

SPRING LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL
COURSE SELECTION GUIDE
2010-2011



MIDDLE SCHOOL GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

SPRING LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL
345 HAMMOND STREET
SPRING LAKE, MI 49456
616-846-5502

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SPRING LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dina Horne, Vice President
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Superintendent of Schools.....Dennis Furton
Secretary Arleen Cox

Middle School Principal Scott Ely
SecretarySharon Vander Jagt

Middle School Guidance Counselors Shana Woodwyk/Rich Hyde
School Social Worker Lee Ingersoll

School Psychologist Adrian Breting
School Psychologist Lynn Carlsen
School PsychologistJennifer Headley-Nordman
Secretary Pam Massucci

Athletic Director..... Cavin Mohrhardt
Athletic Secretary..... Susan Theune

Telephone Numbers

Superintendent of Schools..... 847-7919
Middle School Principal 846-5502
Guidance Department 846-5502
School Social Worker 846-5502
Athletic Director..... 846-5506
School Psychologist 846-9240

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to challenge all students with educational experiences that enable them to become literate, responsible, productive citizens and to create an environment, which fosters high expectations, a positive self-image, and a belief in the value of learning.

STUDENT EXIT OUTCOMES

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATORS WHO:

- possess interpersonal and teamwork skills that ensure success in work, social, and family settings.
- exhibit proficiency in the language skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

FUTURE ORIENTED THINKERS WHO:

- effectively utilize and apply technology.
- locate, manage, and use informational and technological resources.

RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS WHO:

- respect and accept the multi-cultural nature of our global society.
- practice responsible decision-making in regard to socioeconomic, environmental, and political issues.
- contribute their time, energy, and talents to the stability and management of the family and the welfare of the community.
- exercise personal and social responsibility in dealing with the issues of health, wellness, and leisure time activities.

PROBLEM SOLVERS WHO:

- have the ability to recognize and define a problem, identify possible strategies and alternatives, implement and complete a plan of action, assess their progress, and adjust their actions accordingly.
- Critically and creatively apply high level thinking skills in independent and collaborative situations.

SELF-DIRECTED LEARNERS WHO:

- have acquired skills essential to achieve success in future employment or educational settings.
- create positive visions for themselves and their futures, and set priorities and achievable goals.
- possess the desire to learn over a lifetime.

CREATIVE INDIVIDUALS WHO:

- participate in the arts or engage in original expression.

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS

This booklet is designed to familiarize parents and students with Spring Lake's Middle School program. Questions about the program may be directed to any teacher, administrator, or counselor.

Spring Lake Middle School students attend four 62 minute core periods with a twenty minute homeroom added to first period and two 47 minute elective periods each day. All 62-minute core classes are required. The school year is divided into three 12 week trimesters. Seventh grade students take three trimesters of language arts and math, two trimesters of social studies, science, and physical education/health. Eighth grade students take three trimesters of science and social studies and two trimesters of language arts, math, and physical education/health. Both grades also take two electives every trimester. Homeroom each morning is used for televised daily announcements, student meetings, media center visits, student/teacher work sessions, make up assessments, etc.

7TH GRADE

REQUIRED COURSES

English, Math, Science, Social Studies,
Physical Education/Health, Computers

ELECTIVE COURSES (FULL YEAR)

Band, Choir

ELECTIVE COURSES (1 TRIMESTER)

Advanced Physical Education, Art, Creative Writing,
Study Skills, Technical Education, Life Skills,
Introduction to Business/Consumers Math, Jazz Band*

8TH GRADE

REQUIRED COURSES

English, Math, Science, Social Studies,
Physical Education/Health

ELECTIVE COURSES (FULL YEAR)

Band, Choir, French I*,
Spanish I*, Journalism*

ELECTIVE COURSES (1 TRIMESTER)

Advanced Physical Education, Art, Multimedia,
Study Skills, Technical Education, Jazz Band*,
Life Skills, Woodworking

*Students must have a teacher recommendation in order to register for these classes.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TIME SCHEDULE



Doors Open at 7:15 a.m.
Students are to arrive no earlier than 7:15.

7TH GRADE

HR/1st Period.....7:50 – 9:12
2nd Period.....9:17 – 10:19
3rd Period.....10:24-11:26
LUNCH.....11:26 – 11:56
4th Period12:00 – 1:02
7-A Period1:07 – 1:54
7-B Period.....1:58 – 2:45

8TH GRADE

HR/1st Period 7:50 – 9:12
2nd Period..... 9:17 – 10:19
3rd Period..... 10:24 – 11:26
LUNCH.....11:26 – 11:56
8-A Period 12:00 – 12:47
8-B Period..... 12:51 – 1:38
4th Period 1:43 – 2:45

Dismissal at 2:45

Students are to leave the school no later than 3:15 unless participating in a supervised activity.

ACADEMIC GRADING SYSTEM

Trimester report cards are issued in early December, March, and June. Six weeks into each trimester, parents will receive comprehensive electronic progress reports via email. Parents may pick up a printed progress report by stopping in the office or call and request a copy be mailed home.

Letter grades will be issued and have the following meaning:

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| A | - Excellent performance, consistently high quality work and exceptional knowledge |
| B | - Good performance, above-average work and knowledge |
| C | - Fair performance, average work, and acceptable knowledge |
| D | - Minimum performance, below average knowledge and work |
| E | - Unacceptable performance, no credit awarded |
| I or IC | - Incomplete work–Make-up work must be completed for credit and if not completed, the grade will become an “E”. |
| P or CR | - Credit |
| NC | - No Credit |

Honor Roll

For students to qualify for the honor roll, they must obtain a 3.00 grade point average (B average) and not receive a grade lower than a C-. Inappropriate or unacceptable behavior will keep a student from being on the honor roll.

SEVENTH GRADE REQUIREMENTS

Resource Room courses designated by (RR) are only offered to students who qualify under a current Special Education IEP.

ENGLISH 7 (FULL YEAR)

This class will strengthen students' skills in the areas of writing, reading, speaking, and listening. Strong emphasis will be placed on developing effective study habits and becoming an organized student. During the year, students will write using different genres. This will vary from expository to narrative pieces. Grammar will be taught in the context of student writing. This English course will be literature-based with emphasis on non-fiction sources. Independent reading will be encouraged, with students being required to read at least one novel from an assigned reading list each month. Finally, learning will be enhanced through the use of individual presentations and group work.

LANGUAGE ARTS (RR) (FULL YEAR)

The Language Arts Resource Room program focuses on reading decoding, reading comprehension and writing (both mechanics and structure.) Several reading programs are used to target all areas of students reading abilities. Programs used include: Read Naturally, REWARDS, and READ 180. The class utilizes individual, small group, and whole class instruction. Independent reading time is also provided.

MATH COURSE 2 (FULL YEAR)

Course two is the second in a three-course series for 6th through 8th grade students. This course includes a mixture of mathematical topics from all six content areas: number properties and operations, measurement, algebra, geometry, data analysis and probability, and mathematical processes and problem solving. At the completion of this course, 7th grade students will either take Course 3 or retake Course 2 in 8th grade; 8th grade students will take Pre-Algebra in the high school.

ACCELERATED MATH (FULL YEAR)

Accelerated Math is an advanced math class for 7th grade students. It is designed to combine the 7th and 8th grade curriculums into one year in order for students to take Algebra 1 in the 8th grade. At the completion of this course, students will be placed either in Course 3 or in Algebra 1 in 8th grade. In order to be advanced into Algebra 1, students must maintain a minimum average of 80% and receive a recommendation from the teacher.

7TH GRADE FUNDAMENTAL MATHEMATICS (RR) (FULL YEAR)

This course is designed to review and reinforce basic math concepts. Students will perform basic operations with whole numbers, fractions, decimals, percents, money skills, and basic equations. The information will be presented and related to real-life mathematics.

LIFE SCIENCE (2 TRIMESTERS)

The 7th grade Life Science is a two-trimester course in which students will continue to build on their strong foundation of Biological skills. The students will learn about the cells and cell processes including photosynthesis, cell transport and cell division. They will apply Mendel's concepts of genetics, post Mendel theory, human genetics and protein production. A study of the diversity of life will include the kingdoms of bacteria, protists, fungi, plants and animals. Ecology will also be included. Application and evaluation of the Scientific Method will be an ongoing theme in this course.

7TH GRADE SCIENCE (RR) (2 TRIMESTERS)

Resource Room Science in the middle school is a two-year program in general science that is designed to parallel the regular education curriculum. Seventh grade students will be exposed to the scientific process and the classification of living things. They will study living organisms from cells to the systems of the human body.

SOCIAL STUDIES (2 TRIMESTERS)

The seventh grade social studies program deals mainly with cultures and geographic locations in the Eastern Hemisphere. The themes discussed are cultures, geography, religions, governments, economics, and conflicts. The students study current news issues weekly and relate these to the themes and locations covered in class. The goal is for each student to identify with many places in the world, understand basic geographic terms, and learn about the diversity of cultures outside of the United States.

7TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES (RR) (2 TRIMESTERS)

The seventh grade social studies program deals mainly with cultures and geographic locations in the Eastern Hemisphere. The themes discussed are cultures, geography, religions, governments, economics, and conflicts. The goal is for each student to identify with many places in the world, understand basic geographic terms, and learn about the diversity of cultures outside of the United States. Reading and writing skills are emphasized in this class.

COMPUTERS (1 TRIMESTER)

This is a required class taken during an elective period. The 7th grade computer class is designed to enhance the student's computer skills in the areas of keyboarding, word processing, spreadsheets, multimedia, desktop publishing, Internet skills and safety awareness. An emphasis will be placed on using software and skills that will benefit them through out their curriculum.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION /HEALTH (2 TRIMESTERS)

Seventh grade physical education and health is a combined course, in which a student will be enrolled for two of the three trimesters. This class will be divided into two sections, 7A and 7B. 7A will be a combination of physical education and personal health. 7B will be a combination of personal health, of reproductive health and of physical education.

The physical education portion will include instruction in physical fitness, swimming, soccer, volleyball, softball, floor hockey, basketball and flag football.

The personal health portion will be based in part on the curriculum of the Michigan Health Model. Included will be units on self-esteem, nutrition, personal hygiene, bullying, in addition to tobacco, drug and alcohol education. Lastly, three weeks will be used to address human sexuality, relationships, reproduction, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS education. The reproductive health curriculum has been written and approved by our community PA 226 Committee.

The following are dress and participation requirements for physical education:

- Clothing worn to school may not be worn for class participation. All students must change daily for class unless stated otherwise by the teacher. Students must participate in order to pass this course.
- Indoor dress will consist of shorts or sweats, T-shirt or sweatshirt, athletic socks, and athletic shoes with soles that will not mark the gym floor.
- Outdoor dress will consist of shorts, sweats or warm-up pants, a T-shirt or sweat shirt, athletic socks, and shoes with no cleats, jacket or warm-up top, and as weather gets cooler, hat and gloves.
- A swimsuit will be needed for the swimming unit. Swimsuits must be modest in nature.
- Daily showers are strongly encouraged. Students must supply their own towel.
- To be excused from any of these requirements, a written note from parents/guardian must be presented at the beginning of the class period.
- Without an excuse from participation, the student's daily grade will be zero. Each zero received during a marking period will lower the student's grade.
- The No Dress is always unexcused. Any student who is in attendance is expected to be dressed for class

SEVENTH GRADE ELECTIVES

Resource Room courses designated by (RR) are only offered to students who qualify under a current Special Education IEP.

ADVANCED PHYSICAL EDUCATION (1 TRIMESTER)

The advanced physical education class is designed to be an extension of the required physical education class. This class is designed for the student who desires to go above and beyond the required physical education class. It is NOT designed for those wishing for an easier class as an elective. During this class, an emphasis will be placed on weight training and aerobic fitness. This will include a mile run at least once per week. In addition, various sport or fitness activities will be performed.

ART (1 TRIMESTER)

This is an entry-level exposure to art. The hand-on experience helps students decide whether they wish to investigate art further while gaining experience relating to space and form. Students deal with line, shape, form, tone, texture, shading, and cast shadows. These ABC's of art are incorporated into basic form drawing, magnification, animal drawing, perspectives, and paper maché OAXACA animal sculptures.

BAND (FULL YEAR)

The Seventh Grade Band is an ensemble that provides students with learning and performance opportunities on wind and percussion instruments. The primary focus is on the development, continuation, and expansion of basic skills begun the previous years that are necessary for effective instrumental music performance. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in adjudicated solo and ensemble contests, honor bands, and private lessons. Topics/skills covered include:

- Embouchure and Tone Development
- Counting, timing, and rhythmic development
- Reading and notation skills, including sight reading
- Scales
- Simple Music Theory
- Development of an extensive vocabulary of musical terms and symbols
- Ear training and listening skills
- Equipment care and maintenance
- Effective practice habits
- Basic Marching Skills

Students in the Seventh Grade Band perform in at least three concerts a year, the Memorial Day parade and District Band Festival. A concert schedule is passed out at the beginning of the year and attendance is mandatory. The full calendar and other information can always be found at: www.springlakebands.org

CHOIR (FULL YEAR)

In the middle school choir program, students learn to properly use their natural “built-in” instrument, the human voice. Emphasis is on posture, correct breathing habits, intonation, and learning repertoire. There is opportunity for study, singing, listening, and performing. Rehearsals are held during the school day or as called by the director. Frequent performances are held and each choir member is expected to be present and support the “choir team.”

Performances are given for various community groups during evenings and on weekends. Parental cooperation and support are essential for the young singers to realize their responsibilities to the group and for the vocal music program to be successful.

CREATIVE WRITING (1 TRIMESTER)

Do you want to express yourself creatively? Would you like to choose what you write about? Join creative writing. In creative writing, students will spend time writing about topics they love. Students will also read examples of creative writing. There will be an emphasis on revising and sharing. The course will include small projects that incorporate writing. By the end of the course, students will create a reflective portfolio of their work.

GUIDED INSTRUCTION (RR) (FULL YEAR)

This course is designed to provide special education students with support in their classes. This class will be used as an opportunity to receive help on homework, finish tests/quizzes and to study, review or read ahead for their classes. Student progress will be monitored in all classes weekly. Organization, use of time, use of a planner, and other study skills will be reinforced in this class.

INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS/CONSUMER MATH (1 TRIMESTER)

Introduction to Business/ Consumer Math is a class that will begin to familiarize students with the world of business. Students will participate in practical business simulations including a stock market simulator. Basic consumer math skills will be emphasized. Various local business men and women will speak to the class about various job opportunities in the field of business, sales, accounting, and investing.

JAZZ BAND (1 TRIMESTER)

Jazz band is offered as a one trimester elective during the third trimester. It is a co-curricular class with concert band, unless the person plays bass, piano, drums or guitar. An audition or director’s approval may be required. Students will learn basic jazz charts, jazz and blues scales, improvisation and listen to a wide array of jazz music to learn the style. Some jazz history will be incorporated and standard jazz charts will be used. The jazz band will participate in 2-3 performances towards the end of the year. Performances and practice time outside of class are required.

LIFE SKILLS (1 TRIMESTER)

This course is hands-on learning. Some time will be spent learning about diversity, etiquette, responsibilities, communication and social skills. Students will also learn very valuable hand sewing techniques and will complete a service project using the skills they have learned. The foods and nutrition labs are geared towards foods that students can make on their own without adult help.

STUDY SKILLS (1 TRIMESTER)

Study Skills is a class that teaches organization, communication, and study related skills. Students have time to work on assignments and prepare for assessments. Study skills may be recommended or required for an individual student's program. Task completion, asking good questions, how points and grades work, using graphs and charts and other school related issues will be discussed. Students will be required to correctly use their student planners to maximize organization and time management in addition to bringing a book or other homework to class each day.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION (1 TRIMESTER)

Technical Education is the beginning to a challenging 7th grade through 12th grade Pre-Engineering, Pre-Architecture program in Spring Lake. Activities will include tool recognition, research of famous energy sources, high powered paper rockets, egg-crash vehicle, mousetrap vehicles, design and creation of birdhouses. Students will find this class to be fast-paced, hands-on, and an exciting opportunity to explore the world of Engineering and Manufacturing.

EIGHTH GRADE REQUIREMENTS

Resource Room courses designated by (RR) are only offered to students who qualify under a current Special Education IEP.

ENGLISH 8 (2 TRIMESTERS)

English 8 is a course that addresses the communication skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening in a thematic, literature-based curriculum. The course is designed to prepare eighth grade students for high school. In addition to studying 3 novels as a class, students will read extensively from a list of middle school novels. Utilizing the writing process, students will create many finished pieces of writing, including an entry in an essay contest. Many other opportunities for improving student writing will be used throughout the year. Grammar will be taught to supplement student writing. A career preparation unit will be taught during the second trimester that will address employability skills, job finding skills, and research about a specific career in a chosen pathway. Finally, students will deliver a formal presentations at least twice during the school year.

8TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS (RR) (2 TRIMESTERS)

The Language Arts Resource Room program focuses on reading decoding, reading comprehension and writing (both mechanics and structure.) Several reading programs are used to target all areas of students reading abilities. Programs used include: Read Naturally, REWARDS, and READ 180. The class utilizes individual, small group, and whole class instruction. Independent reading time is also provided.

MATH COURSE 3 (2 TRIMESTERS)

This is the third and final class in a three-course series for 6th through 8th grade students. This course includes a mixture of mathematical topics from all six content areas: number properties and operations, measurement, algebra, geometry, data analysis and probability, and mathematical processes and problem solving. Upon completion of the class and with teacher recommendation, 8th grade students will either take Algebra 1 or Pre-Algebra in the 9th grade.

ALGEBRA I (2 TRIMESTERS)

This class is an advanced mathematics class designed for students with the goal of reaching calculus by their senior year of high school. This class is equivalent in content and curriculum with high school Algebra I. Topics covered in this class will include: basic algebra skills, equations and inequalities, linear and other functions, and data analysis. In order to move on to the next class (high school Algebra II), a student must maintain a minimum grade of 80% and receive a recommendation from the teacher. At the completion of this course, the student will either take Algebra II or retake Algebra I in 9th grade.

8TH GRADE FUNDAMENTAL MATHEMATICS (RR) (2 TRIMESTERS)

This course is designed to review and reinforce basic math concepts. The students will focus learning on different forms of measurement. The students will also review geometry, ratios, graphing and percents.

EARTH/PHYSICAL SCIENCE (FULL YEAR)

Eighth grade science is a full year study of Earth and Physical Science. In Earth Science, students will investigate topics like astronomy, rocks and minerals, and a changing earth. Physical Science will include studies of the periodic table, atoms and bonding, force and work, motion and gravity, and much more. Hands-on activities, cooperative learning, and student demonstrations will highlight this curriculum.

8TH GRADE SCIENCE (RR) (FULL YEAR)

Resource Room Science in the middle school is a two-year program in general science that is designed to parallel the regular education curriculum. Eighth grade students will study the solar system, the earth's chemistry, atmosphere, and climate.

8th GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES (FULL YEAR)

This course introduces students to the history of the United States from the Articles of Confederation to the end of the 19th century. The units of study include: Foundations of a New Nation, Challenges to an Emerging Nation, Regional and Economic Growth, Antebellum Reform Movements, The Coming of the Civil War, The Civil War, Reconstruction, America in the Last Half of the 19th Century, Development of an Industrialized, Urban and Global United States and Citizen Involvement. Also students study current news issues and relate these to the themes covered in class. The goal is for each student to identify with historical events and understand how it impacts our world today.

8TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES (RR) (FULL YEAR)

The Resource Room Social Studies program covers United States history from Native Americans to the Civil War. This class parallels the curriculum of the regular education class. However, heavy emphasis on reading is an integral part of the class.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH (2 TRIMESTERS)

Eighth grade physical education and health is a combined course, in which a student will be enrolled for two of the three trimesters. This class will be divided into two sections -- 8A and 8B. 8A will be the physical education portion, while 8B will be a combination of physical education and health.

The physical education portion will consist of physical fitness and a variety of sports, both team and individual. Teamwork and responsibility are stressed as well as participation in all aspects of the sport.

The health portion will be based in part on the curriculum of the Michigan Health Model. Lessons will include education on tobacco, alcohol, drugs and sexually transmitted diseases. Peer pressure, harassment and the importance of self-esteem will also be discussed.

The following are dress and participation requirements for physical education:

- Clothing worn to school may not be worn for class participation. All students must change daily for class unless stated otherwise by the teacher. Students must participate in order to pass this course.**
- Indoor dress will consist of shorts or sweats, T-shirt or sweat shirt, athletic socks, and athletic shoes with soles that will not mark the gym floor (NO CLEATS).**
- Outdoor dress will consist of shorts, sweats or warm-up pants, a T-shirt or sweat shirt, athletic socks, and shoes with no cleats, jacket or warm-up top, and as weather gets cooler, hat and gloves.**
- A swimsuit will be needed for the swimming unit--no shorts or cut-offs unless approved by the teacher.**
- Daily showers are strongly encouraged. Students must supply their own towel.**
- To be excused from any of these requirements, a written note from parents/guardian must be presented at the beginning of the class period. After two consecutive parental excuses, a doctor's excuse will be required.**
- Without an excuse from participation, the student's daily grade will be zero. Each zero received during a marking period will lower the student's grade.**
- The No Dress is always unexcused. Any student who is in attendance is expected to be dressed for class.**

EIGHTH GRADE ELECTIVES

Resource Room courses designated by (RR) are only offered to students who qualify under a current Special Education IEP.

ADVANCED PHYSICAL EDUCATION (1 TRIMESTER)

The advanced physical education class is designed to be an extension of the required physical education class. This class is designed for the student who desires to go above and beyond the required physical education class. During this class, an emphasis will be placed on weight training and aerobic fitness, with a mile run per week being part of the fitness program. In addition, the class will discuss CPR training, as well as, Care and Prevention of athletic injuries.

ART (1 TRIMESTER)

Eighth grade art is a class that gives the student who enjoys art the opportunity to further explore the art medium. The class includes work in the following areas: studies in composition, two-point perspective drawing, figure drawing, sculpture, and collage techniques. Principles of good design, balance, rhythm, contrast, unity, and repetition will be taught. Art appreciation and some art history will also be introduced.

BAND (FULL YEAR)

The Eighth Grade Band is an ensemble that provides students with learning and performance opportunities on wind and percussion instruments. The primary focus is on the development, continuation, and expansion of basic skills begun the previous years that are necessary for effective instrumental music performance. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in adjudicated solo and ensemble contests, honor bands, and private lessons. Topics/skills covered include:

- Embouchure and Tone Development
- Counting, timing, and rhythmic development
- Reading and notation skills, including sight reading
- Scales
- Simple Music Theory
- Development of an extensive vocabulary of musical terms and symbols
- Ear training and listening skills
- Equipment care and maintenance
- Effective practice habits
- Basic Marching Skills

Students in the Eighth Grade Band perform in at least three concerts a year, the Memorial Day parade and District Band Festival. A concert schedule is passed out at the beginning of the year and attendance is mandatory. The full calendar and other information can always be found at: www.springlakebands.org

CHOIR (FULL YEAR)

In the middle school choir program, students learn to properly use their natural “built-in” instrument, the human voice. Emphasis is on posture, proper breathing habits, intonation, and learning repertoire. Music literacy is reinforced through sight reading exercises and a wide variety of repertoire. There is opportunity for singing alone and with others. All rehearsals are held during the school day. Performances are given for various community groups during evenings and on weekends. Parental cooperation and support are essential for the young singers to realize their responsibilities to the group and for the vocal music program to be successful.

FRENCH 1 (FULL YEAR)*

French I is taught using a special method called "Teaching Through Reading & Storytelling" a method of gestures and stories for comprehensible input in language. Students listen before speaking and learn vocabulary and grammar by example and usage. Students will acquire the French language much as a child learns their first language. Gestures are used for vocabulary words, and then used in comprehensible stories that are easy to visualize, act out, and remember. Visualizing the stories in the French language is a key component in the memory system. Student participation is a key ingredient to success in the course and culture will be experienced through music, food, video, slides and guest speakers.

**Enrollment in this class is based on availability and performance in 7th grade English.*

NOTE: *This course is equivalent in content & curriculum with high school French. French I taken in eighth grade waives French I in high school, but does not earn high school credit. Successful completion of this class does enable students to take French II in high school.*

GUIDED INSTRUCTION (RR) (FULL YEAR)

This course is designed to provide special education students with support in their classes. This class will be used as an opportunity to receive help on homework, finish tests/quizzes and to study, review or read ahead for their classes. Student progress will be monitored in all classes weekly. Organization, use of time, use of a planner, and other study skills will be reinforced in this class.

JAZZ BAND (1 TRIMESTER)

Jazz band is offered as a one trimester elective during the third trimester. It is a co-curricular class with concert band, unless the person plays bass, piano, drums or guitar. An audition or director’s approval may be required. Students will learn basic jazz charts, jazz and blues scales, improvisation and listen to a wide array of jazz music to learn the style. Some jazz history will be incorporated and standard jazz charts will be used. The jazz band will participate in 2-3 performances towards the end of the year. Performances and practice time outside of class are required.

JOURNALISM (FULL YEAR)*

This class will explore the wide world of journalism and mass media. Designed for qualified eighth grade students, journalism will emphasize the news-writing skills of the straight news lead, interviewing, sports coverage, feature and editorial writing, and creating headlines. Students will produce seven issues of the school newspaper, *The Vessel*. As part of the newspaper staff, students will write articles, take pictures, establish layout and design, and print and distribute the newspaper. Students will also create the school yearbook. Yearbook layout and design will be taught. Students will take photos, write copy, and market the book. Students will deliver the school's daily announcements, Homeroom Headlines, via a live TV broadcast.

**Enrollment in this class is based on availability and performance in 7th grade English.*

LIFE SKILLS (1 TRIMESTER)

This course is hands-on learning. Students will tour a variety of different disciplines within the 12-week period. The foods and nutrition labs are an activity-oriented section, which allows students to make an array of products. Students will learn some survival techniques with a needle and thread and the use of a sewing machine. They will also complete a service project. Some time will be spent talking about social skills, empathy, responsibilities, diversity relationship building, and etiquette.

MULTIMEDIA (1 Trimester)

In this course the students design and create media rich web sites and computer interactive multimedia presentations that include animation, digital video, photography, graphics, sound and music files. Students will learn to use digital cameras, scan and edit photographs. They will shoot and edit digital video. Students create animation and dynamic web content. Students learn sound recording, sound editing, and design and compose audio files. Students will also gain valuable experience in the area of desktop publishing as they create their own business and rock band.

SPANISH I (FULL YEAR)*

Spanish I is taught using a special method "Teaching Proficiency Through Reading & Storytelling" a method of gestures and stories for comprehensible input in language. Students listen before speaking and learn vocabulary and grammar by example and usage. Students will acquire the Spanish language much as a child learns their first language. Gestures are used for vocabulary words, and then used in comprehensible stories that are easy to visualize, act out, and remember. Visualizing the stories in the Spanish language is a key component in the memory system. Student participation is a key ingredient to success in the course and culture will be experienced through music, food, video, slides, and guest speakers.

**Enrollment in this class is based on availability and performance in 7th grade English.*

NOTE: *This course is equivalent in content & curriculum with high school Spanish. Spanish I taken in the eighth grade waives Spanish I in high school, but does not earn high school credit. Successful completion of this class enables students to take Spanish II in high school.*

STUDY SKILLS (1 TRIMESTER)

Study Skills is a class that teaches organization, communication, and study related skills. Students have time to work on assignments and prepare for assessments. This is a 12 week class that meets for 47 minutes. Study skills may be recommended or required for an individual student's program. Task completion, asking good questions, how points and grades work, using graphs and charts and other school related issues will be discussed. Students are expected to bring work to class everyday and participate in classroom activities. They will need to demonstrate a successful organizational system for recording and completing daily assignments and maintaining materials. This class may be taken more than once unless there are schedule limitations.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION (1 TRIMESTER)

Technical Education is the second year of a challenging 7th grade through 12th grade Pre-Engineering, Pre-Architecture program in Spring Lake. Activities will include architectural drafting, tool recognition, load-bearing towers, Alternative Energy sources, and Carbon Dioxide Powered Dragsters. Students will find this class to be fast-paced, hands-on, and an exciting opportunity to explore the world of Engineering and Architecture.

NOTE: 7th grade Technical Education is NOT a Pre-Requisite for 8th Grade Technical Education

WOODWORKING (1 TRIMESTER)

Woodworking will focus on woodworking basics and techniques culminating in creating a woodworking project. Through the process of creating basic wood projects, the students will learn the basics of safety, tool identification, project design, budgeting, and various types of wood and their qualities. Once students have learned the basics, they will put these to use in designing a specific project, planning a budget for materials, and ordering the wood. Once the materials are present, the student will create the project.

NOTE: Students will be responsible for paying a small fee for their project materials.

LIBRARY/ MEDIA CENTER

The Library/Media Center exists to support, enhance, and enrich the curriculum of Spring Lake Middle School. Consistent with the school's philosophy, the Media Center makes accessible a wide range of materials and services for both students and teachers.

The Media Center is available for students as a place to do homework or read for pleasure, as well as an extension of the classroom for teachers. Research and report writing is made easier with the help of computerized reference works, an automated index of library materials, and word processing programs.

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

The middle school counselors are primarily concerned with helping students help themselves. A counselor is available should a student experience difficulty in classes or wish to discuss problems of a social or personal nature. The counselor will work with students individually on any problems they might have in adjusting to school situations. Students and parents are encouraged to contact the Guidance Department when problems arise which may affect school performance.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Activity Afternoons

Chess Club

Dances

Drama Club

Energy Conservation and Recycling Club

Enrichment Day

First Priority/FCA

Locks of Lakers

Math & Science Day at Michigan Adventure

Recreation Commission Activities

Reverse Job Shadow Day (sponsored by Junior Achievement)

R.O.V. Club

Spelling Bee

Sports Clinics and Clubs

S.T.A.R.S. Mentors

Student Ambassadors

Student Council

Talent Showcase Assemblies

Wetland Detectives

Writing Contests

ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Sports (Boys)

Cross Country	Fall
Football (8 th only).....	Fall
Basketball.....	Winter
Swimming (co-ed).....	Winter
Wrestling.....	Winter
Track (co-ed)	Spring

Sports (Girls)

Basketball.....	Fall
Cross Country	Fall
Cheerleading.....	Winter
Swimming (co-ed).....	Winter
Volleyball	Winter
Track (co-ed)	Spring

ATHLETIC PHYSICALS

All students who plan to participate in a sport must have a current and signed MHSAA physical form on file in the Athletic Office before practice starts.

In order to obtain a physical you may:

- go to your own doctor with the MHSAA physical form.
- go to a walk-in clinic with the MHSAA physical form.
- go to our school doctor, Dr. Haight (*Haight Clinic in Spring Lake*). Call for appointment at 842-1276
- go to West Michigan Sports Clinic (*Grand Haven*). They have mass physicals in August and various times during the school year. Call them at 846-4710 for dates and cost.

MHSAA physical forms may be picked up in the middle school office, in the high school athletic office, or in the Superintendent's office.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW

Spring Lake Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, height, weight, marital status, handicap, disability, or limited English proficiency in any of its programs or activities.

Auxiliary aids and services are available for hearing and visually impaired upon request. For assistance call the Michigan Relay Center at (800) 649-3777 (*voice and TDD*).

The following office has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

**Spring Lake Public Schools
Director of Curriculum and Operations
345 Hammond Street
Spring Lake, MI 49456
616-846-5500**