

**John Long Middle School
8th Grade Course Descriptions**

Please take time to review the course description packet and the courses your child has selected for 8th grade.

- Review, sign, and have your student return the hard copy (blue) course registration worksheet to his/her Advisor by **Monday, March 24, 2014**. Any changes you would like to make at this time can be edited on the hard copy.

1. REQUIRED COURSES:

All eighth grade students are required to take the following:

Communication Arts 8

Literacy 8

Math 8 or Algebra 1 or Geometry (Teacher/Administrator recommended)

Physical Education/Health 8

Science 8

US History 8

2. SUPPORT CLASSES (May be required):

JLMS provides two support classes for students' academic success. These programs are designed to assist students in developing study skills in all content areas. Basic skills are taught and reviewed in reading support. In addition, these support classes build productive work habits and confidence so that students can meet the expectations of the core curriculum.

Students currently enrolled in reading support as 7th graders should register for these support classes as 8th graders. Students may be required to join support classes based on teacher/administrator recommendation.

Academic Support 8

Reading Support 8 (Teacher/Administrator recommended)

3. ELECTIVES (Select one option):

Students not recommended for reading support classes are able to enroll in any of the elective combinations listed below.

These classes meet all year on alternate days. **Select one option.**

Option A: Band/Choir

Option B: Band/Academic Support

Option C: Choir/Academic Support

Option D: Academic Support/Academic Support

4. RELATED ARTS (Select one option):

Related Arts are offered for two periods. There are multiple combinations of classes. The three scheduling options are listed below (select classes only – periods may vary). **Select one option.**

Option 1

Choose 3 of 5

Art 8

Business Comp. Apps. II

Music 8

Technology Education 8

Real World 101

No World Language

Option 2

Spanish 1 (H.S. Level 1)

AND Choose 1 of 5

Art 8

Business Comp. Apps. II

Music 8

Real World 101

Technology Education 8

Option 3

German (H.S. Level 1)

AND Choose 1 of 5

Art 8

Business Comp. Apps. II

Music 8

Real World 101

Technology Education 8

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT OUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR, MRS. BRADY @ 262-376-5808 or bbrady@grifton.k12.wi.us.

REQUIRED COURSES

Communication Arts 8	Students will learn to become proficient readers, writers, speakers and listeners. Communication arts skills are developed in conjunction with students' independent and Literacy course reading. Students will develop skills at a high school preparation level in the following areas: composition, grammar, vocabulary and speaking/listening. In composition, the students will write narrative, descriptive, persuasive, expository and personal pieces while utilizing both the writing process of prewriting, writing, revising, proofreading and publishing as well as on-demand writing experiences. Students will also develop discussion and public speaking skills. The students will review and apply correct grammar, usage and mechanics. (Course meets daily)
Literacy 8	Students will learn to become strong, independent readers through assigned and student selected text. Reading lessons will include whole group work, book clubs, and independent reading. Readers will apply independent reading strategies provided to them through classroom instruction, modeling, and independent practice. Readers will develop critical thinking skills by analyzing text and developing strategic reading skills that will allow them to read increasingly difficult texts. Comprehension skills will be further developed through discussion, conferencing and writing. (Course meets daily)
Math 8 Algebra 1	The purpose of mathematics education is to build the high levels of mathematical skills, processes, thinking, and problem solving necessary to meet the challenges of the 21 st century. This course is designed as a preparation for high school algebra including the study of: integers, equations, inequalities and graphing. (Course meets daily) Algebra is an accelerated math course that parallels that of the algebra course at the high school. The course covers the foundation skills of linear algebra, including the rules of algebra, linear equations, linear inequalities, powers and exponents, polynomials, factoring, proportions, functions and connections to geometry. Students will also be introduced to problem solving, aided by the use of school- provided graphing calculators. Students who successfully master concepts covered in this course will be placed in Geometry their freshmen year in high school. (Course meets daily)
Physical Education & Health 8	The physical education program in 8 th grade expands upon the activities and fitness skills taught in 6 th and 7 th grade with the addition of higher level lifetime activities and personal fitness. Sportsmanship and cooperation are stressed at all grades. Advanced knowledge of rules and regulations as well as strategy in team and individual sports is taught. A portion of each class is devoted to individual fitness. (Course meets every other day for three quarters of the school year). School uniforms are required to be purchased through JLMS: Shorts \$10, Shirts \$5. The eighth grade health program emphasizes the importance of responsible decision making to a student's overall wellness. Wellness is a state of physical, intellectual, emotional, and social well-being. The students will focus on relationships including their roles and parent expectations. (Course meets every other day of one quarter of the school year).
Science 8	Students will learn to apply scientific inquiry to solve problems in physical science. Units of study include measurement, chemistry, sound, light, electricity, and properties of physics. Students will participate in class lessons, demonstrations, and practical applications. This course is designed as a preparation for high school Earth Science or Biology. (Course meets daily)
U.S. History 8	The goal of this course is to provide students with a comprehensive examination of United States History from pre-colonial times through the Civil War. Students will become productive citizens who can think critically about issues, construct an informed opinion and defend an argument. (Course meets daily)

SUPPORT COURSES

Academic Support 8	Students will work with teachers to monitor assignments and academic progress. Students will work independently to complete coursework, manage time, and study with peers. Specialized academic support classes are also available to meet the needs of students requiring more intense support in certain academic areas.
Reading Support 8	In addition to the regular Literacy/Communication Arts classroom instruction, students receive instruction in reading skills . Students receive small group instruction on comprehension, vocabulary, and fluency. This class is for students with below average skills in reading. Students may be placed in reading support based on teacher recommendation, grade level progress, testing results and recommendation by the reading specialist.

RELATED ARTS COURSES

German 1 (H.S. Level 1)	This is the first course in a sequence of high school level world language courses in German. Students will be introduced to the four main components of language-learning: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students also learn about the culture of the German-speaking countries and have the opportunity to correspond with a pen pal from Grafton's sister school in Daun, Germany. Some of the topics covered in German 1 include: introducing yourself, the alphabet, numbers, telling time, free time activities, family, your home, clothing, school, money, ordering in a restaurant, household chores, and grocery shopping. Upon successful completion of the course, students may advance to German 2 the following school year as freshmen at GHS. (Course meets daily)
Spanish 1 (H.S. Level 1)	This is the first course in a sequence of high school level world language courses, which begins the study of the language and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. Introductory level grammar and vocabulary are practiced as students are actively engaged with speaking, listening, reading, and writing activities. Through readings, videos, and cultural activities students begin to learn about Hispanic culture. In this class, we will use more and more Spanish as the year progresses. Upon successful completion of the course, students may advance to Spanish 2 the following year as freshmen at GHS. Cost: \$13.00 for a workbook. (Course meets daily)
Art 8	The focus of 8 th grade art will be on art production. Students will explore drawing, painting, ceramics and sculpture. Ideas for projects will come from personal interests, experiences and other American artists. Students will be asked to keep a sketchbook and should expect weekly sketch assignments. Students will also be required to do one research project about an American artist. Students do not need to know how to draw or consider themselves an artist to take this class. (Course meets every other day)
Business Computer Applications II	Through the use of technology, students will gain basic business skills to begin their look at the world of business and business related careers. Marketing, Management, Risk and Money Management, International Business relations, Communications with Social Media, as well as basic Leadership concepts will be discussed and discovered through various group and individual activities. Guest speakers from the local business community and Junior Achievement volunteers will enhance the course work. Students will also gain practical experience through developing a week-long school store. They will conduct market research, create promotional materials, and actually operate a store for profit. (Course meets every other day)
Music 8	Eighth grade music encompasses the study of music from many different approaches. Students will work on group and individual projects, learn computer music programs, study African drumming and participate in additional, in-depth activities to raise their understanding of music. This music class is designed to meet the needs of students of all ability levels. (Course meets every other day)
Technology Education 8	Technology Education 8 is the advanced exploration of forces, focusing on forces in motion through projectile force and transitional energy. Student expectations include machine and tool mastery through materials and processes, independent projects, product to process cycle, and real-work simulations through community outreach activities. Additional learning experiences include image design, robotics, circuits, CADD, and engineering challenges with a continuous focus on safety and accurate measurement. (Course meets every other day). A 4 gig flash drive is required for this class.
Real World 101	Through this course, students will be able to work collaboratively and independently to create solutions to challenges in twenty-first century technology, design, and business. This blended format class will integrate real world applications through multi-level learning and collaborative and individual design solutions. Students will also document their growth within their own portfolio. Explorations include solving real-world issues, sales and marketing of their own product lines, and working with community leaders. They will be challenged with such units as the Eco Art Extreme, the Green Building Challenge, and Wonder Widget.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Band 8	Band provides the opportunity for students to study instrumental music, with public performance as an end result. The literature used exposes the students to a variety of forms and styles as well as instruction in music elements. In addition to full band rehearsals, band members will receive a small group lesson each week. Concert etiquette is stressed. Students will participate in concerts and marching events outside the regular school day. (Course meets every other day)
Choir 8	Choir provides the opportunity for students to study vocal music, with public performance as an end result. The literature used exposes musical styles as well as instruction in musical elements. Concert etiquette is stressed. Students will participate in concerts and performances outside the regular school day. (Course meets every other day)