

**SPRING LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
COURSE SELECTION GUIDE  
2019-2020**



**SPRING LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
345 HAMMOND STREET  
SPRING LAKE, MI 49456  
616-846-5502  
[www.springlakeschools.org](http://www.springlakeschools.org)**

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# SPRING LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Board of Education

**Jeff Lauinger, President**  
**Curt Theune, Vice President**  
**Kathy Breen, Treasurer**  
**Jennifer Nicles, Secretary**  
**Bruce Callen, Trustee**  
**Denis Devlin, Trustee**  
**Katie Pigott, Trustee**

## Departments

**Superintendent of Schools.....Dennis Furton**  
**Administrative Assistant ..... Kim Conroy**

**Middle School Principal ..... Aaron West**  
**Administrative Assistant ..... Gail Brye**

**Middle School Counselor .....Shana Woodwyk**  
**School Social Worker ..... Kristi Kortman**

**School Psychologist ..... Adrian Breting**  
**School Psychologist ..... Sarah Gray**  
**School Psychologist .....Pam VanFaasen**  
**Administrative Assistant ..... Pam Massucci**

**Athletic Director..... Cavin Mohrhardt**  
**Administrative Assistant ..... Susan Theune**

## Telephone Numbers

**Superintendent of Schools..... 846-5500**  
**Middle School Principal ..... 846-5502**  
**Guidance Department ..... 846-5502**  
**School Social Worker ..... 846-5502**  
**Athletic Director..... 846-5506**  
**School Psychologist ..... 846-9240**

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## **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.

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## **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.

The school year is divided into three 12 week trimesters. Seventh and eighth grade students take a full year of English, math, social studies and science. In addition, all students take two trimesters of Physical Education/Health per year and seventh graders are required to take a one trimester computer class. The rest of a student's schedule is comprised of elective classes.

### **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

#### **REQUIRED COURSES**

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

#### **ELECTIVE COURSES (FULL YEAR)**

7<sup>th</sup> Band, Choir, Guided Instruction\*

#### **ELECTIVE COURSES (1 TRIMESTER)**

7<sup>th</sup> Advanced PE, Art 1, Art 2, Business, Ceramics, Computer Science Discoveries,  
Creative Writing, Extended Learning\*, Graphic Design, Introduction to World Language,  
Multimedia, 7<sup>th</sup> Study Skills, Technical Education-Architecture,  
Technical Education-Design, Tri Choir, Wild Reads

### **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

#### **REQUIRED COURSES**

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

#### **ELECTIVE COURSES (FULL YEAR)**

8<sup>th</sup> Band, Choir, 8<sup>th</sup> French, Guided Instruction\*, 8<sup>th</sup> Spanish

#### **ELECTIVE COURSES (1 TRIMESTER)**

8<sup>th</sup> Advanced PE, Art 1, Art 2, Business, Ceramics, Computer Science Discoveries  
Creative Writing, Extended Learning\*, Graphic Design, Introduction to World Language,  
Multimedia, 8<sup>th</sup> Study Skills, Technical Education-Architecture,  
Technical Education-Design, Tri Choir, Writing and School Publishing, Wild Reads

Availability of elective course offerings will ultimately be determined by interest.

If numbers do not warrant offering a class, it will be removed from the  
master schedule and students will be enrolled in a different class.

\*Students may not voluntarily opt to take these classes.

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# MIDDLE SCHOOL TIME SCHEDULE

Spring Lake Middle School students attend six fifty-seven minute classes per day, three before lunch and three after. A twenty minute homeroom period is attached to first hour each day. Homeroom each morning is used for announcements, student meetings, media center visits, student/teacher work sessions, make up assessments, etc.



## **Doors Open at 7:15 a.m.**

*Students are to arrive no earlier than 7:15 a.m.*

HR/1 <sup>st</sup> Period .....	7:50 – 9:09
2 <sup>nd</sup> Period .....	9:13 – 10:10
3 <sup>rd</sup> Period .....	10:14 – 11:11
LUNCH.....	11:11 – 11:42
4 <sup>th</sup> Period .....	11:46 – 12:43
5 <sup>th</sup> Period .....	12:47 – 1:44
6 <sup>th</sup> Period .....	1:48 – 2:45

## **Dismissal at 2:45**

*Students are to leave the school no later than 3:05 unless participating in a supervised activity.*

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# **ACADEMIC GRADING SYSTEM**

Trimester report cards are issued in early December, March, and June. Student grades are also available to parents and students throughout the trimester via PowerSchool.

Letter grades will be issued and have the following general 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** - Incomplete work–Make-up work must be completed for credit and if not completed, the grade will become an “E”.
- CR** - Credit
- NC** - No Credit

## **Grading Scale**

<b>100-93</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>76-73</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>92-90</b>	<b>A-</b>	<b>72-70</b>	<b>C-</b>
<b>89-87</b>	<b>B+</b>	<b>69-67</b>	<b>D+</b>
<b>86-83</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>66-63</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>82-80</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>62-60</b>	<b>D-</b>
<b>79-77</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>59-0</b>	<b>E</b>

## **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 may keep a student from being on the honor roll.

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## **SEVENTH GRADE REQUIREMENTS**

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

### **ENGLISH 7**

This class will strengthen students' skills in the areas of writing, reading, speaking, and listening. During the year, students will write in various genres, including narratives, arguments, and informational writings. Grammar will be taught within the context of student writing. Students will read as a class and independently. All students are expected to read independently for 20 minutes each night.

### **LANGUAGE ARTS (RR)**

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, SuccessMaker, and Keystone. Students are required to complete a book a number of books each trimester. The class utilizes individual, small group, and whole class instruction. Independent reading time is also provided.

### **MATH 7**

Math 7 is the second in a three-course series for 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. This series exposes students to highly motivating and relevant problems that offer depth and rigor. This approach opens doors to abstract thought, reasoning, and inquiry as students persevere to answer the essential questions that drive instruction based on the Common Core State Standards for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade. At the completion of this course, students will take Math 8.

### **ACCELERATED MATH 7**

Accelerated Math is an advanced math class for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. This class covers all of the seventh grade, as well as part of the eighth grade, Common Core State Standards. The pace of this class is accelerated - students should be prepared to work at this pace. At the completion of this course, students will be placed either in Algebra 8 or in Math 8 in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. In order to be advanced into Algebra 8, students must maintain a minimum average of 80% and receive a recommendation from the teacher.

### **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MATHEMATICS (RR)**

7th Grade Resource Room Math is a year long program that is designed to parallel the general education curriculum. This course utilizes whole group, small group, and individualized instruction to support Individualized Education Programs as well as exposure to grade-level math content. This class exposes students to highly motivating and relevant problems that offer depth and rigor. It opens doors to abstract thought, reasoning, and inquiry as students persevere to answer the essential questions that drive instruction based on the Common Core State Standards.



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### **7<sup>th</sup> GRADE SCIENCE**

7<sup>th</sup> grade science is a yearlong course in which students build on a foundation of science skills. Students will use an inquiry-based curriculum in order to explore chemical properties and chemical changes as well as cells, cell processes, and organ systems. Furthermore, students will investigate the properties of genetics and genetic diversity. Application and evaluation are an ongoing theme in this course.

### **7TH GRADE SCIENCE (RR)**

Resource Room Science in the middle school will be offered on an as needed basis and is a year long program in general science that is designed to roughly parallel the regular education curriculum. Seventh grade students will be exposed to the scientific process and the classification of living things. They will learn about cells, bacteria, genetics, weather, waves, and energy. Reading and writing skills are emphasized in this class.

### **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES, WORLD CULTURES**

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.

### **COMPUTERS (1 TRIMESTER)**

This is a required class taken during an elective period. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade computer class is designed to enhance the student's computer skills in the areas of keyboarding, Microsoft Office, multimedia, Internet skills, safety awareness, programming/coding, and Web 2.0 skills. An emphasis will be placed on using software and skills that will benefit them through out their curriculum. The class follows the Michigan Educational Technology Standards (METS-S).

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## **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE 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, reproductive health and physical education.

The physical education portion will include instruction in physical fitness, 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, five 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.
- Daily showers are an option. 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 a 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
- Students are asked to bring their own deodorant/antiperspirant to be used after class each day.

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## **SEVENTH GRADE ELECTIVES**

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

*All classes are one trimester unless otherwise noted.*

### **7<sup>th</sup> ADVANCED PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

This class is designed to be an extension of the required physical education class. It is designed for the student who is looking to go above and beyond the required physical education and enjoys being active. An emphasis is placed on development of leadership, sportsmanship, teamwork, and character through fitness activities, weight training, and international sports. The curriculum will include weight training two days a week and fitness agility and endurance training two days a week also.

### **ART 1**

Teacher instruction in art will focus on composition, techniques in various media, and the artistic process. Students will learn and demonstrate techniques in clay, paper, paint, drawing, and printmaking through the creation of several projects. Students will determine the purpose, subject matter, and media for each project.

### **ART 2**

This class is for students who have been successful in Art 1 and would like to further their exploration of Fine art. The class will start where you left off in Art and build on prior knowledge like knowing the Principles and Elements of design. This class will take place simultaneously along with Art 1 students but the expectation is that you will work independently of those students on a more advanced project. Students in this class will be expected to work hard and to set an example for Art 1 students, both in your focus and in your quality of work. This class will be preparatory for taking art at the High school and the lessons will be designed to help you continue to fill your artistic portfolio with quality work.

### **7<sup>th</sup> 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 and 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](http://www.springlakebands.org)

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## **BUSINESS**

Business 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. Students will also create graphic documents used in business settings. A portion of this class is designated to developing a product, pitching the product to a panel of judges and eventually producing the item for a school held Business Expo.

## **CHOIR (FULL YEAR)**

Choir is a full year performing arts ensemble open to all 7th and 8th grade students who enjoy singing and music making, alone or with others. Through choir, students gain access to auditions for the MSVMA State Honors Choir program, as well as participation in Choral Festival and Solo & Ensemble Festivals. Choir members also have access to all Choir Cultural Outings (CCOs) appropriate to the middle school level. CCOs have included attending musicals, ballets, symphony concerts, operas and films. Students in middle school choir gain music literacy (reading music skills), vocal training for choral or solo tone, stage presence, confidence, camaraderie, cooperative achievement and cultural enrichment. Throughout the school year, the choir participates in several concerts. Choir members are required to attend these performances to the best of their ability. The performance calendar is created over the summer and is available the first full day of school in August. For an example of the middle school choir event calendar, please visit the SLPS website and click on Vocal Music.

## **CERAMICS**

During the course of this class we will learn basic clay building techniques including: hand built (pinch, coil, slab) as well as an introduction to wheel thrown pottery. We will also explore clay as a sculptural material, creating both functional and non-functional pieces. While we will work primarily in clay, the class will also include drawing, painting and a variety of other decorative techniques. Each project will connect to a particular artist or culture in order to widen the students' understanding of pottery and clay throughout the world. There is a \$10 materials fee associated with this class.

## **COMPUTER SCIENCE DISCOVERIES**

This class will serve as an introductory computer science course, which will help students prepare to live and participate in our increasingly digital society, economy, and culture. Students will engage in hands-on activities and projects that will allow them to learn through discovery and inquiry. Topics covered in this course may include: problem-solving, building a website, proposing a new app, designing a game, and coding. Through this course, students will be empowered to create authentic projects and engage with computer science as a means for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun.

## **CREATIVE WRITING**

This class will explore writing as a creative outlet. This class will provide students with the opportunity to write from numerous sources of inspiration including; fine art, film, music, personal experience, nature and much more. Students who love to express themselves through writing will have the opportunity to do so daily using a myriad of writing styles and formats. Lessons in this course will depend upon the instructor and trimester taken. Revising and sharing work with peers will be an integral part of this class.

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### **EXTENDED LEARNING (1-3 TRIMESTERS BASED ON NEED)\***

This Title 1 class is designed to provide support in reading and/or math. Students are placed in this class based on a review of academic scores or placed in this class based on need and teacher recommendation.

### **GRAPHIC DESIGN**

This is an art class designed to help you to think creatively and to solve design challenges both independently and as a group. We will be making art primarily on our chrome books with touch style tablets. The class will cover some basic graphic design skills like layout, the Principles and Elements of Design as well as more advanced topics such as designing ad campaigns for virtual clients and product proposals for certain industries. The goal of the class will be to prepare you for a career in graphic design and to get you ready for the more advanced classes at the High school. Expect to be challenged in this class and to work hard towards learning this very necessary and unique form of art.

### **GUIDED INSTRUCTION (FULL YEAR)\***

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. In most instances, preference will be given to students with an IEP or 504 Plan.

### **INTRODUCTION TO WORLD LANGUAGES**

This twelve week introductory course is designed to give middle school students beginning exposure to the study of both the French and Spanish languages as well as the cultures in which they are spoken. Students will learn the language using the TPRS method, Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling. Students will attend six weeks of each language in this course.

### **MULTIMEDIA**

In this course students design and create multimedia based projects that may include stop motion animation, digital video, and photography. Students will learn how to be creative using Web 2.0 skills. They will shoot and edit digital video. Students learn sound recording, sound editing, and design and compose audio files.

### **7<sup>th</sup> STUDY SKILLS**

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, using graphs and charts, memorizing strategies, how to take different types of tests, 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.

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### **TECHNICAL EDUCATION - ARCHITECTURE**

This course will include highly interactive group activities based on the NASA Engineering Design Process focusing on the world of engineering & architecture. Projects will focus on basic engineering principles including drafting and architecture. Students will research existing products and create their own designs, students will practice many of the skills needed for 21st century careers. Projects may include architectural drafting, load-bearing towers, Alternative Energy sources, and Carbon Dioxide Powered Dragsters.

### **TECHNICAL EDUCATION - DESIGN**

This course will include highly interactive group activities based on the NASA Engineering Design Process focusing on the world of engineering & design. Each activity is designed to emphasize collaborative learning, critical and analytical thinking, creative thinking, problem solving and experimental design. Through participation in this course's activities, students will practice many of the skills needed for 21st Century careers. Projects may include rockets, basic engineering principles, basic drafting skills, coding & computer programming, mousetrap cars, and egg crash vehicles.

### **TRI CHOIR**

Tri Choir (TC) is a course open to all 7th and 8th students who want have FUN singing and making music with others. This single trimester course has been designed to give musically interested students an opportunity to sing while they explore other elective offerings. In TC, students will vocally explore different cultures and languages from around the world while also enjoying our rich and uniquely American music, past and present. Students will gain music literacy (music reading skills), vocal tone quality, singing skills, confidence, stage presence, cooperation and camaraderie. At the end of the trimester, a concert will be presented to showcase the learnings and skills acquired. Students are required to participate in this performance. After TC, students may have the option to join the more advanced middle school choir, a traditional yearlong choir which participates in Choral Festival, Solo & Ensemble Festival and the Choir Cultural Outings (CCOs) appropriate for the middle school level.

### **WILD READS**

This class will provide students an opportunity to engage with a variety of texts that push their ability to read and interpret literature. Students will have a chance to explore the genres of graphic novel, poetry, realistic fiction, and historical fiction. Alongside these novels, students will gain valuable skills that are needed to become strong, successful readers. Students will have an opportunity to read constantly within this class, and will learn to fall in love with reading.

\*Students may not voluntarily opt to take these classes.

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## **EIGHTH GRADE REQUIREMENTS**

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

### **ENGLISH 8**

English 8 is a course that addresses the communication skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The course is designed to prepare eighth grade students for high school. 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. Students will also participate in a career unit, which involves research, professional writing, and formal presentations.

### **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS (RR)**

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, SuccessMaker, and Keystone. Students are required to complete a book a number of books each trimester. The class utilizes individual, small group, and whole class instruction. Independent reading time is also provided.

### **MATH 8**

Math 8 is the third in a three-course series for 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. This series exposes students to highly motivating and relevant problems that offer depth and rigor. This approach opens doors to abstract thought, reasoning, and inquiry as students persevere to answer the essential questions that drive instruction based on the Common Core State Standards for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade. At the completion of this course, students will take High School Algebra 1.

### **ALGEBRA 8**

This class is an advanced mathematics class designed for students with the goal of reaching a high level math course by their senior year of high school. This class continues the approach to expose students to highly motivating and relevant problems that offer depth and rigor needed to prepare students for Calculus and other college-level courses that they will study during high school. This class completes the remaining Common Core State Standards for eighth grade and then the High School Algebra 1 standards. With successful completion of this course, the student will have completed the high school graduation requirement for Algebra 1. The student will either take the next math class in the high school math sequence or re-take Algebra 1 as a freshman. In order to move on to the next class, a student must maintain a minimum grade of 80% and receive a recommendation from the teacher.

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### **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MATHEMATICS (RR)**

8th Grade Resource Room Math is a year long program that is designed to parallel the general education curriculum. This course utilizes whole group, small group, and individualized instruction to support Individualized Education Programs as well as exposure to grade-level math content. This class exposes students to highly motivating and relevant problems that offer depth and rigor. It opens doors to abstract thought, reasoning, and inquiry as students persevere to answer the essential questions that drive instruction based on the Common Core State Standards.

### **EARTH/PHYSICAL SCIENCE**

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 forces, motion, gravity, and much more. Hands-on activities, cooperative learning, and student demonstrations will highlight this curriculum.

### **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SCIENCE (RR)**

Resource Room Science in the middle school will be offered on an as needed basis and is a full year program in general science that is designed to roughly parallel the regular education curriculum. Eighth grade students will study the solar system, the earth's chemistry, atmosphere, earth's surface, rocks and mineral and how the earth is changed. This class will also study physical science concepts such as light, motion, and matter.

### **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES**

This course introduces students to the history of the United States from the Articles of Confederation to the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.



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## **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH**

**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, sexually transmitted diseases, mental health and CPR/AED. 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.**
- 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.**
- Students with asthma are asked to bring their inhalers daily with them to class.**

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## EIGHTH GRADE ELECTIVES

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

*All classes are one trimester unless otherwise noted.*

### **8<sup>th</sup> ADVANCED PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

This class is designed to be an extension of the required physical education class. It is designed for the student who is looking to go above and beyond the required physical education and enjoys being active. An emphasis is placed on development of leadership, sportsmanship, teamwork, and character through fitness activities, weight training, and international sports.

### **ART 1**

Teacher instruction in art will focus on composition, techniques in various media, and the artistic process. Students will learn and demonstrate techniques in clay, paper, paint, drawing, and printmaking through the creation of several projects. Students will determine the purpose, subject matter, and media for each project.

### **ART 2**

This class is for students who have been successful in Art 1 and would like to further their exploration of Fine art. The class will start where you left off in Art and build on prior knowledge like knowing the Principles and Elements of design. This class will take place simultaneously along with Art 1 students but the expectation is that you will work independently of those students on a more advanced project. Students in this class will be expected to work hard and to set an example for Art 1 students, both in your focus and in your quality of work. This class will be preparatory for taking art at the High school and the lessons will be designed to help you continue to fill your artistic portfolio with quality work.

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### **8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.springlakebands.org)

### **BUSINESS**

Business 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. Students will also create graphic documents used in business settings. A portion of this class is designated to developing a product, pitching the product to a panel of judges and eventually producing the item for a school held Business Expo.

### **CHOIR (FULL YEAR)**

Choir is a full year performing arts ensemble open to all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who enjoy singing and music making, alone or with others. Through choir, students gain access to auditions for the MSVMA State Honors Choir program, as well as participation in Choral Festival and Solo & Ensemble Festivals. Choir members also have access to all Choir Cultural Outings (CCOs) appropriate to the middle school level. CCOs have included attending musicals, ballets, symphony concerts, operas and films. Students in middle school choir gain music literacy (reading music skills), vocal training for choral or solo tone, stage presence, confidence, camaraderie, cooperative achievement and cultural enrichment. Throughout the school year, the choir participates in several concerts. Choir members are required to attend these performances to the best of their ability. The performance calendar is created over the summer and is available the first full day of school in August. For an example of the middle school choir event calendar, please visit the SLPS website and click on Vocal Music.

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## **CERAMICS**

During the course of this class we will learn basic clay building techniques including: hand built (pinch, coil, slab) as well as an introduction to wheel thrown pottery. We will also explore clay as a sculptural material, creating both functional and non-functional pieces. While we will work primarily in clay, the class will also include drawing, painting and a variety of other decorative techniques. Each project will connect to a particular artist or culture in order to widen the students' understanding of pottery and clay throughout the world. There is a \$10 materials fee associated with this class.

## **COMPUTER SCIENCE DISCOVERIES**

This class will serve as an introductory computer science course, which will help students prepare to live and participate in our increasingly digital society, economy, and culture. Students will engage in hands-on activities and projects that will allow them to learn through discovery and inquiry. Topics covered in this course may include: problem-solving, building a website, proposing a new app, designing a game, and coding. Through this course, students will be empowered to create authentic projects and engage with computer science as a means for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun.

## **CREATIVE WRITING**

This class will explore writing as a creative outlet. This class will provide students with the opportunity to write from numerous sources of inspiration including; fine art, film, music, personal experience, nature and much more. Students who love to express themselves through writing will have the opportunity to do so daily using a myriad of writing styles and formats. Lessons in this course will depend upon the instructor and trimester taken. Revising and sharing work with peers will be an integral part of this class.

## **EXTENDED LEARNING (1-3 TRIMESTERS BASED ON NEED)\***

This Title 1 class is designed to provide support in reading and/or math. Students are placed in this class based on a review of academic scores or placed in this class based on need and teacher recommendation.

## **8<sup>th</sup> FRENCH (FULL YEAR)**

8<sup>th</sup> French is taught using a special method called "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 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. Language and culture will be experienced through music, food, cultural experiences, and video clips. This course is equivalent to the high school French 1 course.

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## **GRAPHIC DESIGN**

This is an art class designed to help you to think creatively and to solve design challenges both independently and as a group. We will be making art primarily on our chrome books with touch style tablets. The class will cover some basic graphic design skills like layout, the Principles and Elements of Design as well as more advanced topics such as designing ad campaigns for virtual clients and product proposals for certain industries. The goal of the class will be to prepare you for a career in graphic design and to get you ready for the more advanced classes at the High school. Expect to be challenged in this class and to work hard towards learning this very necessary and unique form of art.

## **GUIDED INSTRUCTION (FULL YEAR)\***

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. In most instances, preference will be given to students with an IEP or 504 Plan.

## **INTRODUCTION TO WORLD LANGUAGES**

This twelve week introductory course is designed to give middle school students beginning exposure to the study of both the French and Spanish languages as well as the cultures in which they are spoken. Students will learn the language using the TPRS method, Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling. Students will attend six weeks of each language in this course.

## **MULTIMEDIA**

In this course students design and create multimedia based projects that may include stop motion animation, digital video, and photography. Students will learn how to be creative using Web 2.0 skills. They will shoot and edit digital video. Students learn sound recording, sound editing, and design and compose audio files.

## **8<sup>th</sup> SPANISH (FULL YEAR)**

8<sup>th</sup> Spanish is taught using a special method called "Teaching Proficiency Through Reading & Storytelling" which is 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. Language and culture will be experienced through music, food, cultural experiences, and video clips. This course is equivalent to the high school Spanish 1 course.

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## **8<sup>th</sup> STUDY SKILLS**

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 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 - ARCHITECTURE**

This course will include highly interactive group activities based on the NASA Engineering Design Process focusing on the world of engineering & architecture. Projects will focus on basic engineering principles including drafting and architecture. Students will research existing products and create their own designs, students will practice many of the skills needed for 21st century careers. Projects may include architectural drafting, load-bearing towers, Alternative Energy sources, and Carbon Dioxide Powered Dragsters. This course can be taken in both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

## **TECHNICAL EDUCATION - DESIGN**

This course will include highly interactive group activities based on the NASA Engineering Design Process focusing on the world of engineering & design. Each activity is designed to emphasize collaborative learning, critical and analytical thinking, creative thinking, problem solving and experimental design. Through participation in this course's activities, students will practice many of the skills needed for 21st Century careers. Projects may include rockets, basic engineering principles, basic drafting skills, coding & computer programming, mousetrap cars, and egg crash vehicles. This course can be taken in both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

## **TRI CHOIR**

Tri Choir (TC) is a course open to all 7th and 8th students who want have FUN singing and making music with others. This single trimester course has been designed to give musically interested students an opportunity to sing while they explore other elective offerings. In TC, students will vocally explore different cultures and languages from around the world while also enjoying our rich and uniquely American music, past and present. Students will gain music literacy (music reading skills), vocal tone quality, singing skills, confidence, stage presence, cooperation and camaraderie. At the end of the trimester, a concert will be presented to showcase the learnings and skills acquired. Students are required to participate in this performance. After TC, students may have the option to join the more advanced middle school choir, a traditional yearlong choir which participates in Choral Festival, Solo & Ensemble Festival and the Choir Cultural Outings (CCOs) appropriate for the middle school level.

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### **WILD READS**

**This class will provide students an opportunity to engage with a variety of texts that push their ability to read and interpret literature. Students will have a chance to explore the genres of graphic novel, poetry, realistic fiction, and historical fiction. Alongside these novels, students will gain valuable skills that are needed to become strong, successful readers. Students will have an opportunity to read constantly within this class, and will learn to fall in love with reading.**

### **WRITING AND SCHOOL PUBLISHING/YEARBOOK**

**Students will participate in the creation of the school yearbook. This process will include the use of layout software, photography, copy writing, headline writing and basic graphic design techniques. In addition to the yearbook, students will explore news media by creating various publications including ad layouts, logo design and promotional materials. Students will improve their knowledge about media and advertising. Students may also create a school publication called The Vessel as an opportunity to put their skills to work. Writing will be an integral skill in the publication of The Vessel and yearbook so prior performance level in English may be considered.**

**\*Students may not voluntarily opt to take these classes.**

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## **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 counselor is 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.



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# **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

**Chess Club**

**Dances**

**Enrichment Day**

**Environmental Club**

**FOR (Friends of Rachel) Club**

**Intramural Sports**

**Math Club**

**Model U.N.**

**Rachel's Challenge Chain Reaction**

**Recreation Commission Activities**

**School Sports**

**Spelling Bee**

**Student Council**

**Talent Showcase Assemblies**

**Wetland Detectives**

**World Language Club**

**Writing Contests**

**Not all extracurricular activities are offered every year.**

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## ATHLETIC PROGRAM

### Sports (Boys)\*

Cross Country (co-ed).....	Fall
Football (8 <sup>th</sup> only) .....	Fall
Basketball.....	Winter 1
Swimming .....	Winter 2
Wrestling.....	Winter 2
Track (co-ed) .....	Spring

### Sports (Girls)\*

Cross Country (co-ed).....	Fall
Volleyball .....	Fall
Swimming .....	Winter 1
Competitive Cheer .....	Winter 1
Basketball.....	Winter 2
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. The exam date must be performed on or after April 15<sup>th</sup> to be valid for the following school year.**

**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.**

**MHSAA physical forms may be picked up in the middle school office, in the high school athletic office, in the Superintendent's office or are available online at [mhsaa.com](http://mhsaa.com).**

**Many sports not listed above are available to middle school students through a club setting.**

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## **STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW**

**Spring Lake Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and transgender identity), disability, age, height, weight, marital or family status, religion, military status ancestry, genetic information or any other legally protected category (collectively, “Protected Classes”), in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities.**

**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  
345 Hammond Street  
Spring Lake, MI 49456  
616-846-5500**