

Program of

Studies

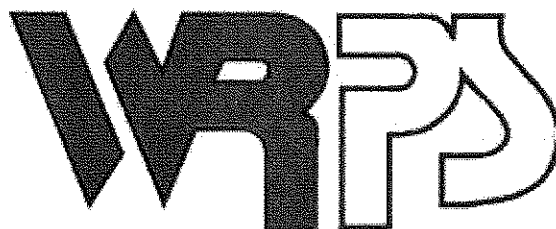
Grades 6, 7, 8

WRAMS

2019-2020

Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School

Wisconsin Rapids, WI



WISCONSIN RAPIDS AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL

1921 27th Avenue South
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin
Phone: (715) 424-6740
Fax: (715) 422-6187
www.wrps.org

The Mission of Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School is...

...to create an environment in our school that promotes a high level of performance and desire to learn. We are confident and expect that with students' effort and our support, students will develop a positive work ethic to grow academically now and in the future. We are prepared to work collaboratively with colleagues, students, and parents to achieve this shared educational purpose.

The Mission Statement of Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools is...

Working together with home and community, we are dedicated to providing the best education for every student, enabling each to be a thoughtful, responsible contributor to a changing world.

**WISCONSIN RAPIDS AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL
2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR
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 Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools do not discriminate against pupils on the basis of sex, race, national origin, ancestry, or creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability, or handicap in its educational programs or activities. Federal law prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or handicap.

The School District encourages informal resolution of complaints under this policy. If any person believes that the Wisconsin Rapids School District, or any part of the school organization, has failed to follow the law and rules of Wisconsin State Statute 118.13, or in some way discriminates against pupils on the bases listed above, he/she may bring or send a complaint to the administrative offices located at: Thomas Link Educational Services Center, 510 Peach Street, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494-4663.

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:

All 6th Graders: Mr. Chip
7th & 8th grade students last names beginning with:
A-K Mrs. Niedbalski
L-Z Ms. Van De Hey

GRADE 6

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (Grade 6)—every day/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 (Grade 6)—all year

The 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 (Grade 6)—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 and introduce the concept of work through simple machines.

MATH (Grade 6)—every day/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 (Grade 6)—every day/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, mosaics or printing.

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS (Grade 6)—every day/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. Students will also have the opportunity to explore the Microsoft Office platform of productivity software. As an extra computing experience, students will also be able to experience computer programming with Scratch.

HEALTH (Grade 6)—every day/1 term (6 weeks)

This health course delivers a comprehensive health education curriculum for 6th grade 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 (Grade 6)—every day/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 of FACS, 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.

6TH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSES

(The elective is offered the same hour as Phys. Ed on the opposite day—Day 1 or 2.)

BAND

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 group lessons (during band).

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.

Students will have an opportunity to try the instruments by appointment in the 2nd half of 5th grade. Students are encouraged to wait for the help of their teacher to select an instrument; this helps ensure students will be successful! **Students intending to play percussion MUST have approval from their sixth grade band teacher.** Percussion is generally “full” by May of 5th grade.

Most families choose to rent an instrument from a local music store. Some are able to borrow from friends or family. A few choose to purchase, although we discourage doing this at the start of the year. Students will need to purchase *Essential Elements 2000, Book 1* for the appropriate instrument as well. If you cannot afford to rent or purchase an instrument and are unable to borrow one elsewhere, a limited number are available through the school. If you have questions, please contact Dale Dahl at 715-424-6740 Ext. 5335.

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 knowledge and build confident vocal performance skills. Concert performances are an extension of the classroom curriculum. Student participation in all evening concerts is required. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Bates at 715-424-6740 Ext. 5221.

GENERAL MUSIC

General Music students will participate in active music making through singing, playing instruments, 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.

One soprano recorder is purchased by the WRPS district for each student in 4th grade (through the book/material fee). If a replacement recorder is needed, it may be purchased from the music teacher at a cost of \$5 for a new recorder or \$2 for a gently used recorder. Home practice is expected. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Bates at 715-424-6740 Ext. 5221.

ORCHESTRA

The WRAMS Orchestra Program is open to all students who would like to learn to play the violin, viola, or cello (double bass is offered in 7th grade). No prior experience is necessary! Sixth grade orchestra class meets every other day and focuses on beginning string techniques while concentrating on individual growth in a large group setting. Students will have the opportunity for small group instruction with a lesson teacher during orchestra class time. There are two to three public concerts during the school year.

Students must obtain an instrument and the *String Basics, Book 1* before the start of school in the fall. Stringed instruments can be **rented** from a music store. (Please do NOT buy an instrument.) If you cannot afford to rent an instrument, please contact Ginger Marten at 715-424-6740 Ext. 5272.

Students will have an opportunity to try the instruments during middle school orientation in August or during the first week of classes. Students are encouraged to wait for the help of their teacher to select an instrument; this helps ensure students will be successful.

GRADE 7

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (Grade 7)—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 Arts standards:

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

SOCIAL STUDIES (Grade 7)—every day/all year

The purpose of the seventh grade Social Studies program in WRPS 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 interdependency 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 (Grade 7)—every day/all year

The seventh grade science course (Comprehensive Natural Science 7) emphasizes hands-on activities which help the student acquire skills for future scientific study. Topics covered include: lab skills, electricity and magnetism, patterns and 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 (Grade 7)—every day/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 (Grade 7)—every other day/all year

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 (Grade 7)—every day/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 in in-depth study of a world language of their choice.

GATEWAY TO TECHNOLOGY I (Grade 7)—every day/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 will 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 (Grade 7)—every day/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 and also experience Microsoft Office productivity software. File Management and Digital Citizenship will be practiced throughout the class.

7TH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSES

(The elective is offered the same hour as Phys. Ed. on the opposite day—Day 1 or 2.)

ART (Grade 7)

This class will offer many ways for self-expression and one project will be the student's choice. Students will use some art materials that are new and different and will also learn more advanced ways to use materials that they are already familiar with. Art 7 students will create a variety of projects that are 2D and 3D!

BAND (Grade 7)

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. Seventh grade band meets every other day for a full year. There are approximately four required evening concerts during the school year; dates will be provided during the first week of classes.

Band instruments can be rented or purchased from local music stores. Students will also need *Essential Elements 2000 for Band, Book 1 (used last year) and Book 2* (except percussionists—a book list for percussion will be provided at a later date). If you have difficulty obtaining an instrument or book, please contact Abby Kreisa at 715-424-6740 Ext. 5234.

CHOIR (Grade 7)

Choir (which is a full-year course and meets every other day) is open to all students who have a desire to sing and work together with others. Daily rehearsals are designed to develop healthy singing voices, improve music knowledge and build confident vocal performance skills. Concert performances are an extension of the classroom curriculum. Participation in all evening concerts is required. Solo and Ensemble Festival participation is encouraged to develop individual vocal performance skills. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Bates at 715-424-6740 Ext. 5221.

GENERAL MUSIC (Grade 7)

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 will remain with them throughout their lives. If you have any questions, please contact Trudy Bergerson at 715-424-6740 Ext. 5029.

ORCHESTRA (Grade 7)

Seventh grade Orchestra meets every other day for a full year and the curriculum focuses on honing and expanding skills acquired in 6th grade such as tuning one's own instrument. However, beginning string students are also welcome with the instructor's approval. There are three to four public evening concerts during the school year.

Students must obtain an instrument before the start of classes in the fall. Stringed instruments can be **rented** from our local music store. Students do NOT need to purchase a book for 7th grade orchestra. If you cannot afford stringed instrument rental, please contact Mrs. Marten at 715-424-6740 Ext. 3419.

GRADE 8

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (Grade 8)—every day/all year

Eighth grade English is a two-hour block of instruction which 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 development, comprehension, critical thinking, work analysis and listening skills are taught and reinforced in all classes.

SOCIAL STUDIES (Grade 8)—every other day/all year

Eighth grade Social Studies is a two-hour block of instruction every other day. 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 (Grade 8)—every other day/all year

Eighth grade Science is a two-hour block of instruction every other day. 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 (Grade 8)—every day/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; solving equations; decimals, fractions and percents; square roots and pythagorean theorem; exponents; ratios and proportions; graphing linear functions; volume; spatial thinking and transformations.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Grade 8)—every other day/all year

Physical education activities for all eighth grade students include: tennis, football, speedball, track, softball, games, basketball, volleyball, weight training, FitnessGram along with a variety of other activities. **This course rotates with Health/ACP during the year.**

HEALTH/ACP (Grade 8)—every other day/all year

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 a unit on Academic and Career Planning in which school counselors will come in and work with students on guiding students 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. **This course rotates with Physical Education 8 for the year.**

ART (Grade 8)—every day/1 trimester (12 weeks)

Art 8 students will be exposed to art & design careers as well as skills that they can use in other fields. Students will create decorative and functional art by using ideas from their personal interests. Projects could include drawing, jewelry/accessory making, sculpture and abstraction paintings.

GATEWAY TO TECHNOLOGY II (Grade 8)—every day/1 trimester (12 weeks)

The Gateway to Technology curriculum provides activities-based, project-based, and problem-based learning—a hands-on approach that is exciting and challenging for the student. The 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)—every day/1 trimester (12 weeks)

(This course description is under construction.)

8TH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSES

(The 8th grade elective will be held every day for the whole year.)

- French 1
- German 1
- Spanish 1

The Level 1 course for each of these 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, the weather and the geography of the countries where the language is spoken. Students gain computer experience in the target language.

➤ 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

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, improve their singing skills and understanding of music. Participation in all concerts is required.

➤ Orchestra 8

The orchestra program is open to all interested students. Development of technique to ensure musical advancement is stressed. Students are expected to continue with the same instrument each year. Anyone interested in switching instruments needs to consult with the school's music teacher.

Daily rehearsals are a part of the student's schedule. Students must be prepared for class with an instrument, music and a pencil. Home practice is expected. Participation in all concerts is required.

➤ Study Hall 8

