



2017-18 GRADE 8 COURSE OFFERINGS

Course Planning Worksheets: Examples are based on the courses students are enrolled in (i.e. math, music and/or Spanish). The example courses are NOT in order but this is merely a worksheet to determine registration options.

EXAMPLE # 1: **HONORS MATH , PHYSICAL SCIENCE, MUSIC and SPANISH**

Core Courses:	1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
	Honors Algebra I or Honors Geometry	Honors Algebra I or Honors Geometry
	Physical Science (must be enrolled in Algebra I or Honors Geometry)	Physical Science (must be enrolled in Algebra I or Honors Geometry)
	Language Arts or Language Arts Seminar	Language Arts or Language Arts Seminar
	US History or US History Seminar	US History or US History Seminar
No room for other HS credit options if taking both Spanish and Music	HS Credit Option: Band, Orchestra, or Chorus	HS Credit Option: Band, Orchestra, or Chorus
	HS Credit Option: Spanish	HS Credit Option: Spanish
Enrichment, Intervention, or Research Period	8th Grade Sprint Science (required with Physical Science)	Enrichment, or Research Period

EXAMPLE # 2: **Any student taking SPANISH and MUSIC**

Core Courses:	1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
	Pre-Algebra	Pre-Algebra
	8 th Grade Science	8 th Grade Science
	Language Arts or Language Arts Seminar	Language Arts or Language Arts Seminar
	US History or US History Seminar	US History or US History Seminar
No room for other HS credit options if taking both Spanish and Music	HS Credit Option: Band, Orchestra, Chorus,	HS Credit Option: Band, Orchestra, Chorus,
	HS Credit Option: Spanish	HS Credit Option: Spanish
Enrichment, Intervention, or Research Period	Enrichment, Intervention, or Research Period	Enrichment, Intervention, or Research Period



EXAMPLE # 3: Any student NOT taking MUSIC or SPANISH

Core Courses:	1st Semester	2nd Semester
	Pre-Algebra	Pre-Algebra
	8 th Grade Science	8 th Grade Science
	Language Arts or Language Arts Seminar	Language Arts or Language Arts Seminar
	US History or US History Seminar	US History or US History Seminar
Electives:	HS Credit Option:	HS Credit Option:
	HS Credit Option:	HS Credit Option:
Enrichment, Intervention, or Research Period	Enrichment, Intervention, or Research Period	Enrichment, Intervention, or Research Period

EXAMPLE # 4: Any student taking MUSIC

Core Courses:	1st Semester	2nd Semester
	Pre-Algebra	Pre-Algebra
	8 th Grade Science	8 th Grade Science
	Language Arts or Language Arts Seminar	Language Arts or Language Arts Seminar
	US History or US History Seminar	US History or US History Seminar
Electives:	HS Credit Option: Band, Orchestra, Chorus	HS Credit Option: Band, Orchestra, Chorus
	HS Credit Option:	HS Credit Option:
Enrichment, Intervention, or Research Period	Enrichment, Intervention, or Research Period	Enrichment, Intervention, or Research Period



Notes:

- **Enrichment courses** can be taken only once during the two years offered (unless indicated).
- **Research period** may be taken for one or two semesters.
- **Lunch** fits into the schedule during the 5th bell class.
- **Students with IEP's** will be hand scheduled based on information gathered by the intervention specialist (both current and new) and parent requests. They will not need to register electronically.
- Course highlighted in blue have **links to video** descriptions as well.

HS credit earned at MMS will...

- appear on the Mason High School transcript,
- factor into the student's GPA,
- count towards the credits needed for graduation.

ACADEMIC HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT OPTIONS:

ALGEBRA I (1.0 Credit-Math) **YEAR LONG**

Algebra I sets the foundation for study of higher mathematics. Primary emphasis will be on the solution of linear, quadratic and exponential equations and operations with polynomials including order of operations, factoring, radical expressions, graphing equations and inequalities, solving systems of equations and interpreting data. Conceptual understanding and utilizing Algebra as a problem-solving tool will be emphasized.

HONORS GEOMETRY (1.0 Credit-Math) **YEAR LONG**

Honors Geometry utilizes a theoretical-proof approach to examine the theorems, properties, vocabulary and concepts of shapes. Coordinate, transformational and synthetic perspectives will be explored, emphasizing algebraic-geometric connections. There will be extensive use of a computer-based geometry program to preview, reinforce and gain mastery of geometric concepts.

High School Math Pathways:

Algebra I (regular or honors) → Geometry (regular or honors) → Algebra II (regular or honors) → AP Statistics or Precalculus (regular or honors) or Advanced Quantitative Reasoning → Calculus (regular or AP)

PHYSICAL SCIENCE (1.0 Credit-Science) **YEAR LONG**

Requirements for Physical Science: Students must....

- be enrolled in Algebra I or higher math course by the start of the 2017-18 year.
- take the 8th grade SPRINT science course because they will be taking the 8th grade science assessment at the end of the year (1 semester).

Physical science introduces students to key concepts and theories that provide a foundation for further study in other sciences and advanced science disciplines. Physical science comprises the



systematic study of the physical world as it relates to fundamental concepts about matter, energy and motion. A unified understanding of phenomena in physical, living, Earth and space systems is the culmination of all previously learned concepts related to chemistry, physics, and Earth and space science, along with historical perspective and mathematical reasoning. *This is not an honors course.*

High School Science School Pathways:

Physical Science → Biology → Chemistry

Students can also take advantage of the credit flex program, College Credit Plus, or double up science courses at Mason High School.

Additional courses available: Physical Geology, Environmental Science, Physics, Forensics, Zoology, Honors Anatomy, AP Bio, AP Chem, AP Physics I, AP Physics C - Mechanics, AP Physics C - Electricity and Magnetism, Biomedical Science, Medical Interventions, etc.

AND

8th Grade SPRINT SCIENCE (Must be taken if enrolled in Physical Science)

1 SEMESTER

Students taking the physical science course are required to take this course, which is a condensed version of the 8th grade year-long science course. This will prepare students for science concepts necessary for high school biology. This class will meet daily for one semester.

ELECTIVE HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT OPTIONS:

SPANISH I (1.0 Credit-World Language) **YEAR LONG**

Maturity, good study habits and effective time management will ultimately lead to success in forming one's foundation of the Spanish language. Students will be introduced to complex grammar topics in this high school course which build upon the basic language skills they learned in 7th grade Spanish. Previously learned and new vocabulary is expected to be put correctly into context in writing compositions and oral presentations throughout the year. Students will be expected to complete nightly homework assignments and weekly assessments that focus on the use of Spanish in all aspects of the language: Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking. Students will be expected to communicate in class on a novice level through daily interactions in the target language. This rigorous course requires students to have high-school-level responsibilities with practice and preparation occurring outside of the classroom.

HEALTH EDUCATION (0.5 Credit-Health) **1 SEMESTER**

This is a High School Course with rigorous content. This course goes in depth on topics such as drugs, alcohol, nutrition, eating disorders, mental health, and current health issues. It will also provide age-appropriate information about S.T.D.'s and human sexuality. Abstinence is the main focus for this health course. The State of Ohio requires that all students shall successfully complete one semester of Health before graduation. [Health Website](#)



PHYSICAL EDUCATION (0.25 Credit-PE) 1 SEMESTER

Physical education at the 8th grade level is designed to emphasize personal fitness and health through game play, team sports, individual sports, and fitness testing. This course will take the place of Physical Education 1 at the high school. There will be an emphasis on physical fitness throughout the class, weight room etiquette and usage will be introduced, explained and experienced. Written and skills tests will be given throughout the semester.

EXPLORATIONS IN ART (0.5 Credit- Fine Arts) 1 SEMESTER

The eighth grade art program is split into two different art courses, 888A & 888B. Each course allows students to experience a variety of visual art concepts. Both courses are available during the 1st and 2nd semester.

- During “888A” the students will work with Watercolor Painting, Printmaking, Metals, Textiles and a professional quality Computer Graphic Program.
- During “888B” the students will work with Drawing, Glass, Sculpture, Ceramics and a professional quality Computer Graphic Program.

DIGITAL IMAGE DESIGN I (0.5 Credit- Fine Arts) 1 SEMESTER

This course introduces students to computers as a medium for creating fine and commercial art. It centers on using hand drawing techniques, Photoshop, and Illustrator to create these exciting works. Students study how images are used to sell and express ideas. Emphasis is on technical skill, composition, and expression. Basic imaging equipment, such as scanners, cameras, drawing tablets, light booths and more are used throughout the course. *This is the same course offered by MHS.*

INTRODUCTION TO CONCERT BAND (0.5 Credit- Fine Arts) YEAR LONG

Students will be introduced to “comprehensive musicianship” through music performance of challenging and varied literature. Students will continue to develop their knowledge of music theory, begin to analyze and evaluate music, and use critical-thinking skills to make refinements in their performance. Individual and ensemble performance skills will be expanded through musical expression and technical accuracy. Students with no prior band experience interested in participating in 8th grade band must take private lessons and work on their own to achieve the same level of performance as the students with two years of experience. *Students in Eighth Grade Band will perform in at least two concerts a year and one band contest.*

INTRODUCTION TO CONCERT CHOIR (0.5 Credit- Fine Arts) YEAR LONG

Students will develop and practice choral tone production, proper vocal technique, and musical expression through varied literature. Students will develop effective rehearsal skills, expand their knowledge of music theory, begin to analyze and evaluate music, and use critical-thinking skills to make refinements in their performance. *Students in Eighth Grade Choir are required to perform in at least three concerts a year and one choral contest.*

INTRODUCTION TO FRESHMEN ORCHESTRA (0.5 Credit- Fine Arts) YEAR LONG

Students will expand their knowledge of skills learned in the previous year. Students will refine their technical skills through varied literature and enhance their performance through musical



expression. Students will continue to develop their knowledge of music theory, begin to analyze and evaluate music, and use critical-thinking skills to make refinements in their performance. In addition to large-group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in adjudicated solo and ensemble contests and private lessons. Students with no prior orchestra experience interested in participating in 8th grade orchestra must take private lessons and work on their own to achieve the same level of performance as the students with two years of experience. An audition may be required for students that did not participate in 7th grade orchestra. *Students in Eighth Grade Orchestra are required to perform in at least two concerts a year and one orchestral contest.*

CS DISCOVERIES (0.5 Credit- Technology) 1 SEMESTER

Computer Science Discoveries (CS Discoveries) is an introductory computer science course that empowers students to create authentic artifacts and engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun. Computer Science Discoveries is an accessible and engaging course for all students, regardless of background or prior experience. By providing students opportunities to engage with culturally and personally relevant topics in a wide variety of CS related fields, we hope to show all students that CS can be for them. Computer Science encompasses far more than just coding, and CS Discoveries will provide students with opportunities to explore the many facets of CS, both in terms of how they are personally relevant as well as how they impact society. Possible units include: Problem Solving, Web Development, Interactive Games and Animations, The Design Process, Data and Society, as well as Programming.

IC3 DIGITAL LITERACY CERTIFICATION (0.5 Credit- Technology) 1 SEMESTER YEAR LONG ONLINE COURSE

Technology has become a part of our everyday lives, and understanding how to function in environments that require the use of computers and the Internet is more critical now than ever before. So, whether you plan to pursue a career in IT, or simply become more effective with technology, the [IC3 Digital Literacy Certification](#) is your solution. **This blended online course will be taken as a “0 Bell” with most content delivered online.** Students will be expected to attend labs, project briefings, and other in-person events several times throughout the semester. These may be before or after school a few times each quarter. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to take a certification exam to verify their skills. That verification can then be used on resumes, internship applications, college applications and more! *The exam certification requires a \$75 fee.*

ACADEMIC ELECTIVE COURSES:

These courses are designed as a stretch experience for students who want and/or need a challenge. This will be taken in place of the typical core academic course. These are NOT honors courses but recommended in preparation for the honors course at the high school level.

LANGUAGE ARTS SEMINAR 2 SEMESTERS (in place of typical course)

This course is designed to enhance the enrichment opportunities at Mason Middle School and increase opportunity for academic rigor and depth of content knowledge through the use of



alternative teaching strategies, challenging reading & writing pieces, experiential exercises, and portfolio projects. The classroom structure allows time for in-depth immersion in unit content to help students independently gain basic background knowledge. This course, *is not a prerequisite for Honors English I but it is recommended to help students prepare for Honors English I.*

US HISTORY SEMINAR 2 SEMESTERS (in place of typical course)

This course is designed to enhance the enrichment opportunities at Mason Middle School and increase opportunity for academic rigor and depth of content knowledge through the use of alternative teaching strategies, challenging reading & writing pieces, experiential exercises, and portfolio projects. The classroom structure will allow time for in-depth immersion in unit concepts through the use of the concept of a “flipped classroom” to help students independently gain basic background knowledge and offer the opportunity to challenge themselves in history. *This is not a prerequisite for Honors World History or AP Human Geography but recommended.*

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT COURSES: (students may take one each semester)

Students may take two of these courses. The purpose of these courses is to serve the needs of our students identified as gifted. In addition, students who have a passion for the identified content area may also elect to sign up for an enrichment course to further his/her learning. The goal is to provide a stretch opportunity for students and challenging their thinking and/or learning process.

8th GRADE STEM LAB (SCIENCE) 1 SEMESTER

The 8th Grade STEM lab class will feature a project-based curriculum that will challenge students to think like scientists, problem solve, and work in collaborative learning groups to reach a common goal. Students will follow the engineering and design process to research, design, build, and test solutions to real-world problems, while developing critical thinking skills, creativity, and a greater interest in science. In this course we will design and print 3D models, design and test the energy efficiency of Zero Energy homes, learn basic electronic components and circuit design, and try out programming an Arduino board with some beginner Arduino projects. *This course was created for students who were unable to enroll in Coding & Robotics or Engineering and Design in grade 7.*

MATH THAT MATTERS (Application of Discrete Math) – 1 SEMESTER

This course is intended to broaden the motivated student's perspective regarding the modern day use of mathematics in topics such as, nature, science, industry, economics and politics. Students will get a glimpse of nontraditional mathematics while strengthening their current knowledge of math by exploring games puzzles and creating unit projects.

PROJECT CITIZEN (HISTORY) 1 SEMESTER

This course is designed to challenge students by discussing the functions of government and the role of the citizen within it. The topics discussed in the class are heavily determined by the questions students ask and topics they want to explore. The students will begin to form their own opinions on the role of the citizen, the government and real-world issues. The goal of the course is to create citizens with the skills needed to make our democracy successful. Students



will then apply this new knowledge on the final project where the students will be actively engaged in the public policy process. Project Citizen is an exciting hands-on project where students have the chance to advocate for the creation of public or school policy to solve a problem that they self-identify. Students will have the exciting opportunity to apply their learning by interacting with our state government in Columbus. A **field trip** can be taken up to the state capital to meet with members of the 3 governing branches.

SPEAK UP, WRITE NOW (LANGUAGE ARTS) 1 SEMESTER

WANTED: Creative thinkers, writers, speakers, and performers. Flex your intellectual muscles in creativity challenges. Cultivate your comedic side in witty writing pieces. Command the stage in skits, Open Mic performances, and acting games. Welcome to Speak Up, Write Now, a gravity-defying realm of creativity and challenge, designed for students who crave time to write and share their artistic creations! Push yourself beyond your boundaries into new ways of thinking, writing, and speaking. Perfect the art of humorous writing and exercise your imagination. Make your voice heard in weekly Open MIC sessions, That is Disturbing! commentaries, Urban Legend retellings, Super Sentence challenges, and Why Did the Chicken...? competitions. If you love writing and are looking for a fun, challenging opportunity to stretch your creative boundaries, then this course is for you!

WILD READERS (LANGUAGE ARTS) 1 SEMESTER

If your “Books to Read Next” list is several pages long instead of several titles . . . if your lunchtime conversations center around books you and your friends are reading . . . if you turn to your own book any time you have a spare minute or two during class . . . then Wild Readers enrichment class is the elective for you! Wild Readers was designed for students who want to participate in a vibrant community of readers who are eager to challenge themselves and others to read deeply and widely. While students will primarily select their own books, they will also dig into a weekly article, story, or poem. Students will deepen their thinking through lively conversations as well as contributions to class “Big Idea” notebooks to reflect on authors’ development of the topics that shape human lives and other writing opportunities. The culminating experience for the semester will be a multimedia interpretation of a self-selected text. Please note that this is not a class for remedial readers who need intervention to overcome skills deficits.

MASON IN THE MIDDLE (LANGUAGE ARTS) 1 SEMESTER

Mason in the Middle is seeking aspiring editors, sports enthusiasts, savvy social media users, creative artists, technology gurus, photographers, video makers, and ambitious reporters with the ability to tell stories and create content for our online newspaper. The official news website and online newspaper of Mason Middle School, Mason in the Middle, is powered by the nationally-renowned, award-winning high school newspaper The Chronicle and its staff. We are a growing team and are looking for self-motivated, high-achieving students who can report on what matters most to our readers--the events and issues happening right here at Mason Middle School.

ADVANCED JOURNALISM (LANGUAGE ARTS) 1 SEMESTER



Advanced Journalism is for aspiring editors, sports enthusiasts, savvy social media users, creative artists, technology gurus, photographers, video makers, and ambitious reporters with the ability to tell stories and create content for our online newspaper and are willing to take on more of a leadership role. These students will need the recommendation of their language arts teacher as well as their seventh grade SUWN or MIM teacher. The official news website and online newspaper of Mason Middle School, Mason in the Middle, is powered by the nationally-renowned, award-winning high school newspaper The Chronicle and its staff. *This course is created for students who have already taken Mason in the Middle or Speak Up, Write Now and needs a teacher recommendation.*

EMPOWER (HEALTH/PE) 1 SEMESTER

Empower is a course designed to give 8th grade girls an opportunity to learn about and practice healthy habits. The main objective of this course is to provide young ladies with the tools they need to feel EMPOWERed on a daily basis. A typical week includes three days of classroom instruction and two days of fitness activities. Instruction topics include: self-esteem, problem-solving, goal-setting, effective communication, healthy relationships, body image, etc. Fitness days include: yoga, pilates, zumba, aerobic activities, strength training, etc. [Empower Website](#)

RESEARCH PERIOD 1 or 2 SEMESTERS

This course will be a place to provide support for students in their core academic classes. Students will have the opportunity to complete assignments, work on projects, investigate academic topics, and complete independent study. Students receive a grade for the course but it is not factored into their GPA.

GRADING FOR ENRICHMENT COURSES/ RESEARCH PERIOD

It is our expectation that students who are enrolled in an enrichment course have selected it because they are either interested in the extra challenge of the content area and/or have a specific interest in the content. We truly believe that students in these courses have the ability to be very successful and we want to stretch their knowledge and understanding of the content area chosen. While there is minimal homework, students will be assessed on their ability to perform the tasks assigned. The grading scale reflects that belief.

A Invested means that a student is going above and beyond the minimum expectations in participation and/or products produced.

B Meets expectations as set forth by the teacher.

I Student has Not Yet met the expectations of the course; therefore corrective action has been taken in the form of a performance plan. This grade may only be used on the progress report.

F Student failed to meet the expectations for the course even after creating a performance plan. Student chose to remain in the course even after the recommendation to transition to a research period elective due to lack of progress.



If there is a concern regarding student progress, the teacher will have a conversation with the student at the 4.5 week mark, contact the parents, and create a performance contract which includes student self-monitoring. After an additional 4.5 weeks, a decision regarding removal will be made if no significant progress has been made.

INTERVENTION COURSES

These courses are designed to offer academic support to students based on academic data as well as performance data both in the current and previous school years.

MATH INTERVENTION or LANGUAGE ARTS INTERVENTION

Students may be assigned an intervention course for one or two semesters to supplement their regular language arts or math course in an effort to close gaps. This placement is based on achievement data collected during the previous and/or current school year. This class takes the place of one of the student's research or enrichment bells.

FOR STUDENTS WITH IEP's ONLY

You will schedule your courses through the intervention specialist. Student selections will be hand-entered into the system.

STUDY SKILLS YEAR LONG

This course is assigned to students identified by an **Individual Education Plan (IEP)** with the purpose of assisting them in the development of effective and successful academic, social and emotional strategies to help them achieve success at the middle school level. Interventions are put into place to assist students as they prepare to transition to high school. Students will be assisted in monitoring their progress and working with the teacher to meet their specific academic goals.

APPLIED MATH YEAR LONG

This course is for students who have below grade level math skills or who have failed the math Performance Indicators, CBE, or performed poorly on the State Achievement Test. Teachers may also recommend students. Students meet daily for individualized and/or small-group instruction focusing on the mathematical gaps. *This class is in place of the regular grade-level math class.*

APPLIED LANGUAGE ARTS YEAR LONG

This course is for students who have below grade level language artsskills or who have performed poorly on classroom assessments, district assessment, or the State Achievement Test. Students meet daily for individualized and/or small-group instruction focusing on the language gaps. *This class is in place of the regular grade-level language arts class.*

Other Helpful Information:

[Mason High School Course Catalog](#)

HS Graduation Requirements 22 Credits

English

4 Credits



Math	4 Credits
Science	3 Credits
Social Studies	4 Credits
Physical Education	.25 Credit or PE waiver*
Health	.5 Credit
Technology	.5 Credit
Financial Literacy	.5 Credit
Fine Arts	1 Credit

Most colleges require 2-3 years of a world language**

***PE Waiver** option is available to students in grades 9-12 participating in HS sports, cheer, or marching band ([complete list available in MHS Course Catalog](#)).

** **World Languages** offered at MHS: German, French, Spanish, American Sign Language, and Mandarin.

[College Credit Plus Information](#)

Credit Flex Information is located on page 7 of MHS course catalog. This process can be started once the student is declared a 9th grader (the summer after the 8th grade year).

[Summer School Options for 8th grade students](#): Blended Online Digital Image Design I, Health Education, and Physical Education (only available after the 8th grade school year)

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

- Students identified as gifted are served through our math honors, seminar, and enrichment courses.
- Grades earned in the spring semester will affect athletic eligibility for the fall of the following year.
- MMS students do not receive planners and have access to an online calendar.
- MMS students do not carry backpacks to class; drawstring sized bag and/or Chromebook bag are allowable.
- If your child is testing for an honors math course this spring, they will register based on their current math course in the sequence. The math course will be changed by the administration as appropriate.
- Traditionally, there are a limited number of spaces in some of our enrichment courses based on the total number of students who sign up and the need to balance out the schedule. That being said, students may not receive their first choice of course but there are plenty of options available thus the reason students are asked to rank the choices.

MMS Course Registration Opens on Friday, March 17th @ 6:00AM. The registration link will be sent to the student's Mason email.

MMS Course Registration Closes on Tuesday, March 21st @ 11:59PM



Revised 3/17

