

**Van Buren Middle School
Curriculum Report
District Strategic Planning 2015-2016**

All middle school students take the following core courses and each has a 57 minute class period daily:

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language Arts 6 OR Advanced Language Arts 6 • Math 6 OR Advanced Math 6 (which is Math 7) • Science 6 • Social Studies 6 (World History/Geography) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language Arts 7 OR Advanced Language Arts 7 • Math 7 OR Advanced Math 7 (which is Math 8) • Science 7 • Social Studies 7 (World History/Geography) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language Arts 8 OR Advanced Language Arts 8 • Math 8 OR Algebra 1 (for HS credit) • Science 8 OR Physical Science (for HS credit) • American History 8

All middle school students take the following exploratory courses that meet for 46 minutes:

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Education 6 (semester) • Art 6 (quarter) • Health 6 (quarter) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Education 7 (quarter) • Intro to Ag 7 (quarter) • Home Resource Management 7 (quarter) • Health 7 (quarter) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Education 8 (quarter) • Art 8 (quarter) • Design 8 (quarter) • Health 8 (quarter)

All middle school students take elective courses/music courses that meet for 46 minutes:

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choir 6 (all year) • Band 6 (all year) • Music 6 (semester) <p>* Students take choir and/or band OR music</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choir 7 & 8 (all year) • Band 7 & 8 (all year) • Genius Hour (semester) • Cooking Basics (semester) • Photography (semester) • Chinese Culture (semester) <p>*Students take choir and/or band OR the other electives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choir 7 & 8 (all year) • Band 7 & 8 (all year) • Genius Hour (semester) • Cooking Basics (semester) • Photography (semester) • Chinese Culture (semester) <p>*Students take choir and/or band OR the other electives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spanish 1 (all year - for HS credit) • French 1 (all year - for HS credit) • Chinese 1 (all year - for HS credit)

Universal supports for students include:

- Daily homebase (46 minute) and academic assist (14 minute) time for individual and small-group intervention, organization, reassessment, etc. Eighth graders taking a world language do not have homebase.
- Project MORE reading intervention/mentoring program
- Summer math intervention program (one week in early August)

Courses we would like to offer, but cannot due to a lack of licensed personnel:

- Art 7
- Technology courses (coding/programming, Project Lead the Way, etc.)
- World languages in grades 6 and 7

Support and/or personnel that would take Van Buren Middle School to the “next level”:

- Part-time art teacher (which would allow for HS art offerings to be expanded as well)
- Curriculum director/coordinator (districtwide)
- Gifted intervention specialist for grades 6-8
- Guidance counselor for grades 6-8 (we currently contract with Family Resource Center for 5 hours of counseling services weekly, which is not sufficient)

Advanced Coursework:

Students are identified for advanced courses and 8th grade world language courses through gifted identification and/or high nationally-normed standardized testing scores (not the state tests). Between 15-25% of a grade level takes the advanced courses (advanced LA 6,7,8; advanced math 6, 7; Algebra 1, Physical Science). Approximately 45% of our eighth graders are taking the first level of a world language (for HS credit) this year.

The good news:

For a school our size, we offer a number of opportunities to our students. If you were to compile course listings like above for the middle schools in Findlay City Schools, it would be very lean as they have cut to minimum offerings. The philosophy of the middle school (versus a “junior high” model) is to provide students diverse experiences as they begin deciding upon a college or career pathway. As one parent commented during the facilities meeting, it’s great to be in a school where both vocational agriculture and Chinese are taught!