps, animations, and games. This is a course that empowers students to create authentic artifacts and engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun. This exploratory meets every other day for one semester.

## **Health**

### **MS Health**

The Middle School Health Education curriculum will concentrate on all areas of human body development. Classes will stress the importance of the health triangle, goal setting, body growth, nutrition, physical activity, health promotion, and avoiding/prevention of harmful substances and diseases. Students will perform various skills throughout each topic and will express the importance of each one. The Springville Health Education program is aimed at improving students' understanding of their bodies and how to take care of them. This course meets every other day for one quarter.

## **Industrial Technology**

### **Industrial Tech 7**

Seventh grade Industrial Tech is the Introductory course for the Industrial Technology program. Students will learn introductory concepts about tool, machine, and workshop safety, aerodynamics, hand drafting, and woodworking. Each student in this course creates a CO2 Dragster and races against their classmates to see who can build the fastest car!

### **Industrial Tech 8**

Eighth grade Industrial Tech builds off of the curriculum covered in the seventh grade course, specifically, hand drafting and technical drawing and design. This course also introduces new concepts centered around engineering and designing for structural support. Students in this class work in groups to design, construct, and test a balsa wood bridge for the highest amount of weight held and efficiency before critical failure.

## **World Language**

### **Spanish 8**

Exploratory Spanish is an introduction to Spanish using Comprehensible Input strategies; students will spend time listening to stories and songs in Spanish and reading in the target language. This course focuses on high-frequency language to build a strong foundation for language learning. All eighth grade students take this course. It meets every other day for one semester.

## **Middle School Extra- and Cocurricular Opportunities**

Vocal Music

Football

Softball

Basketball

Track

Student Senate

Instrumental Music

Volleyball

Baseball

Cross Country

Wrestling

To be eligible to participate in extra- or co-curricular activities, students must be passing all classes at the grading checkpoint to participate in activities done every three weeks as a grading period. Students failing at grade checks will be ineligible for 1 week. Grades will then be checked at the end of that week. If a student is passing at the end of that week, they will be eligible until the next grading period. If not, then they will be ineligible for another week, etc. Failure to pass at the end of the 4th quarter will result in the student being ineligible for one week of summer activities.

## **Middle School Student Supports**

### **Student Support Team**

The Student Support Team is composed of administrators, counselor, and any teachers who teach the student in need of assistance. The team assists at-risk students with academic and behavioral problems by developing a supplemental plan for the student. The team meets when necessary. Parents are notified before a supplemental plan is implemented.

### **School Counseling Program**

School counselors work with students individually, in small groups, and as a class to support students in their social/emotional, educational, and career development. Our school uses Second Step, a curriculum that offers lessons in mindsets and goal setting; recognizing and responding to bullying and harassment; thoughts, emotions, and wise decision-making; and managing relationships and social conflict effectively. These skills are important now, but students will continue to use them as they grow into adults in the workplace. Middle school students take part in a Second Step lesson weekly throughout the school year.

**ZAP**

To help support our students, we have a Zeros Aren't Permitted program. On Thursday evenings, middle school students and parents are emailed a list of any student missing work. This email helps keep students, teachers, and parents on the same page. Students who have missing work are expected to go to Ms. Zehr's room for study hall each day until their work is completed. This provides an opportunity for students to work on their homework at school with a teacher available to help them with their work. For students who do not have study hall, we will work with students and families to set up alternative work times before/after school or during lunch to help students get caught up. As soon as a student completes their work and communicates with their teachers that it is turned in, they are no longer required to attend ZAP study hall.