



**Fox River Middle School**  
**Grades 7-8**  
**2019-2020**  
**Course Guide**

**FOX RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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Fox River Middle School Mission:

Fox River Middle School will grow all learners by continuously building relationships and improving instruction.

## **GRADE 7**

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The following are required classes for all 7th graders:

\*Language Arts (Duration: Year)

\*Science (Duration: Year)

\*Math (Duration: Year)

\*Social Studies (Duration: Year)

\*Wellness (Duration : Every other day throughout the year)

\*Wheel Courses (each class is one quarter, every day):

### **ART SURVEY**

Students will explore a variety of artists, art processes and materials while creating work in both two and three-dimensional mediums. Students will learn to create art independently and collectively in an environment where they learn to collaborate with peers and express themselves to their fullest potential.

### **LIFE SKILLS & CAREERS**

College and career portfolios will be created. Personal Finance will also be a focus of this class including budgeting, money management, and balancing a checkbook. This course also provides age-appropriate instruction pertaining to health related concepts required by the Department of Public Instruction.

### **PLTW-App Creators**

Students work to create apps for mobile devices using MIT App Inventor. They explore the impact of computing in society and build skills in digital citizenship. Beyond learning the fundamentals of programming, students build computational thinking skills by applying computer science to collaboration tools, modeling and simulation.

### **SPANISH 7**

Spanish is a communicatively-oriented class that uses a variety of activities like stories, active out-of-your seat and group work designed to engage all types of learners.

It uses a thematic and critical thinking approach to vocabulary, grammar, and culture to help students achieve novice range proficiency.

## **GRADE 7**

### **Course descriptions (elective courses)**

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#### **Band 7 (Music)**

**ALL YEAR LONG every other day**

The Fox River Band Program is open to any seventh grade student who is interested in further developing musical skills and playing a band instrument. Band is an exciting year-long course with emphasis on gaining techniques. Seventh grade band is a continuation of the elementary band program. However, if a student would like to learn a band instrument, summer band lessons are available. The course structure includes a variety of performances including concerts (both during and outside of the normal school day), parades, rehearsals and weekly small group lessons. Many opportunities are open for developing young musicians. Some extra band activities include solo and ensemble contest, jazz band, the summer program, music theory and composition.

#### **Ceramics (Art)**

**Semester every other day**

In this class students will explore the world of clay using both handbuilding skills and the pottery wheel. Students will create functional pottery as well as exploring cultural applications. Emphasis will be placed on the design elements: Line, Space, Form and Texture. Various glaze and decoration techniques for finishing work will be introduced.

#### **Chorus 7 (Music)**

**ALL YEAR LONG every other day**

This ensemble is a performance-based group that commits themselves to a year long venture. Students learn and prepare a variety of choral literature. They will learn to sing SA, SSA, TB, SAB and SATB choral arrangements. Students will continue to develop basic theory skills that will further their musical development. This will be done through a variety of methods that includes in-class theory work through SmartMusic.

Students' participation in performances both inside and outside of the school day is mandatory. If lessons should be made available, students will be expected to participate on a weekly basis. Beyond the school day students will have the opportunity to participate in vocal extra-curricular ensembles such as Solo & Ensemble Triple Trio, Vocal Jazz, Tree Lighters, and the Fox River Musical.

**Digital Photography: Beyond the Filter (Art)** Semester every other day

Learn the basics of digital art and photography through your cell phone. In this class we will use our phones (or small point and shoot cameras) to take pictures and edit them on the computer. Students will explore composition strategies and learn how to shoot, edit, organize and manipulate photos. They will investigate digital photography techniques through experimentation with a digital camera, and learn to use Adobe Photoshop Elements and other online editing programs.

**Drawing and Painting (Art)** Semester every other day

In this class students will be creating a variety of 2D studio art (drawing, painting, collage). Students will be introduced to a number of drawing techniques and materials including pencil, charcoal, ink, and pastels. We will continue to develop and refine our drawing and painting skills while learning new techniques like pencil blending, use of linear perspective, basic color mixing and acrylic painting techniques.

**Energy & the Environment(PLTW)** Semester every other day

You will be challenged to think big and look toward the future as you explore sustainable solutions to our energy needs and investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the world. You will also design and model alternative energy sources and evaluate options for reducing energy consumption.

**Flight & Space(PLTW)** Semester every other day

The exciting world of aerospace comes alive through Flight and Space. Students explore the science behind aeronautics and use their knowledge to design, build, and test an airfoil. Custom-built simulation software allows students to experience space travel.

**Green Architecture (PLTW)** Semester every other day

Today's students have grown up in an age of "green" choices. In this unit, students learn how to apply this concept to the fields of architecture and construction by exploring dimensioning, measuring, and architectural sustainability as they design affordable housing units using Autodesk's® 3D architectural design software.

**Medical Detectives (PLTW)** Semester every other day

Explore the biomedical science through hands on projects and labs that require you to solve a variety of medical mysteries.

**Musical Theater (Music)** Semester every other day

This class is designed with the theater lover in mind. Students will learn how to think like a director. Students will also learn about roles of the tech crew, set design, lighting, makeup, publicity, blocking, choreography and a variety of other jobs that make a "production" successful. Yes, there will be a bit of singing and dancing too!

**Musicians in Training** ALL YEAR LONG every other day

This course is designed for students who have an interest in music and fields related to music, but do not wish to participate in a formal performance ensemble. Students will continue to learn historical concepts and data, musical theory concepts that will be applied to instruments such as but not limited to guitar, piano and world ensembles. They will also learn how to compose and arrange music to create jingles as well as the art of audio broadcasting.

**Orchestra** ALL YEAR LONG every other day

Orchestra includes grades 7-12 -- the violin, viola, cello, and/or string bass. Students receive both large and small group instruction and receive a grade for both. Orchestra lessons and rehearsals take place during the school day & concerts are held after school about 4 times per school year. Concert attendance is required and is also part of a student's grade. By the end of the school year, students will be able to play music at a grade level (music difficulty scale) of 2.5 - 3. A prerequisite of violin, viola, cello, or string bass study of 1-3 years is highly recommended before taking this course.

**Pen to Screen** Semester every other day

This critical thinking class uses movies and books to introduce and study the elements of literary analysis including: motifs, symbols, metaphors, allusions, plot, theme, and other elements. Student discussion and composition questions are provided for each lesson. This course will not only give students the tools to appreciate good books more fully, but will equip them with the ability to discern underlying messages in movies rather than simply absorb them. Movies/books may include The Hunger Games, The Outsiders, Maze Runner, etc.

**Visual Storytelling (Art)** Semester every other day

In this class students would use a variety of literary works like short stories, poems, and songs to inspire them to create visual imagery. Students will learn how to work independently and collaboratively to create visually compelling images in both traditional studio art as well as digital narratives. Multimedia programs and editing software will also be introduced.

## **Wildlife & Natural Resources**

**Semester every other day**

Students will probe into many of the majestic wildlife species that exist in North America. How the animals live, threats to their existence, and what the future might hold are some ideas that will be discussed. In addition students will be exposed to fisheries, forestry, water, and wildlife management and issues. Lastly, students will be exposed to survival situations.

## **World Cultures**

**Semester every other day**

This course will encourage students to gain an understanding of global issues outside of the United States. Allow students to understand other cultures. World Cultures will allow students to become more knowledgeable within an increasing diverse community. Students will be able to relate this learning to themselves now and in the future.

## **GRADE 8**

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The following are required classes for all 8th graders:

\*Language Arts (Duration: Year)

\*Science (Duration: Year)

\*Math (Duration: Year)

\*Social Studies (Duration: Year)

\*Wellness (Duration : Every other day throughout the year)



## **GRADE 8**

### **Course descriptions (ELECTIVE courses)**

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#### **Band 8 (Music) -**

**ALL YEAR LONG every other day**

The Fox River School Band Program is open to any seventh grade student who is interested in further developing musical skills and playing a band instrument. Band is an exciting year-long course with emphasis on gaining musical knowledge, fundamentals and developing proper instrumental techniques. Seventh grade band is a continuation of the elementary band program. However, if a student would like to learn a band instrument, summer band lessons are available. The course structure includes a variety of performances including concerts (both during and outside of the normal school day), parades, rehearsals and weekly small group lessons. Many opportunities are open for developing young musicians. Some extra band activities include solo and ensemble contest, jazz band, the summer program, music theory and composition.

#### **Ceramics (Art)**

**Semester every other day**

Students will explore the world of clay using both hand building skills and the pottery wheel. Students will create functional pottery as well as exploring sculptural applications. Emphasis will be placed on the design elements: Line, Space, Form, and Texture. Various glaze and decoration techniques for finishing work will be introduced.

#### **Chorus 8 (Music)**

**ALL YEAR LONG every other day**

This ensemble is a performance-based group that commits themselves to a year long venture. Students learn and prepare a variety of choral literature. They will learn to sing SA, SSA, TB, SAB and SATB choral arrangements. Students will continue to develop basic theory skills that will further their musical development. This will be done through a variety of methods that includes in-class theory work through SmartMusic.

Students' participation in performances both inside and outside of the school day is mandatory. If lessons should be made available, students will be expected to participate on a weekly basis. Beyond the school day students will have the opportunity to participate in vocal extra-curricular ensembles such as Solo & Ensemble Triple Trio, Vocal Jazz, Tree Lighters, and the Fox River Musical.

### **Digital Photography: Beyond the Filter (Art)**

**Semester every other day**

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### **Energy & the Environment(PLTW)**

**Semester every other day**

You will be challenged to think big and look toward the future as you explore sustainable solutions to our energy needs and investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the world. You will also design and model alternative energy sources and evaluate options for reducing energy consumption.

### **Flight & Space(PLTW)**

**Semester every other day**

The exciting world of aerospace comes alive through Flight and Space. Students explore the science behind aeronautics and use their knowledge to design, build, and test an airfoil. Custom-built simulation software allows students to experience space travel.

### **Green Architecture (PLTW)**

**Semester every other day**

Today's students have grown up in an age of "green" choices. In this unit, students learn how to apply this concept to the fields of architecture and construction by exploring dimensioning, measuring, and architectural sustainability as they design affordable housing units using Autodesk's® 3D architectural design software.

### **Introduction to Computer Science 1(PLTW)**

**Semester every other day**

This class is for students who have never programmed before. Students work to create apps for mobile devices using MIT App Inventor. They explore the impact of computing in society and build skills in digital citizenship. Beyond learning the fundamentals of programming, students build computational thinking skills by applying computer science to collaboration tools, modeling and simulation.

### **Introductory to Spanish 1 No High School Credit**

Introductory Spanish I meets everyday for a quarter. This class is designed for the students with little or no previous study of Spanish. It is also for the students who would like to take Spanish but are not ready for the rigor of a high school course. This course will teach basic language patterns and vocabulary. It will allow students an opportunity to learn about the Spanish language and culture. This course does not count for a high school elective credit, but prepares students for Spanish I at the high school.

### **Musical Theater (Music)**

**Semester every other day**

This class is designed with the theater lover in mind. Students will learn how to think like a director. Students will also learn about the roles of the tech crew, set design, lighting, makeup, publicity, blocking, choreography and a variety of other jobs that make a "production" successful. Yes there will be a bit of singing and dancing too!

### **Musicians in Training (Music)**

**Semester every other day**

This course is designed for students who have an interest in music and fields related to music, but do not wish to participate in a formal performance ensemble. Students will continue to learn musical theory concepts to help them learn to play in a guitar and world music ensemble. They will also learn how to compose and arrange music to create jingles as well as audio broadcasting.

### **Orchestra**

**ALL YEAR LONG every other day**

Orchestra includes grades 7-12 -- the violin, viola, cello, and/or string bass. Students receive both large and small group instruction and receive a grade for both. Orchestra lessons and rehearsals take place during the school day & concerts are held after school about 4 times per school year. Concert attendance is required and is also part of a student's grade. By the end of the school year, students will be able to play music at a grade level (music difficulty scale) of 2.5 - 3. A prerequisite of violin, viola, cello, or string bass study of 1-3 years is highly recommended before taking this course.

### **Pen to Screen (English)**

**Semester every other day**

This critical thinking class uses movies and books to introduce and study the elements of literary analysis including: motifs, symbols, metaphors, allusions, plot, theme, and other elements. Student discussion and composition questions are provided for each lesson. This course will not only give students the tools to appreciate good books more fully, but will equip them with the ability to discern underlying messages in movies rather than simply absorb them. Movies/books may include The Hunger Games, The Outsiders, Maze Runner, etc.

### **Spanish 8- High School Credit**

**ALL YEAR LONG every other day**

Spanish I is high school level course that meets everyday for a semester. Students have the opportunity to earn an elective credit with a "C" or higher average and enter Spanish II as a freshman. Emphasis will be on the acquisitions of the four skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.. There will be functional vocabulary related to everyday life, cultural information and basic grammatical structures.

### **Visual Storytelling (Art)**

**Semester every other day**

Students would use a variety of literary works like short stories, poems, and songs inspire them to create visual imagery. Students will learn how to work independently and collaboratively to create visually compelling images in both traditional studio art as well as digital narratives. Multimedia programs and editing software will also be introduced.

### **Wildlife and Natural Resources**

**Semester every other day**

Students will probe into many of the majestic wildlife species that exist in North America. How the animals live, threats to their existence, and what the future might hold are some of the ideas that will be discussed. In addition students will be exposed to fisheries, forestry, water, and wildfire management and issues. What is wilderness and places to visit and how to survive are also class topics. If you ever wondered how the outdoors works or simply enjoy being outside and want to know more about the animals and plants that surround you this is a class for you.

### **World Cultures**

**Semester every other day**

World Cultures is offered to both 7th and 8th graders. This course will allow students to demonstrate an understanding of the relationships between practices, products and perspectives of the different cultures studied.