

**Oxford Middle School  
Curriculum Guide 2021-2022  
Eighth Grade**

Oxford Middle School is an International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme school. Students are required to participate in an inquiry-based curriculum in the following areas: Language and Literature, Individuals & Societies, Mathematics, Sciences, Language Acquisition, Design, Arts and Physical Education/Health.

<b>Music Students</b>	<b>Non-Music Students</b>
<p><b>Choose between Band, Choir, or Orchestra</b></p> <p>Music students may choose a second music class but he/she will split time equally between the two classes.</p>	<p>Non-Music students must choose <u>one</u> of the following semester electives:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Art                      Ceramics                      Theatre</b></p>
<p>Music students will choose <u>one</u> of the following semester electives, in order of preference:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PLTW III <b>or</b> Intro to Computer Programming</p> <p><i>*Students may not be enrolled in their first choice. Requests are filled as best as possible.</i></p>	<p>Non-Music students will choose <u>one</u> of the following semester electives, in order of preference:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PLTW III <b>or</b> Intro to Computer Programming</p> <p><i>*Students may not be enrolled in their first choice. Requests are filled as best as possible.</i></p>
<p><b>Must take:</b> Physical Education - one semester</p>	<p><b>Must take:</b> Physical Education - year-long</p>
<p><b>May substitute:</b> Newspaper or Yearbook for PLTW and P.E. and Intro to Computer Programming</p>	<p><b>May substitute:</b> Newspaper or Yearbook for PLTW and Intro to Computer Programming</p>
<p>Remediation in reading and math may be recommended for students who would benefit from these classes based on standardized test scores and screeners in Reading and Math.</p>	

**CORE COURSES**

**Advisory - 8**

**Year-Long**

Oxford Middle School integrates Advisory into the daily fabric of learning which consists of a coordinated set of activities intended to build the whole learner. These activities are rooted in the rich tradition of Oxford Community Schools: Communication and Problem Solving, Diversity and Global Awareness, IB/MYP Objectives, School Improvement Based Goals, Team Building and Individual Development. It is during this time we focus on the Olweus Bully Prevention Program and welcome OHS Bully Busters and WEB Leaders to the classrooms, participate in academic discussions about our progress with 1:1 conferences with our Advisory teacher, learn about current events, enjoy staff vs. student competitions, and show our school spirit by competing for Wildcat Points. Our vision is that we are Better Everyday...and it is during Advisory that we decide what we want to BE and create goals to BE it!

**Geometry - 8 (Prerequisite: successful completion of Algebra I)**

**Year-Long**

This course examines the relationships and properties of lines, surfaces and polygons. In addition, students learn to logically organize persuasive arguments through the study and development of proofs. Topics include parallel lines, congruent and similar triangles, transformations, polygons and their properties, area, 3 dimensional figures with their volumes and surface area, circles and their properties and coordinate geometry.

***Successful completion prepares students to enter Algebra II in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, which will satisfy State of Michigan MME requirements for Algebra and Geometry. High school credit will be awarded if the student earns a 78% for a year-long grade. Student's grade will be recorded on high school transcript but will not be counted for high school GPA.***

**OR**

**Algebra 1 - 8 (Prerequisite: successful completion of Accelerated Math 7)**

**Year-Long**

Algebra I is the student's first course in higher level abstract mathematics. Much of the time will be spent connecting these abstractions to real-life problems. The focus of the course is learning the "rules" of algebra. Time is spent working with expressions, equations, inequalities, and functions (linear, quadratic, and exponential). Students reason about number systems, number sense, representations and relationships. Of particular importance is the graphing of functions, enhanced by graphing calculator use.

***Successful completion prepares students to enter Geometry in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, which will satisfy State of Michigan MME requirements for Algebra and Geometry. High school credit will be awarded if the student earns a 78% for a year-long grade. Student's grade will be recorded on high school transcript but will not be counted for high school GPA.***

**OR**

### Math - 8

Year-Long

Math 8 is designed to provide practice in the fundamentals of solving problems arithmetically, graphically and algebraically. Basic concepts in algebra are reviewed early and practiced throughout the year. Students will reinforce arithmetic operations of real numbers through a variety of instructional techniques. Topics include algebraic equation solving, geometric transformation, angle relationships, linear relationships, systems of equations, functions, the Pythagorean Theorem, two-variable statistics and exponents. ***This class is a transition to 9<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra I.***

OR

### Direct Instruction Math – 8

Year-Long

Direct Instruction Math 8 is designed to provide practice in the fundamentals of solving problems arithmetically, graphically and algebraically. Basic concepts in algebra are reviewed early and practiced throughout the year. Students will reinforce arithmetic operations of real numbers through a variety of instructional techniques. Topics include number manipulation, integers, algebra expressions and equations, graphs, transformations, Pythagorean Theorem, and two-variable statistics. ***This class is a transition to 9<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra I. Students with special needs may be placed in this class for specialized instruction based on the recommendation from the IEP team. Students will access the general education curriculum with modifications based on their needs as stated in their IEP.***

### American History - 8

Year-Long

In American History, the students will gain an understanding of the early development of the United States from the ratification of the Constitution to the beginning of the twentieth century. Students will be provided with a balanced examination of the history of the United States. Geography, economics and civics will be included in the historical units of this course. Through the study of the emergence of the Constitution and the development of American Institutions, students will develop a commitment to the democratic values of our national heritage. Students will complete the study of American History from the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century to the present in their high school courses.

### English Language Arts – 9 (ELA-9)

Year-Long

***ELA-9 placement will be based on performance data (ELA 7, FAST assessments, & 6<sup>th</sup> grade M-Step). Eligible students will be contacted.***

This course will follow the curriculum for English 9 at Oxford High School. In this course, students will analyze elements of literary genres, including short story, drama, autobiography, and poetry. The literature selections are organized into thematic units, which explore such topics as human nature, life stories, and heroic journeys. In addition, students work with basic essay structure and concepts related to expository writing, and they compose several formal writing pieces. Spelling, vocabulary, and grammar are regular components of the class. ***High school credit will be awarded if the student earns a 78% or higher on average for the year. Student's grade will be recorded on high school transcript but will not be counted for high school GPA.***

OR

### English Language Arts - 8

Year-Long

The eighth grade English language arts curriculum expands the development of literacy through each of the language arts. In reading, students use context as a basis for predicting meaning of unfamiliar words, they self-correct using knowledge of language structure, and they use sound-symbol relationships. In writing, students continue to refine their use of the writing process and compose readable drafts using appropriate spelling conventions and grammar. Through the use of classic and contemporary literature and other text referring to our common teenage culture, eighth graders explore a variety of topics in the units of study.

OR

### Direct Instruction Language Arts – 8

Year-Long

The eighth grade English language arts curriculum expands the development of literacy through each of the language arts. In reading, students use context as a basis for predicting meaning of unfamiliar words, they self-correct using knowledge of language structure, and they use sound-symbol relationships. In writing, students continue to refine their use of the writing process and compose readable drafts using appropriate spelling conventions and grammar. Through the use of classic and contemporary literature and other text referring to our common teenage culture, eighth graders explore a variety of topics in the units of study. ***Students with special needs may be placed in this class for specialized instruction based on the recommendation from the IEP team. Students will access the general education curriculum with modifications based on their needs as stated in their IEP.***

### Earth Science - 8

Year-Long

8<sup>th</sup> grade science is a year-long course exploring four aspects of science: Life science, Chemistry, Earth Science and Physical Science. The life science unit is organized around three clusters of ideas: heredity, variation within and between species, and natural selection. These three clusters of ideas focus on different levels of organization: the individual, species, and populations. The chemistry unit serves to deepen understandings of the molecular aspects of how food provides organisms with energy and building blocks as well as the chemical reactions and energy conversions that occur during photosynthesis and cellular respiration. The Earth science unit focuses on plate tectonics and builds on key conceptual understandings including the conservation of matter, convection, and energy transfer. Lastly, the physical science unit contextualizes concepts dealing with forces and motion in students' real-world experiences.

## World Language Spanish

### Spanish 2 (Prerequisite: Spanish 1-A and 1-B)

Year-Long

Students who successfully completed both Spanish 1A and 1B in 6th and 7th grade will be placed into this course their 8th grade year. This class provides students with the second year of their study of the language and culture of the Spanish speaking world. Each student will work on attaining an acceptable degree of proficiency in the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will be encouraged to use Spanish for communication and self-expression. Students will be able to hear and practice the language, be paired with others learning to speak the language, and interact with the teacher, as well as listen to native speakers. **One (1) high school credit will be awarded if the student earns a 78% for a year-long grade. Student's grade will be recorded on high school transcript but will not be counted for high school GPA.**

OR

### Spanish 1-B (Prerequisite: Spanish 1-A or placement test)

Year-Long

8<sup>th</sup> grade students who did not successfully pass Spanish 1-B during their 7<sup>th</sup> grade year will be placed in Spanish 1-B again. This class completes the first year introduction to the language and culture of the Spanish speaking world. Essentially, this year-long class is the second half of Spanish I. Each student will work on attaining an acceptable degree of proficiency in the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will be encouraged to use Spanish for communication and self-expression. Students will be able to hear and practice the language, be paired with others learning to speak the language, and interact with the teacher, as well as listen to native speakers. From the start, students realize that the Hispanic culture directly affects their lives in many ways. **1/2 High School credit will be awarded if the student earns a 78% for a year-long grade. Student's grade will be recorded on high school transcript but will not be counted for high school GPA.**

OR

### Spanish 1 (8<sup>th</sup> Grade only)

Year-Long

This class is for students who have not had either a Chinese or Spanish foreign language class or who have not gained middle school credit in either Spanish 1-A or 1-B. Spanish I provides an introduction to the language and culture of the Spanish-speaking world. Essentially, this year-long class is a traditionally paced Spanish I class. Each student will work on attaining an acceptable degree of proficiency in the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will be encouraged to use Spanish for communication and self-expression. Students will be able to hear and practice the language, be paired with others learning to speak the language, and interact with the teacher, as well as listen to native speakers. From the start, students realize that the Hispanic culture directly affects their lives in many ways. **One (1) high school credit will be awarded if the student earns a 78% for a year-long grade. Student's grade will be recorded on high school transcript but will not be counted for high school GPA.**

## World Language Chinese

### Chinese 2 (8<sup>th</sup> Grade Only - Prerequisite: Chinese 1-A and 1-B)

Year-Long

Students will continue to enrich their Chinese language knowledge and develop their communication skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will improve on sentence structures and expand their vocabulary through various class activities and projects. Students will also explore Chinese culture. **One (1) high School credit will be awarded if the student earns a 78% for a year-long grade. Student's grade will be recorded on high school transcript but will not be counted for high school GPA.**

OR

### Chinese 1-B (Prerequisite: Chinese 1-A)

Year-Long

8<sup>th</sup> grade students who did not successfully pass Chinese 1-B during their 7<sup>th</sup> grade year will be placed in Chinese 1-B again. This class completes the first year introduction to the language and culture of the Chinese speaking world. Essentially, this year-long class is the second half of Chinese I. Each student will work on attaining an acceptable degree of proficiency in the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will be encouraged to use Chinese for communication and self-expression. Students will be able to hear and practice the language, be paired with others learning to speak the language, and interact with the teacher, as well as listen to native speakers. From the start, students realize that the Chinese culture directly affects their lives in many ways. **1/2 high school credit will be awarded if the student earns a 78% for a year-long grade. Student's grade will be recorded on high school transcript but will not be counted for high school GPA.**

## **ELECTIVE COURSES**

### **Choir - 8**

**Year-Long**

The Oxford Middle School Festival Choir is a performance based class for students who like to sing. Students will learn more about the correct way to sing through a variety of quality music literature, including pieces in foreign languages. They will sing music in different styles and genres, including jazz, blues, swing, show tunes, and folksongs. The Festival Choir performs four concerts during the year. In addition, students have the opportunity to participate in many other musical activities such as Solo and Ensemble Festival, Choral Festival and performing at community events. This class will help all students enjoy singing and maximize their potential. The overall aim of music performance is to achieve self-growth and enjoyment by educating musicianship that will serve the whole person.

### **Band - 8**

**Year-Long**

This year-long course is designed for students who have completed at least two years of study on a band instrument. Students are expected to be performing at grade level on their instruments. They should be striving to maintain excellent team-oriented discipline. Elements of music are approached through challenging, interesting, and enriching activities. Solo and group contests provide competitive opportunities for students to receive constructive criticism from adjudicators outside the district. There are four concerts per year, plus an adjudicated festival performance.

### **Orchestra - 8**

**Year-Long**

8<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra is for students interested in furthering their knowledge and skills on their stringed instrument. In this class, students will continue to develop and refine their musical skills such as tone production, music reading, and accuracy of pitch through the playing of orchestra literature. Students are encouraged to perform on an individual basis and participate in small or large ensembles. Students should anticipate possible after-school practices and evening performances. Out of school concerts and contest trips are also part of the class requirements. Students participate in three concerts that include participation in the MSBOA orchestra festival. Students may also elect to participate in the MSBOA solo and ensemble festival. Previous participation in orchestra and an audition/meeting with the conductor is required. Ownership or rental of an instrument is required for class participation and students will be required to purchase a Method book.

### **Physical Education - 8**

**Year-Long**

This course is designed to continue developing the skills and knowledge necessary to participate in various team and individual activities. Emphasis will be placed on lifetime fitness and recreational activities that promote lifelong participation in those selected activities. These activities include but are not limited to physical fitness, flag football, dance, basketball, volleyball, floor hockey, softball, badminton, aerobic activities, track and field, kickball, walking/jogging and jump roping. Through participation in these activities, students will demonstrate appropriate behaviors of sportsmanship and knowledge of game rules while interacting with others. The Presidential physical fitness test will be administered to every student. Through these tests, each student will demonstrate minimal levels of muscular strength, flexibility and endurance. Each student will also be required to demonstrate minimal levels of cardiovascular endurance. Emphasis will be placed on lifelong fitness, stressing the importance of leading an active, healthy lifestyle.

### **Newspaper: Writing for Publications - 8**

**Year-Long**

#### **(Prerequisite: Submission of Publications Application for Approval)**

This year long course is for students who are interested in writing and photojournalism for the publication of the school newspaper. Students will learn the basics of the newspaper publications process including: layout, editing, photography, interviewing, research and a newspaper style of writing. Those who wish to take this course will aid in the monthly publication of the school newspaper - *Paw Print*. Students who wish to take this class should be highly competent and motivated in the area of writing, photography, design and editing. Interested students must submit the publication's application for approval. Students **may not** take both the Newspaper and Yearbook course.

### **Yearbook: Writing for Publications - 8**

**Year-Long**

#### **(Prerequisite: Submission of Publications Application for Approval)**

This year long course will cover the basics of yearbook including copywriting, photography, and page design. Other topics to be covered include theme development, content and coverage. In this course, students supervise picture taking, design the lay-out of each page, and write copy. Members of this class work to publish the Oxford Middle School Yearbook and are responsible for providing the student body with an accurate representation of the year's events. In order to take this course, students must have above-average writing skills, work independently, and a commitment to enroll for both semesters. Interested students must submit the publication's application for approval. Students **may not** take both the Yearbook and Newspaper course.

### **Project Lead The Way III - 8 (required)**

**One Semester**

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the science involved in technological design and development. Students will explore scientific concepts and related them to how they are used in design and other technological processes. Using the prototyping and fabrication processes, students will create models and documentation that represent solutions to problems. Students will also learn about the mechanics of motion, the conversion of energy, and the use of science & technology to improve communication.

**Intro to Computer Programming - 8 (may be taken in lieu of PLTW III)****One Semester**

Computer science is a growing priority in classrooms around the globe. In this semester-long course, Students will learn basic coding skills by using a block-based coding platform that gives students the opportunity to code their own interactive games, stories, and more. Students will also expand their knowledge of coding by exploring a variety of coding methods. Students are empowered to create authentic artifacts and engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun.

**Art - 8****One Semester**

The focus of this 20-week course is the familiarization of the elements and principals of design as they relate to both 2 and 3 dimensional art forms created by the students. Students will have an opportunity to experience a variety of media which may include drawing, painting, sculpture and ceramics. At the same time, they will be engaged in the development of a more sophisticated art vocabulary as well as more advanced production activities. Connections will be made regarding various artists and art styles of various time periods, as well as applications to their daily life.

**Ceramics - 8****One Semester**

The focus of this 20-week course is primarily for students to experience created ceramic works of art. Students will learn about many techniques of hand building and decoration. This course also offers a unit on color theory and the creation of low relief sculptural work. Principles of design and study of art history will inspire student artworks. Assignments will include functional and sculptural objects, with an emphasis on the color, form, texture, and design of the created objects.

**Theatre - 8****One Semester**

This course is the third year of theater offered at the middle school level. Students taking this class will study 6 units including: Genre, Leading Theatrical Exercises, Character, Interpreting a Script, Adaptation and Production. Performances in this class are of a polished nature, some of which will be in front of an audience outside of their classroom peers. This class also requires students to attend a performance outside the classroom and write an evaluation on it. Students will have the entire semester to do this.

**Content Reading - 8****One Semester or Year-Long**

A student will be selected for this class by OMS counselors through a careful review of a student's academic progress. Recent research and assessment analysis has indicated the need to continue reading instruction through the middle school years and the research indicates that reading instruction falls into three broad categories: Tier I instruction for students who are at or above grade level; Tier II instruction, which provides students who are a year or two below grade level with additional supplemental instruction; and Tier III instruction for students who are significantly below grade level by more than two years. This class will focus on Tier II strategies to assist the student who is reading a year or two below grade level.

**Math Lab - 8****One Semester or Year-Long**

A student will be selected for this class by OMS counselors through a careful review of a student's academic progress and testing in math. Students selected for this class will receive additional instruction in math to strengthen their understanding of math concepts and skills. Students will be re-taught current and previous math concepts to address individual learning needs and deficiencies to prepare students for success in algebra I in 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade. In addition, students enrolled in this class will have more success in their current math class when needs and deficiencies are addressed in the student's math education. It is not a homework completion class.

**Academic Center Lab – 8****One Semester or Year-Long**

A student will be selected for this class by OMS counselors through a careful review of a student's academic progress. Academic Center Lab offers whole, small group or individualized instruction that supplements the general curriculum of core and elective courses. Student support services include organizational strategies, study skills and communication skills.

**Enrichment – 8****Year-Long**

Enrichment class is an elective class for students who have an individual education plan (IEP). Students are placed in this class based on the recommendations from the IEP team. Enrichment is a class that teaches students the skills needed to become life-long learners by developing skills of planning, time management, and critical thinking. In addition, students receive instruction in their deficit areas and work towards making progress on their IEP goals.

**Functional Enrichment****Year-Long**

Functional Enrichment class is an elective class for students who have an individual education plan (IEP). This course is designed to meet the individual needs of each student therefore topics will be determined based on the individual's IEP. Activities of focus will include: daily living skills, calendar skills, age-appropriate communication skills, small group and independent reading, building and maintaining relationships, and progress monitoring on an individual level.

**Social Skills/Enrichment****Year-Long**

Social Skills class is an elective class for students who have an individual education plan (IEP). This course is designed to meet the individual needs of each student. Topics will be determined based on the individual's IEP. Activities of focus will include: manners, appropriate conversations with specific audiences, building and maintaining relationships, and academic independence based on individual student level.

**Functional Life Skills****Year-Long**

The Functional Life Skills class is an elective class for students who have an individual education plan (IEP). This course is designed to meet the individual needs of each student therefore topics will be determined based on the individual's IEP. Activities of focus will include: Social and emotional check ins with the 5-point emotional scale, meditation, cooking, hygiene, developing healthy habits, age-appropriate communication building, and general knowledge that will enhance independent living.

**On-Line Learning for Seated Students**

Students eligible for this option may enroll in an online course in place of their seated course. The deadline to submit a request is February 26, 2021 for the 2021-22 school year, and requires pre-approval by the Principal. Contact your child's counselor if you are interested.

*You may contact the Middle School Counselors if you have any questions –*

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