

ANCHOR BAY  
MIDDLE SCHOOL NORTH  
COURSE GUIDE

2024-2025

6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade



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## **Vision Statement**

Educational Excellence Together

## **Mission Statement**

Empowering all students to succeed in an ever-changing world.

Anchor Bay School District does not discriminate on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age or genetic information in its programs, activities, or employment.

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

President: Lisa Birkmeier

Vice President: Patrick Green

Secretary: Jill Knox

Treasurer: Dennis Richards

Trustee: Mike Moses

Trustee: Jon DeRoo

Trustee: Dominic Vendittelli

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Director of Secondary Curriculum: Joe McDonald

Director of Special Education – Frank Cusimano

Director of Student Services – Sherry Kenward

Director of Human Resources – Lora Gonzales

Director of Business Services – Robyn Randazzo

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES**

This program of studies has been prepared to help middle school students and parents plan the student's program according to his or her particular educational needs and interests. Continuing the strong emphasis on improving basic skills that began in the elementary schools, the middle school program of studies is organized developmentally from grades 6 through 8. The intent of the program is to provide a gradual transition into the high school program of studies and the high school enrollment process. A hallmark of the middle school experience is program flexibility. In order to accommodate the unique needs of students, differentiation of instruction is emphasized.

## **NWEA TESTING**

Three times a year, all students will take tests called Measures of Academic Progress™ (MAP). We give students MAP tests to determine each student's instructional level and to measure academic growth throughout the school year and from year to year in the areas of Math, Language Arts, and Science.

Each student will take the tests on a computer. MAP tests are unique in that they adapt to be appropriate for your child's level of learning. As a result, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward testing. And with MAP tests, we can administer shorter tests and use less class time while still receiving detailed, accurate information about your child's growth. These results, along with other student achievement data, are used by staff members to make instructional, programming, and scheduling decisions.

Each school year, students in grades 6, 7 and 8 take the tests in September, January, and May. Following each testing period, you will receive a report showing your child's growth.

For more information on resources for parents, download the Parent Toolkit at [www.nwea.org](http://www.nwea.org)

**This booklet contains brief course descriptions for the Anchor Bay Middle Schools core and elective programs. Carefully review all electives BEFORE making choices. However, due to limitations in class size, not all students will receive every requested course. Every effort will be made to honor choices.**

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# LANGUAGE ARTS

## **LANGUAGE ARTS 6:**

### ***Full Year***

In this course, students will experience a variety of genres, including folk tale, fantasy, realistic fiction and narrative nonfiction. Writing mechanics and grammar are integrated throughout the course and applied in a personal narrative and expository essay.

## **LANGUAGE ARTS 6: INFORMATIONAL READING AND WRITING**

### ***One Semester***

In this course, students will experience nonfiction reading and writing including comparative essays, how-to-books, and persuasive essays.

## **LANGUAGE ARTS ESSENTIALS (ACRI):**

### ***One Semester 6th grade***

This course is for students whom experience difficulty with informational reading comprehension. Only 10 students are selected for each section of the class, placing an emphasis on a small learning community. Placement is based on teacher recommendation and data from the Qualitative Reading Inventory (QRI) and NWEA. Research has shown that the ACRI program is very successful, exiting students from the program with a significant growth in reading level. (This class takes the place of Informational Reading and Writing for 6<sup>th</sup> grade).

## **LANGUAGE ARTS 7**

### ***Full year***

In this course, students will experience a variety of genres, including realistic fiction, mystery, poetry, drama, myth, legend, autobiography, and biography. Writing mechanics and grammar are integrated throughout the course in various writing assignments including a formal research paper.

## **LANGUAGE ARTS 8**

### ***Full year***

In this course, students will experience a variety of genres, including historical fiction, science fiction, realistic fiction, memoir, newspaper writing, comparative essay, and persuasive essay. Writing mechanics and grammar are integrated throughout the course in various writing assignments including a formal research paper.

# HONORS LANGUAGE ARTS

**\*\*AN INDICATION OF INTEREST IN HONORS CLASSES DOES NOT GUARANTEE BEING ENROLLED INTO THE HONORS CLASSES\*\***

## **HONORS LANGUAGE ARTS 6:**

***Full year - Pre-requisites to request: (must meet all criteria)***

**Q1 & Q2 grade of at least an A- or higher in Language Arts Reading**

**Q1 & Q2 grade of at least an A- or higher in Language Arts Writing**

**NWEA Reading score in the high range.**

This course is designed for the talented and serious academic student who is willing to rise to the challenge of intense, independent and in-depth work. In this course, students will experience a variety of genres, including folk tale, fantasy, mystery, realistic fiction and narrative fiction. Students will have the opportunity to read more complex text and enhance critical thinking skills. Writing mechanics and grammar are integrated throughout the course in various writing assignments including personal narrative and expository essays.

***Students must maintain B- or higher to stay in Honors 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.***

## **HONORS LANGUAGE ARTS 7**

***Full year - Pre-requisites to request: (must meet all criteria)***

**Semester 1 grade of at least a B- in Honors Language Arts 6, or A- or higher in Language Arts 6**

**Midterm grade of at least a B- in Honors Language Arts 6, or A- or higher in Language Arts 6**

**NWEA Reading score in the high range.**

This course is designed for the talented and serious academic student who is willing to rise to the challenge of intense, independent and in-depth work. In this course, students will experience a variety of genres, including mystery, realistic fiction, poetry, drama, myth, legend, autobiography, and biography... Students will have the opportunity to read more complex text and enhance critical thinking skills. Writing mechanics and grammar are integrated throughout the course in various writing assignments including a formal research paper.

***Students must maintain B- or higher to stay in Honors 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.***

## **HONORS LANGUAGE ARTS 8**

***Full year - Pre-requisites to request: (must meet all criteria)***

**Semester 1 grade of at least a B- in Honors Language Arts 7, or A- or higher in Language Arts 7**

**Midterm grade of at least a B- in Honors Language Arts 7, or A- or higher in Language Arts 7**

**NWEA Reading score in the high range.**

This course is designed for the talented and serious academic student who is willing to rise to the challenge of intense, independent and in-depth work. In this course, students will experience a variety of genres, including historical fiction, science fiction, realistic fiction, memoir, newspaper writing, comparative essays, and persuasive essays. Students will have the opportunity to read more complex text and enhance critical thinking skills.

Writing mechanics and grammar are integrated throughout the course in various writing assignments during the year, including a formal argumentative research paper.

***Students must maintain B- or higher to stay in Honors 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.***

# MATHEMATICS

## **MATH 6**

### ***Full Year***

Sixth grade math emphasizes the number system, ratios and proportions, an introduction to algebra, and geometry. Students will apply and extend previous understandings of numbers to the system of rational number, computing with decimals and fractions. Students will develop ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems. Within the algebra strands, student will use variables, write simple expressions and solve on-variable equations and inequalities. In Geometry, students will solve real world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area and volume.

## **MATH 7**

### ***Full Year***

Seventh grade math emphasizes on developing an understanding of and applying proportional relationships and developing an understanding of operations with rational numbers. In Algebra, students will build on their previous knowledge of expressions and be introduced to linear equations. In Geometry, students will solve problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions. Students will work with two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving areas surface area, and volume. In statistics and probability, students will learn to draw inferences about populations based on samples.

## **MATH 8**

### ***Full Year***

The main areas of emphasis for eighth grade are formulating and reasoning about expressions, functions, and geometry. In expressions and equations, students explore functions with a concentration on linear functions. Functions are studied through various representations: symbolic, graphical, tabular, and verbal. In Geometry students consolidate their knowledge of two- and three dimensional shapes and their properties, and apply this knowledge to perimeter, area, volume, and visualization problems. In Data and Probability, students make decisions and perform basic analyses of data sets. Throughout this study, students use their understanding of number and measurement developed prior to eighth grade to solve more complex problems.

## **MATH FOUNDATIONS- GRADES 6-8**

### ***Semester or Full year based on student progress***

This course is for students performing below grade level. Math Foundations is a research-based middle grade mathematics curriculum that actively engages students in solving real-world math problems using representational models, multiple strategies, and an approach that produces results! The units are organized by domain including Number (Ratio and Proportional Reasoning), Geometry, Algebra (Expressions, Equations, and Functions), and Statistics and Probability. The course uses realistic content to engage and motivate students, and the math models help ensure retention by using various representations. All topics are at grade level. Student placement is based on teacher recommendation.

# HONORS MATHEMATICS

**\*\*AN INDICATION OF INTEREST IN HONORS CLASSES DOES NOT GUARANTEE BEING ENROLLED INTO THE HONORS CLASSES\*\***

## HONORS MATH 6

**Full Year - Pre-requisites to request: (must meet all criteria)**

**-Q1 and Q2 grade of at least an A- or higher in Math 5**

**NWEA Math score in the high range and high range, standardized and district testing** Grade six honors math is a challenging curriculum that explores ratios and proportional relationships, the number system, Algebra, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. While working with ratios and proportions, students will analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve problems. Work with the number system will focus on applying previous understandings to rational numbers. Algebra focuses on using properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions and solving multi-step problems with positive and negative rational numbers. In Geometry, students will construct and describe geometrical figures, identifying relationships between them and solve problems involving angle measure, area, surface area, and volume. Statistics and probability introduce use of random sampling to draw inferences, and investigates chance – developing and using probability models.

***Students must maintain B- or higher to stay in Honors 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.***

## HONORS MATH 7

**Full Year - Pre-requisites to request: (must meet all criteria)**

**Semester 1 grade of at least a B- in Honors Math 6, or A- or higher in Math 6**

**Midterm grade of at least a B- in Honors Math 6, or A- or higher in Math 6**

**NWEA Math score in the high range and high range, standardized and district testing** Math seven Honors is a fast paced and challenging curriculum that covers both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade material. Students who are candidates for this class should have strong math skills, see the above criteria. The class starts the year with an in-depth study of rational numbers, exponents, powers, roots and scientific notation. The focus then moves to proportionality and linear relationships with emphasis on ratio, proportion, percent, algebraic expressions and equation, inequalities and linear function. The last part of the class focuses on statistics and probability and creating, comparing and analyzing geometric figures. Student's grades will be weighted on 55% quizzes and tests – 45% classwork.

***Students must maintain B- or higher to stay in Honors 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.***



## **ALGEBRA 1**

***Full Year – Pre-requisites to request: (must meet all criteria)***

**Semester 1 grade of at least a B- in Honors Math 7, or A- or higher in Math 7**

**Midterm grade of at least a B- in Honors Math 7, or A- or higher in Math 7**

**NWEA Math score in the high range and high range, standardized and district testing**

This course is for qualified accelerated students. It is a rigorous high school level Algebra I course for which the student earns high school credit. Algebra I builds on the study of functions and representations begun in the middle school grades. The main area of emphasis for Algebra I is functions and their representations. Students will learn to simplify and factor expressions, solve linear equations, quadratic equations, and systems of equations. Students will study families of functions and their graphs including linear, quadratic, polynomial, power, and exponential. Using these functions, students will model real-world situations with data and solve related problems. A scientific and/or graphing calculator will be used to supplement topics. The next course in this sequence is Honors Accelerated Geometry, which is typically offered at the high schools. ***Students must maintain B- or higher to stay in Honors 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.***

# SCIENCE

## **SCIENCE 6**

### ***Full Year***

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade science curriculum is based on the Michigan grade level content expectations (GLCEs) for sixth grade science. Students focus on refining their inquiry skills and proper use of laboratory equipment and lab safety. Students investigate the properties of matter and energy, ecology, Earth's materials and processes, the changing surface of the Earth, and waves.

## **SCIENCE 7**

### ***Full Year***

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade science curriculum is based on the Michigan grade level content expectations (GLCEs) for seventh grade science. Students apply inquiry and laboratory skills through a variety of lab experiences. Students explore cells and the role of heredity in their study of life science. In their study of physical science, students identify types of waves and their properties. Students investigate forces and motion through simple machines and engage in investigations and discoveries. Students identify characteristics of the Earth's surface and how weather and climate affect it.

## **SCIENCE 8**

### ***Full Year***

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade science curriculum is based on the Michigan grade level content expectations (GLCEs) for eighth grade science and the High School Content Expectations (HSCEs) for Earth Science. In their study of earth science students are introduced to inquiry and exploration in earth processes and materials such as rock and fossil records, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, fresh and ocean water, the atmosphere, weather, climate and astronomy. The program will incorporate text, technology, media and laboratory investigations. Students will continue to use science process skills as well as employ the scientific method.

# HONORS SCIENCE

**\*\*AN INDICATION OF INTEREST IN HONORS CLASSES DOES NOT GUARANTEE BEING ENROLLED INTO THE HONORS CLASSES\*\***

## HONORS SCIENCE 7

**Full Year - Pre-requisite to request: (must meet all criteria)**

**Semester 1 grade of at least an A- or higher in Science 6**

**Midterm grade of at least an A- or higher in Science 6**

**NWEA Reading score in the high range**

This course is designed for the serious academic student who is willing to rise to the challenge of in-depth work. The seventh-grade science curriculum is based on the Michigan grade level content expectations (GLCEs) for seventh grade science. Students apply inquiry and laboratory skills through a variety of lab experiences. Students explore cells and the role of heredity in their study of life science. In their study of physical science, students identify types of waves and their properties. Students investigate forces and motion through simple machines and engage in investigations and discoveries. Students identify characteristics of the Earth's surface and how weather and climate affect it.

***Students must maintain B- or higher to stay in Honors 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.***

## HONORS SCIENCE 8

**Full Year -Pre-requisite to request: (must meet all criteria)**

**Semester 1 grade of at least a B- in Honors Science 7, or A- or higher in Science 7**

**Midterm grade of at least a B- in Honors Science 7, or A- or higher in Science 7**

**NWEA Reading score in the high range**

This course is designed for the serious academic student who is willing to rise to the challenge of in-depth work. The eighth-grade science curriculum is based on the Michigan grade level content expectations (GLCEs) for eighth grade science and the High School Content Expectations (HSCEs) for Earth Science. The teaching of these earth science GLCEs will be accelerated and covered in the first three marking periods. In the last marking period students will be introduced to human physiology. In their study of earth science students are introduced to inquiry and exploration in earth processes and materials such as rock and fossil records, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, fresh and ocean water, the atmosphere, weather, climate and astronomy. The program will incorporate text, technology, media and laboratory investigations. Students will continue to use science process skills as well as employ the scientific method. Human physiology will include an introduction to human body systems.

***Students must maintain B- or higher to stay in Honors 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.***

# SOCIAL STUDIES

## **SOCIAL STUDIES 6**

### ***Full Year***

The 6th grade course will provide understanding about the Western World so that students can analyze relationships between Canada, Middle America (Mexico and Central America), the Caribbean Basin, South America, and Europe. Units expand the students' knowledge of the Western World geographically by examining regions, place, location, movement, and human/environment interactions. Students will examine important historical civilizations and past culture and experience key understandings of how historical events leave a legacy influencing present and future situations. Students will discover the role of the United States in a global society and understand the significant stages in the development of money and international commerce. Students will apply American democratic values and examine them in relation to work issues and western political systems.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES 7**

### ***Full Year***

The 7th grade social studies curriculum focuses on early world history and geography with a deliberate focus on the content literacy. Students begin their exploration into world history with a focus on historical thinking. Students learn that historians must have some evidence to support the claims they make in their accounts. Also, students investigate human history from the beginning of modern man until around 1500 CE. They explore major and significant changes in each era through a chronological organization. Students begin learning about the earliest humans and explore early migration and settlement patterns. They then extend through Era 4 (300 CE to 1500 CE) learning about the development of empires and eventual world religions. The course concludes with students analyzing global patterns of continuity and change over time and using evidence to construct historical arguments about the past.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES 8**

### ***Full Year***

During this course of study, students will acquire knowledge about the origins of the United States, its people, and the growth struggles of the young nation. The content of the course includes Colonization and Settlement (1586-1763) Revolution and the New Nation (1754-1815). Expansion and Reform (1801- 1861), Civil War and Reconstruction (1861-1877). Michigan's role will be integrated into these areas when appropriate. Units included are political, economic, geographic and social aspects of the United States during these eras.

# HONORS SOCIAL STUDIES

**\*\*AN INDICATION OF INTEREST IN HONORS CLASSES DOES NOT GUARANTEE BEING ENROLLED INTO THE HONORS CLASSES\*\***

## **HONORS SOCIAL STUDIES 7**

***Full Year - Pre-requisites to request: (must meet all criteria)***

**Semester 1 grade of at least an A- or higher in Social Studies 6**

**Midterm grade of at least an A- or higher in Social Studies 6**

**NWEA Reading score in the high range**

This course is designed for the serious academic student who is willing to rise to the challenge of in-depth work. This course is designed to parallel the Grade 7 Social Studies curriculum which focuses on the World History. Qualified honors students will experience an enriched curriculum of greater depth involving high school level reading and writing experiences, including note-taking. Higher order thinking activities requiring analysis and synthesis of information will be expected. Although this course is not required for enrollment in Honors Social Studies courses in high school, it provides excellent preparation.

***Students must maintain B- or higher to stay in Honors 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.***

## **HONORS SOCIAL STUDIES 8**

***Full Year - Pre-requisites to request: (must meet all criteria)***

**Semester 1 grade of at least a B- in Honors Social Studies 7, or A- or higher in Social Studies 7**

**Midterm grade of at least a B- in Honors Social Studies 7, or A- or higher in Social Studies 7**

**NWEA Reading score in the high range**

This course is designed for the serious academic student who is willing to rise to the challenge of in-depth work his course is designed to parallel the Grade 8 Social Studies curriculum which focuses on U. S. History. Qualified honors students will experience an enriched curriculum of greater depth involving high school level reading and writing experiences, as well as note-taking. Higher order thinking activities requiring analysis and synthesis of information will be expected. When possible, original source documents and biographical readings will be used. Although this course is not required for enrollment in Honors Social Studies courses in high school, it provides excellent preparation.

***Students must maintain B- or higher to stay in Honors 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.***

## ELECTIVE COURSES

### BAND

#### **CADET BAND 6**

##### ***Full Year***

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade band is a continuation of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade beginning band program. In 6<sup>th</sup> grade band, students will learn the basics of playing and performing classical and popular music on instruments. As a co-curricular course, the 6<sup>th</sup> grade band performs 3-4 evening concerts per year, which are after school and required of all band members. Students wishing to begin playing an instrument in middle school will need to attend the Anchor Bay Instrument Fitting Meeting, where they will choose an instrument to play in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade band.

Students wishing to begin playing an instrument in 6<sup>th</sup> grade are encouraged to contact the teacher for guidance in selecting and acquiring an instrument prior to the school year. Attending the Summer Band program at Anchor Bay Middle School North is recommended for all incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade band students, especially beginners.

#### **CONCERT BAND 7**

##### ***Full Year***

7<sup>th</sup> grade band is the intermediate instrumental music class at the middle school level. This class performs a wide variety of music and styles. The goals of the course are to improve all facets of students' playing, reading notes and rhythms, understanding phrases, dynamics, scales, improving listening skills and learning to work together with other band members. As a co-curricular course, the band performs 4-6 evening concerts per year, which are after school and required of all band members.

Beginners wishing to join the band program must contact the teacher immediately for guidance in acquiring an instrument and must successfully complete the Anchor Bay Summer Band program.

#### **CONCERT BAND 8**

##### ***Full Year***

8<sup>th</sup> grade band is an intermediate to advanced instrumental music class at the middle school level. Students will rehearse and perform a wide variety of music and styles. The goals of the course are to improve all facets of students' playing, reading notes and rhythms, understanding phrases, dynamics, scales, improving listening skills and learning to work together with other band members. As a co-curricular course, the band performs 4- 6 evening concerts per year, which are after school and required of all band members.

## COMPUTER EDUCATION

### COMPUTER EDUCATION 6

#### *One Semester*

This course familiarizes students with the keyboard and develops an understanding of the location and use of the keys, to use proper finger placement, correct posture, wrists off of the keyboard, foot placement and eyes on the printed copy. Students learn about and practice page setup, spacing, spell check and line spacing. Students type paragraphs and format them correctly, practice their editing skills by using spell check and proofread their paragraphs to ensure accuracy. The “21 Things 4 students” program will be utilized in this course.

## DRAMA

### DRAMA 6

#### *One Semester*

This course is designed as an introduction to drama. Numerous assignments and activities will help students develop the skills used in theatre arts. It provides students experience in public speaking; students will be expected to speak in front of the class in at least two occasions. Students will have an opportunity to write short playwrights (skits) and bring them to life on stage, whether it be acting or technical theater (the “behind the scenes”). Students will participate in such activities such as monologues, read-aloud, storytelling, Reader’s Theater and creating characters to come alive on stage.

### DRAMA

#### *One Semester - 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade*

This course is designed to take a deeper look into acting and stage production. Numerous assignments and activities will help students develop the skills used in theatre arts. Most importantly, it provides students the necessary public speaking skills needed in all careers today. Students will take part in the following activities: autobiographical speech, dramatic reading using different accents, self-written monologues, pantomimes, charades, skits and one-act plays. Students will also take part in an actual production, whether it is getting a strong sense of what it takes to be an actor or actress, or what takes place “behind-the-scenes” which is now called “technical theater”.

# HEALTH

## **HEALTH 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

### ***One Semester***

The Healthy Living approach to Human Sexuality emphasizes all aspects of development. Emphasis is placed on the entire person, and healthy living as well as decision making, human anatomy, sexually transmitted diseases, etiology and family planning. The objectives of the class are: 1) to prepare the Middle School student with the necessary tools needed to communicate effectively about health, sexuality, STD, HIV, AIDS, and decision making as it is related to the adolescence; 2) to provide accurate information and understanding of the human reproductive anatomy and the responsibility for life and 3) advanced first aid and CPR.

# LIFE SKILLS

## **LIFE SKILLS 1:**

### ***One Semester -7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade***

Students will gain necessary skills for successful self-care in the kitchen. Units to be explored will include kitchen safety, kitchen equipment, kitchen equivalents and measuring, table setting and manners, kitchen terminology and nutrition. Students will also participate in approximately 10 cooking projects.

## **LIFE SKILLS 2:**

### ***One Semester – 8<sup>th</sup> grade only and pre-requisite Life Skills 1***

Students will gain necessary skills for their teenage and adult lives. Units to be studied are Career Education, Consumer Education, Money Management, Continued Kitchen Safety and much more! Students will also participate in approximately 10 cooking projects.



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION 6

### *One Semester*

This class is designed to increase the student's fitness level and make them active in life-long activities.

The class will encourage the student to learn rules and skills necessary to participate in those activities:

Archery, Bowling, Golf, Tennis, Fitness Training, Cardio Training, Volleyball, Badminton and Softball.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

### *One Semester -7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade*

This class is designed to increase the student's fitness level and make them active in life-long activities.

The class will encourage the student to learn rules and skills necessary to participate in those activities: Archery, Bowling, Golf, Tennis, Fitness Training, Cardio Training, Volleyball, Badminton and

Softball.

# STEM – Science-Technology-Engineering and Math

**PLTW Gateway** provides engineering and biomedical science curriculum for middle school students that challenges, inspires, and offers schools variety and flexibility. Students get rigorous and relevant experiences through activity-, project-, and problem-based learning. They use industry-leading technology to solve problems while gaining skills in communication, collaboration, critical-thinking, and creativity.

**AUTOMATION & ROBOTICS (PLTW): (Prerequisite: Design & Modeling)** Students are given the opportunity to combine mechanisms with input & output devices to automate the mechanisms. Construction, programming skills, & projects provide students the opportunity to connect their learning throughout the lessons in the unit. Students take on the role of interns, work in teams to create prototypes to meet the needs of clients. They also explore different aspects of automation & robotics, & experience how solving real-life problems involves teamwork of mechanical engineers, software developers, & electrical engineers.

## **ARCHITECTURE & CONSTRUCTION (formerly Green Architecture) (PLTW)**

*One Semester - 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade*

### **Prerequisite- Design and Modeling**

Today's students have grown up in an age of "green" choices. In this unit, students learn how to apply this concept to the fields of architecture and construction by exploring dimensioning, measuring, and architectural sustainability as they design affordable housing units using Autodesk's® 3D architectural design software.

## **DESIGN & MODELING (formerly Engineering in Action) (PLTW)**

One semester 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Students apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They work in teams to design an ankle brace, capturing research and ideas in their engineering notebooks. Using Tinker card software, students create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their innovative solutions.

## **HANDS ON ENERGY (formerly Energy & Environment) (PLTW)**

*One Semester 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade*

Students are challenged to think big and toward the future as they explore sustainable solutions to our energy needs and investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the world. They design and model alternative energy sources and evaluate options for reducing energy consumption.

## **MEDICAL DETECTIVES (PLTW)**

*One Semester - 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade*

Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they analyze genetic testing results to diagnose disease and study DNA evidence found at a "crime scene." They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs, and learn how the systems of the human body work together to maintain health.

## **APP CREATORS (PLTW)**

*One Semester - 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade*

### **Prerequisite – Design and Modeling**

Students will be exposed to computer science as a means of computationally analyzing and developing solutions to authentic problems through mobile app development and will convey the positive impact of the application of computer science to other disciplines and to society.

## VISUAL ARTS

### **INTRO TO ART - 6<sup>th</sup> grade**

#### ***One Semester***

Students in this course will create art from observation, personal experience and imagination. Art in the sixth grade continues the study of the basic elements and principles of design. Areas of study include work in drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpture. Improved craftsmanship and presentation are stressed along with art history, criticism, and aesthetics.

### **ART 2D**

#### ***One Semester -7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade***

This course is for students who seek experience in drawing, painting, and printmaking. They will learn to draw from observation and explore big ideas such as identity, mood, and art for social change. Students will also study the lives and works of selected two-dimensional artists. The course combines art production with extended experiences in art history, criticism, and aesthetics. (Students have the option of taking Art 2D for a second time and can expect a similar, but more challenging experience.)

### **ART 3D**

#### ***One Semester -7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade***

Students in this course will seek experiences in both additive and subtractive sculpture by using a variety of materials such as clay, fibers, plaster, wood, and art metals. The study of selected artists noted for their 3-dimensional works will be included. The course combines art production with extended experiences in art history, criticism, and aesthetics. (Students have the option of taking Art 3D for a second time and can expect a similar, but more challenging experience.)

## VOCAL MUSIC

### **CHOIR**

#### ***Semester or Full Year- 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade***

This class is designed to develop vocal skills needed for group choral singing and performance. Students study proper vocal tone production, rhythmic accuracy and melodic and rhythmic precision.

The Kodaly ear training method will be stressed as a way to improve overall performance. A variety of choral literature is studied and performed. As a co-curricular course, students participate in a variety of concerts, most of which are after school and are required of all choir members. (Course availability subject to change on enrollment.)

<b>SPANISH I</b>
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**SPANISH I** (Students will earn 1 high school credit after successful completion of course.) This will satisfy 1 year of the 2-year graduation requirements. Full Year-Grade 8  
Spanish I is a broad-based course designed to introduce the student to all aspects of foreign language study. Grammar, reading, writing, speaking and listening to Spanish are included. **Must have maintained a C or better in 7<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts.**

**The following classes are ONLY offered at Anchor Bay Middle School NORTH**

<b>BROADCAST JOURNALISM</b>
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**BROADCAST JOURNALISM**

*One Semester 8<sup>th</sup> grade*

This course focuses on informational writing for journalism purposes. Students will learn the processes needed in planning and presenting informative news stories. Students will develop research skills as they gather information for their news stories. Throughout the course students will also produce live newscasts; produce and edit commercials and public service announcements; find, research and report news; and learn to communicate, work and compose daily broadcasts while working groups. Many aspects of the broadcast industry will be reviewed including working with cameras, lights, audio, editing software and using industry terminology. All students enrolled in this course will be expected to participate in the various jobs required for successful broadcast.

**Placement in this course is based on Language Arts 7 Teacher's Recommendation; at least a B+ average, outstanding citizenship.** There is rigor involved in this class. Students who normally get A's will be challenged.

## SWIMMING

### SWIMMING

#### *One Semester - All Grades*

Students will receive instruction in the basic strokes of swimming and aquatic skills necessary in and around the water. The goal is to increase each student's ability to swim with confidence. Basic water safety skills will be introduced. 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be placed into a specific class consisting of only 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Lack of participation in daily water activities will result in a lower grade.

## WRITING

### JOURNALISM

*One Semester – 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade* Students participate in all steps involved in publishing a school newspaper. Students learn the basic elements of newspaper writing, layout, design, copyrighting, editing and photography. The publication is created using computer software and is published online.