

2014-15 USD 497 Middle School Course Selection Form

GRADE 8



Please review the information below and make corrections on this form as needed.

Student:

Primary Parent/Guardian

Email:

Address where student resides:

Phone:

Home phone:

Secondary Parent/Guardian

Address:

Email:

Phone:

What do we study in 8 th grade?	
Advisory	Advisory provides every student with an adult advisor who serves as an advocate and a small group leader. The group meets on a regular basis.
Integrated Core	All 8 th grade students will receive instruction in Math, Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science during the integrated core block. The following math courses are available in 8 th grade: ___ Math 8 ___ Math 8/Algebra 1 Compacted (Based on 7 th grade teacher recommendation)
PE 8	All 8 th grade students will have Physical Education every other day throughout the year. Students will develop competency in motor skills, movement pattern, and health-enhancing behaviors.
Guided Studies 8	All 8 th grade students will have Guided Studies every other day throughout the year. Guided Studies is a designated time to provide targeted skill instruction to meet individual student needs.
Required Exploratory Courses (9 weeks each)	Career and Life Planning 8 Students delve into topics relating to identifying their own interests and goals, career possibilities, pre-employment skills, workplace skills, and educational implications. Students in this class are introduced to the Career Pathways Programs in the Lawrence Public Schools.
	Integrated Technology 8 Using the appropriate technology to communicate and solve problems students will complete an interdisciplinary research project during this 9 week required course. Students will access, manage, integrate, evaluate, and create information to improve learning and to acquire lifelong knowledge and skills for the 21st century.
Elective Courses (5 semesters total)	See the back of this form for descriptions of elective courses.

Do you want to continue with (circle one) Band or Orchestra? Instrument _____

Have you applied for yearbook? (circle one) Yes or No

Rank the electives below from 1-11, with 1 being your top preference.

	Spanish 1 (one year)		Speech and Drama 8 (one semester)
	Choir 8 (one semester)		Electronic Media 8 (one semester)
	Choir 8 (one year)		Computer Applications 8 (one semester)
	Study Seminar 8 (one semester)		Exploration of Technology 8 (one semester)
	Study Seminar 8 (one year)		Art 8 (one semester)
			Art 8 (one year)

Parent Signature

Student Signature

FORMS ARE DUE BY: _____

Grade 8 Elective Descriptions

<p>Course Title: Yearbook 8 Length: One year Prerequisites: None Course Description: The major portion of this course is yearbook production. Students will study the basic principles of journalism that include: interviewing, copy writing, editing, photo journalism, layout, graphic design and desktop publishing. Enrollment in this class includes an application process. The application must be approved prior to enrollment. Students must enroll for the entire year and maintain requirements specified in a student contract. The class requires some time outside the school day to attend games/events.</p>	<p>Course Title: Choir 8 Length: One semester or one year Prerequisites: None Course Description: Eighth Grade Choir is an elective that is taken for either one semester or for the full year. This course provides an environment for the continued pursuit of excellence in musicianship through choral performance. Skills such as vocal technique, sight-reading, theory and rehearsal techniques are learned. Student accountability within the ensemble is expected. Students are expected to participate in scheduled performances throughout the school year. This course is strongly recommended for students wishing to participate in choir at the high school level.</p>
<p>Course Title: Spanish 1 Length: One year Prerequisites: None Course Description: The purpose of level I World Language courses is to begin acquiring another language by learning vocabulary and language structure, and through the exploration of culture. The four language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing will be developed through practice and study in the target language. Cultural awareness activities may incur a nominal fee. *This course does not count towards credit for graduation.</p>	<p>Course Title: Computer Applications 8 Length: One semester Prerequisites: None Course Description: In Computer Applications students will acquire knowledge of and experience in the proper and efficient use of the computer, the internet and software packages for school or job development. Students will learn about the Internet, e-mail, Office 2007, Windows XP, along with Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, and Publisher.</p>
<p>Course Title: Art 8 Length: One semester or one year Prerequisites: None Course Description: Students will create art using a variety of two dimensional and three dimensional media. Emphasis is on creative problem solving, skill development, composition, and translating 2D designs to 3D forms. Art from various cultures throughout history will be explored, as well as criticism and aesthetics. Art 8 may be taken as one or two semesters, as projects vary from fall to spring.</p>	<p>Course Title: Electronic Media 8 Length: One semester Prerequisites: None Course Description: Electronic Media offers students the opportunity to learn an array of digital production skills to permit job development and academic enhancement. Students prepare for careers with a wide range of media-based communications industries, including audio and video production, corporate communications, digital imaging and photography, multimedia and Web production, presentation support, broadcast and cable television, digital publishing and educational media development.</p>
<p>Course Title: Exploration of Technology 8 Length: One semester Prerequisites: None Course Description: This course is a continuation of Exploration in Technology I and will include modules such as Robots, Computer Graphics and Animation, and Audio Broadcasting. Students will work individually and in groups. Students are required to manage their workstation equipment and computer. Module pre-tests are taken during the first session of each module and post-tests are taken as part of the last module session, measuring the student's progress. Students will complete daily records, reading assignments and hands-on activities. Module tests guide students through research, challenge and application (RCA) questions.</p>	<p>Course Title: Study Seminar Length: One semester or one year Prerequisites: None Course Description: Through the Study Seminar, students will receive assistance to help improve their overall academic performance. Individual support will be provided as needed. This class will be of value to students needing additional help with homework and other class assignments or projects.</p>
	<p>Course Title: Speech and Drama 8 Length: One semester Prerequisites: None Course Description: This course is designed to provide a safe environment to explore performance, communications and important social skills. Students will enhance collaboration and evaluating skills through improvisation games, and original or published skits and monologues. Students will also use vocal and physical exercises to create characters and scenes within the class.</p>
<p>Course Title: Band 8 Length: One year Prerequisite: Band 7 Course Description: This class meets daily throughout the school year. Instruction expands and continues to develop the skills learned in Band 7, including playing techniques, scales, rhythm, sight reading and other principles of music theory, as well as preparation of concert music. Students are expected to participate in scheduled performances throughout the school year. All students will need an instrument and method books, basic supplies, and basic uniform items to participate in Band 8. Students are encouraged to rent instruments from a music store, purchase an instrument or borrow an instrument. A limited number of USD 497 District Owned Instruments are available through the Lawrence Public Schools. <u>A \$50.00 maintenance fee is required for use of district owned instruments.</u> Instruments are provided based on 1) financial need, 2) instrument selected, and 3) available inventory at the time of request. Instruments available: oboe, bassoon, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, French horn, baritone/euphonium, tuba, and percussion equipment. Flute clarinet, trumpet, and trombone are not available through the district beyond sixth grade. Students interested in saxophone, oboe, and bassoon must have director approval.</p>	<p>Course Title: Orchestra 8 Length: One year Prerequisite: Orchestra 7 Course Description: This class meets daily throughout the school year. Instruction expands and continues to develop the skills learned in Orchestra 7, including playing techniques, scales, rhythm, sight reading and other principles of music theory, as well as preparation of concert music. Students are expected to participate in scheduled performances throughout the school year. All students will need an instrument and method books, basic supplies, and basic uniform items to participate in Orchestra 8. Students are encouraged to rent instruments from a music store, purchase an instrument or borrow an instrument. A limited number of USD 497 District Owned Instruments are available through the Lawrence Public Schools. <u>A \$50.00 maintenance fee is required for use of district owned instruments.</u> Instruments are provided based on 1) financial need, 2) instrument selected, and 3) available inventory at the time of request. Instruments available: bass and cello. Violin and viola are not available through the district beyond sixth grade.</p>