



WISCONSIN RAPIDS
AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Program
of
Studies

Grades 6, 7, 8



WISCONSIN RAPIDS AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL

PROGRAM OF STUDIES

Welcome to Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School. This "Program of Studies" has been written with the intent of informing students and parents about the many learning opportunities available.

REGISTRATION FOR CLASSES

Course selection is a process that students and parents should take seriously. Parents are asked to approve their student's elective course selection and are encouraged to contact school personnel with any questions or concerns. On behalf of the WRAMS staff, we wish you success and many enriching experiences while you are here.

Mrs. Tracy Ginter, Principal

Questions? Please call STUDENT SERVICES at 715-424-6745

STUDENTS...

...are reminded that decisions made in the registration process are important and not to be taken lightly.

...should make their elective course selection carefully and discuss it with their parents, teachers, or counselor.

PARENTS...

...should encourage students to take full advantage of opportunities available at WRAMS

...must approve their student's elective course request.

We wish you an enjoyable and pleasant school year.

The School District of Wisconsin Rapids is committed to equal educational opportunity for all District students. The District will not deny any person admission to, participation in, or the benefits of any curricular, extra-curricular, pupil services, recreational or other program or activity because of a person's gender, race, national origin, ancestry, creed, religion, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, transgender status, gender identity, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability, or any other characteristic protected under State or Federal civil rights laws. The District prohibits all forms of discrimination and harassment. All students, as well as third parties, should promptly report incidents of discrimination or harassment to a teacher, administrator, supervisor, or other District employee or official. Any alleged violations of the District's equal educational opportunities policy will be processed according to established procedures and in accordance with WRPS Board Policy 411. A copy of this policy is available on the District website at wrps.org or may be obtained from each building office. The District's designated Compliance Officer is Brian Oswald, Director of Human Resources.

Student Services Department

The Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School Student Services Program is set up to help the students adjust to the normal problems of growing up and to receive maximum benefit from their school experiences.

SCHOOL COUNSELORS ARE HERE TO HELP STUDENTS:

- Learn how to make good decisions.
- Realize that they are responsible for the way they feel and behave, and that they can decide to feel and act differently if they wish.
- Learn more about their strengths and weaknesses in order to make better plans for themselves.
- Change the things they are dissatisfied with or learn to accept the things they cannot change.
- Learn about occupational and educational information.
- See that they are "okay people" and worthwhile individuals.
- Talk about things that concern them in a group or in private and help find solutions for them.

Confidentiality

We respect the confidential nature of these student interactions in order to provide a "safe" place where students feel free to talk about their concerns.

Common Ways Counselors Meet With Students

Individual Counseling
Group Counseling
Mediation
Occupational Information

Questions or concerns about registering for classes should be directed to the counselors:

6th Grade

Randy Chip - Counselor (All 6th Grade Students)
Email: randy.chip@wrps.net
Telephone: 715-424-6740 x 3021

7th and 8th Grade

Gretchen Niedbalski - Counselor (7th/8th Grade Students on Team A)
Email: gretchen.niedbalski@wrps.net
Telephone: 715-424-6740 x 3022

Amanda Van De Hey - Counselor (7th/8th Grade Students on Team B)
Email: amanda.vandehey@wrps.net
Telephone: 715-424-6740 x 3023

6th Grade

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS - all year

Sixth grade English is a daily two-hour block of instruction: reading and language arts. The sixth grade English program includes grammar, spelling, writing, speaking, listening and literature. The reading component consists of three main themes while using a variety of genres (poetry, short stories, articles, novels, etc.). Research and inquiry will also include media and technology use.

SOCIAL STUDIES - all year

Sixth grade social studies curriculum focuses on the history of the peoples and the geography of the lands in the Western Hemisphere and Australia. Students will make historical and current connections to the United States and the world as they relate to topics covered throughout this course.

SCIENCE - all year

Sixth grade science (Comprehensive Natural Science 6) has four specific units of study. The Life Science unit focuses on classifying organisms and how they are adapted to live in the various biomes of the world. The Earth/Space Science unit is a survey of astronomy from the solar system to the vastness of the universe. Physical Science has two units of study. The Light unit covers the basic characteristics of light energy including color, reflection, refraction, mirrors and lenses. The Motion, Work and Machines unit covers the basics of forces and how forces affect the motion of objects.

MATH - all year

Math 6 is a two-hour block of instruction that provides students the opportunity to practice skills and learn about topics necessary to prepare students for advanced secondary math. Students will study units dealing with algebraic expressions and integers; solving equations and inequalities; decimals, fractions, and percents; factors and multiples; exponents; ratios and proportions; graphing linear functions; measurement, area and volume; spatial thinking; and data analysis and probability.

ART - 1 term (6 weeks)

Art 6 students will understand how art can be decorative as well as functional in their daily lives. All Art 6 students will study concepts of clay. Students will learn about the color wheel (color theory), composition and craftsmanship through topics such as painting, clay and drawing.

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS - 1 trimester (12 weeks)

The main focus of this course is Google Applications. This will include Google Docs, Sheets, Forms, and Slides. Students will complete a variety of assignments to reinforce skills learned. File Management will be an ongoing component of the course. Digital Citizenship will be studied and practiced. As an extra computing experience, students will also be able to experience computer programming with Scratch.

HEALTH - 1 term (6 weeks)

This health course delivers a comprehensive health education curriculum for grade 6 students. It is designed to provide students with knowledge and skills that will have a positive long-term effect upon their health and the health of others. The course focuses upon the students' immediate health needs and the long-term consequences of behaviors that occur during adolescent years. Units of study include emotional, intellectual, and social health, personal health and physical fitness, nutrition, disease prevention and control, drug use prevention, injury prevention, community and environmental health and family life, growth and development. Each of these units varies in length depending upon the class makeup and needs.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE - 1 trimester (12 weeks)

This course gives students a taste of what Family and Consumer Sciences is all about. Students will have the opportunity to explore all aspects including: cooking, nutrition, child development, sewing, career exploration and independent life skills. This course is predominantly hands-on and allows students to be creative while having fun.

BAND - all year

The WRAMS Band Program is open to all students who would like to learn to play flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, or percussion. Sixth grade band meets every other day as a year-long course. Students receive both whole class instruction and small lessons. No prior experience is necessary. Sixth grade band is a beginning band course: students will learn how to assemble their instruments, produce characteristic sounds, and read music. There are two to three public concerts during the school year.

CHOIR

Choir is open to all students who have a desire to sing and work together with others. Classroom rehearsals are designed to develop healthy singing voices, improve music and build confident vocal performance skills. Concert performances are an extension of the classroom curriculum. Student participation in all evening concerts is required

GENERAL MUSIC

General Music students will participate in active music making through singing, playing and other modes of creative expression. Activities will provide the opportunity for students to explore a wide variety of musical styles from different cultures and time periods. Students will continue to develop their music reading and instrumental performance skills through playing recorder.

ORCHESTRA 6 - Full Year

Beginning 6th Grade Orchestra is designed to teach basic string skills to students with little or no previous playing experience. Instruments taught in this class include violin, viola, cello, and string bass. Students will meet every other day and will learn the basics of instrument care, position, fingering, bowing techniques, ear training, music reading and notation in a large group setting. Students are required to rent or buy their chosen instrument and purchase a strings method book for use in and out of the classroom. At WRAMS we do have a limited amount of school instruments that may be rented for families who need financial support. Other families might already own or borrow a family instrument. Please contact the orchestra director before purchasing an instrument. We recommend renting and purchasing from a reputable music store. Specific orchestra instrument fitting and selection for incoming beginning 6th grade orchestra students will be done at the end of students' 5th grade school year. **Note:** This is a performance based class meaning there will be scheduled concerts outside of the school day that will be required for students to attend.

7th Grade

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS - every day/all year

Seventh grade English is a two-hour block of instruction which includes grammar, root study, writing, and literature. The course introduces students to the study of literature using a variety of genres. Language arts concentrates on the writing process, grammar, vocabulary and mechanics related to the readings. Speaking and listening skills are also integrated into language arts. Topics in this course will allow students to experience the following Wisconsin Reading/Language Art standards:

- A. Reading/Literature
- B. Writing
- C. Oral Language
- D. Written Language
- E. Media and Technology
- F. Research and Inquiry

SOCIAL STUDIES - all year

The purpose of the seventh grade Social Studies program is to give students an opportunity to become aware of the geographic, historic, economic, political, social and cultural diversity of selected nations and localities of the Eastern Hemisphere. Based upon the eighth grade performance standards, as developed by Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards for Social Studies, students will develop an understanding of the interaction and interdependence between the lands and people of the Eastern Hemisphere and students of the United States. Seventh grade curriculum, although based upon this document, can also be woven through thematic units decided upon by the individual interdisciplinary teams. The course is divided into six major units. The performance expectations identified by the district committee will guide the assessment of these units.

SCIENCE - all year

The seventh grade science course (Comprehensive Natural Science 7) emphasizes activities which help the student acquire skills for future scientific study. Topics covered include: lab skills, electricity and magnetism, patterns, cycles within the Earth cells as the basis of life, science and technology, and their role in society. This course allows students to experience the richness and excitement of the natural world. As adults they will face complex questions requiring scientific thinking, reasoning and the ability to make informed decisions. Scientific knowledge prepares students for the future and helps them acquire skills needed to hold meaningful and productive jobs.

MATH - all year

Seventh grade Math is a two-hour block of instruction which provides students the opportunity to practice skills and learn about topics necessary for students to be successful in high school math. Students will study units dealing with algebraic expressions and integers; solving equations and inequalities; decimals, fractions, and percents; factors and multiples; exponents; ratios and proportions; graphing linear functions; area and volume; spatial thinking; and data analysis and probability.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - all year, every other day

The middle school physical education staff is committed to state standards. The research is clear: In general, people who are physically active on a regular basis are healthier than those who are not. The staff is committed to accomplishing this by:

1. Teaching students motor skills necessary to participate in a wide variety of physical activities
2. Helping students understand the link between physical activity and good health
3. Convincing even the least athletic students that physical activity has the immediate benefits of reducing stress, building self-esteem, and controlling weight
4. Teaching respectful behavior in physical activity settings
5. Helping students understand diversity among their classmates and respecting their differences

Activities are taught in an age-appropriate manner with progressions emphasized by the instructor after assessing where the class is in the skill level knowledge and understanding of the activity.

WORLD LANGUAGE EXPLORATORY - 1 trimester (12 weeks)

This course introduces students to the experience of learning a world language and to the study skills necessary for a successful language experience. Students will explore the languages and cultures of French, German, Japanese, and Spanish speakers. Students will explore topics such as holidays, currencies, food, folklore, music, customs, and non-verbal communication. Two weeks of the course will be spent with each language. After completing this course, students will be better prepared to begin an in-depth study of a world language of their choice.

GATEWAY TO TECHNOLOGY 1 - 1 trimester (12 weeks)

Students will explore the aspects of engineering, mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation and computer control systems. This class will follow a primarily project based curriculum, designed to challenge and engage the students. They gain knowledge of mechanisms and use them through the design process. Students will program a drone to maneuver an obstacle course that they design and construct. They will also be using the knowledge of mechanical advantage to design and construct a hydraulic arm to grab, lift and turn a 12 oz. can.

BUSINESS EXPLORATORY - 1 trimester (12 weeks)

Students will have the opportunity to reinforce and expand on the business concepts learned in 6th grade. The computer will be used to produce business-related documents. Marketing concepts will be studied. Students will also be able to practice computer skills with Google Apps. File Management and Digital Citizenship will be practiced throughout the class.

ART - all year (every other day)

Art 7 Students will use various art materials that are new and different. They will also learn more advanced ways to use materials that they are already familiar with. Art 7 students create a variety of projects that are 2D and 3D! Some mediums used may include metal tooling, painting, drawing, scratchboards and sculpture.

BAND - all year (every other day)

The band program is open to all interested students. We welcome students without previous band experience to select band in seventh grade, but beginners should be prepared to work hard to catch up. We are NOT taking any new percussionists (drummers). The percussion section is over capacity and no spots will be available. In addition to the full band experience, students receive small group or one-on-one instruction to further develop technique on their specific instrument. There are approximately four required evening concerts during the school year; dates will be provided during the first week of classes.

GENERAL MUSIC - all year (every other day)

Music is all around us and is an important part of our daily lives. In General Music, the students will have the opportunity to explore the music they know and love, explore music from other cultures and time periods, and explore the music available in our own community. The topics covered will include a wide variety of musical styles, music technology and career opportunities in music. Students will continue to develop their music performance skills, become more discriminating music consumers and develop a greater appreciation of music that remains with them throughout their lives.

ORCHESTRA 7 - all year

7th Grade Orchestra is designed to review basic string skills that students learned in 6th grade and to continue further developing the students playing skills. Students are expected to continue with the same instrument each year. Anyone interested in switching instruments needs to consult with the school's orchestra director. We welcome students without previous orchestra experience to select orchestra in 7th grade, however, beginners should be prepared to work hard to catch up. Beginners should also reach out to the orchestra director prior to starting the 7th grade school year to be fitted for an instrument to ensure that the student has the appropriate sized instrument. Instruments taught in this class include violin, viola, cello, and string bass. Students will meet every other day and will continue to learn about instrument care, position, fingering, bowing techniques, ear training, music reading and notation in a large group setting. Students are required to rent or buy their chosen instrument and purchase a strings method book for use in and out of the classroom. At WRAMS we do have a limited amount of school instruments that may be rented for families who need financial support. Other families might already own or borrow a family instrument. Please contact the orchestra director before purchasing an instrument. We recommend renting and purchasing from a reputable music store. **Note:** This is a performance based class meaning there will be scheduled concerts outside of the school day that will be required for students to attend.

8th Grade

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS - all year

Eighth grade English is a two-hour block of instruction every other day, with a one-hour block of instruction on the opposite day. English Language Arts 8 includes a study of the fundamentals of grammar, which provides a basis for instruction in usage, composition, spelling and oral communication. Reading skills are reinforced through literature with emphasis on poetry, drama, the short story and the novel. Vocabulary comprehension, critical thinking, work analysis and listening skills are taught and reinforced in all classes.

SOCIAL STUDIES - all year

The purpose of the 8th grade Social Studies program in WRPS is to give students the opportunity to acquire a knowledge of the history of the United States and provide an avenue by which students gain perspectives on current issues. Following both a chronological and topical approach, the students will investigate and explore our country's past with an emphasis on American History up to World War I.

SCIENCE - all year

Science 8 is the second in a series of required integrated science courses that are based on Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards for Science. Through six units of study, the curriculum focuses on the nature of science itself: the behavior of matter, chemistry in our lives and genetics. Teachers believe that hands-on science is minds-on science. Students will get many opportunities to take part in lab activities projects, and exploration of current scientific issues.

MATH - all year

Math 8 provides students with further practice and greater depth of knowledge about topics necessary for students to be successful in high school math. Students will study units dealing with these specific topics: algebraic expressions and integers; solve equations; decimals, fractions and percents; square roots and pythagorean theorem; exponents; ratios and proportions; graphing linear functions; volume; spatial thinking and transformations.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - all year (every other day)

Physical education activities for all eighth grade students include tennis, football, speedball, track, games, basketball, volleyball, weight training, FitnessGram along with 2 varieties of other activities.

HEALTH/ACP all year (every other day)

The eighth grade health course includes five units. The disease unit focuses on infectious disease and the non-infectious diseases of cancer and cardiovascular disease. A unit on mental health examines the characteristics of good mental health. The first aid unit will incorporate learning CPR. There will also be an Academic and Career Planning in which school counselors will come in and work with students on guiding them through a career planning course. The Human Growth and Development unit is a focus of this course and is based on the Values and Choices curriculum, which includes parent meetings to preview the unit.

ART - 1 trimester (12 weeks)

Art 8 students will be exposed to art & design careers as well as skills that they can use in various fields. Students will create decorative and functional art by using ideas from their personal interests. Projects may include drawing, dyeing, sculpture and digital art.

GATEWAY TO TECHNOLOGY II - 1 trimester (12 weeks)

The Gateway to Technology II curriculum provides activities-based, project-based and problem-based learning—a hands-on approach that is exciting and challenging for the student. Curriculum includes engineering, design process, measurement, sketching and dimensioning techniques, and designing for production relates technology to students' daily lives. It promotes communication and collaboration by emphasizing a teamwork approach in the instructional units. This approach utilizes the strengths of each team member to accomplish the goals of the project while offering students learning challenges at all ability levels.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION (Grade 8) -1 trimester (12 weeks)

(This course description is under construction)

FRENCH 1 - all year

GERMAN 1 - all year

SPANISH 1 - all year

The Level 1 course for each of the world languages is for beginning language students. The emphasis during this first year of language study is on speaking and listening. Reading and writing skills are developed on a limited basis. Culture is integrated throughout each unit of study. In this level, the student will begin to develop proficiencies enabling him/her to talk about self, family, the city, leisure-time activities, likes/dislikes, sports, food, and the weather and the geography of the countries where the language is spoken. Students gain computer experience in the target language.

CREATIVE DRAMA - all year (every other day)

Students will learn the basics of theatre including its fundamentals, improvisation, characterization and performance. Production is also highlighted which incorporates a series of acting scenes and a class play toward the end of the class. By taking this theatre class, not only do students excel in social and emotional learning but students gain public confidence, think spontaneously, and take pride in their projects. This is the first basic theatre class that precludes the theatre classes at Lincoln High School.

Band 8

The band program is open to all interested students. Students will learn ensemble-playing and teamwork as they improve and increase their skills on woodwind, brass, or percussion instruments. Students are expected to continue with the same instrument from year to year. If a student is interested in switching instruments, please consult with the school music teacher. Students that do not have experience in the percussion section from the prior school year are not allowed to switch to the percussion section without approval from the school's Band teacher. Daily rehearsals are a part of the student's schedules. Students must be prepared for class with instruments, music and a pencil. Home practice is expected. Participation in all concerts is required.

Choir 8 - all year

The choral program is open to all interested students who have a desire to sing and work together with others. Daily rehearsals are designed to assist the students in the development of healthy vocal technique to improve their singing skills and understanding of music. Participation in all concerts is required.

Orchestra 8 - all year

8th Grade Orchestra is designed to review string skills that students learned in 7th grade and to continue further developing the students musical skills. Students are expected to continue with the same instrument each year. Anyone interested in switching instruments needs to consult with the school's orchestra director. We welcome students without previous orchestra experience to select orchestra in 8th grade, however, beginners should be prepared to work hard to catch up. Beginners should also reach out to the orchestra director prior to starting the 8th grade school year to be fitted for an instrument to ensure that the student has the appropriate sized instrument. Instruments taught in this class include violin, viola, cello, and string bass. Students will meet every other day and will continue to further their knowledge about instrument care, position, fingering, bowing techniques, ear training, music reading and notation in a large group setting. Students are required to rent or buy their chosen instrument and purchase a strings method book for use in and out of the classroom. At WRAMS we do have a limited amount of school instruments that may be rented for families who need financial support. Other families might already own or borrow a family instrument. Please contact the orchestra director before purchasing an instrument. We recommend renting and purchasing from a reputable music store. **Note:** This is a performance based class meaning there will be scheduled concerts outside of the school day that will be required for students to attend.