

GCMS Scheduling Handbook

2024-2025



Administration

Kevin M. English - Principal
Brandi Boswell - Assistant Principal

Counselors

Mrs. Terri Koche - 7th Grade
Mrs. Natalie Reeves - 8th Grade

Garden City Middle School
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Each student must take 4 CORE classes per year.

7th Grade CORE Classes			
	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Full Year</u>
English	ELA 7	7th Grade	X
Math	Math 7 or Math 7 Accelerated or Algebra 8	7th Grade	X
Science	Science 7	7th Grade	X
Social Studies	World Studies 7	7th Grade	X

8th Grade CORE Classes			
	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Full Year</u>
English	ELA 8	8th Grade	X
Math	Math 8 or Algebra 8 or Algebra 2	8th Grade	X
Science	Science 8	8th Grade	X
Social Studies	American History 8	8th Grade	X

ELECTIVE COURSES

<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Full Year</u>	<u>Semester</u>
Art Elements	7th & 8th Grade		X
Art Principles	7th & 8th Grade		X
Beginning Band	7th & 8th Grade	X	
Concert Band	7th & 8th Grade	X	
Choir	7th & 8th Grade	X	X
Computer Tech	7th & 8th Grade		X
Health	7th & 8th Grade		X
Japanese 1A & 1B	7th & 8th Grade	X	
Japanese 2A & 2B	8th Grade	X	
Middle School Success	7th & 8th Grade	X	X
Physical Education	7th & 8th Grade		X
Programming & Coding	7th & 8th Grade		X
***Publications	7th & 8th Grade	X	
Spanish 1A & 1B	7th & 8th Grade	X	
Spanish 2A & 2B	8th Grade	X	
Tech Lab	7th & 8th Grade		X

***** Teacher recommendation REQUIRED**

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH COURSES

ELA 7 (03001 & 03004)

7th Grade

Full Year

In this course, required of all seventh grade students, students will develop literacy skills and will engage in reading from different literary genres which will include short stories, plays, poetry, and selected novels, as well as informational reading. Students will develop their spoken and written vocabulary skills utilizing multimedia resources that explore both the English language arts and its connections to the other content areas. A variety of creative and expository writing will be explored using the writing process.

ELA 7 Self-Contained Reading (03007)

7th Grade

Full Year

This course, required *per student IEP*, focuses on using the reading process to construct meaning from a variety of classic and contemporary literary genres including mystery, myths, poetry, realistic and historical fiction. Improving reading fluency is a daily exercise. Students will continue to build on the writing process by creating essays, constructed responses, writing short stories, as well as a brief autobiographical experience. Utilizing the multimedia resource center, students will develop research methods and techniques for writing a research paper.

ELA 8 (03003 & 03006)

8th Grade

Full Year

This course, required of all eighth grade students, focuses on using the reading process to construct meaning from a variety of classic and contemporary literary genres including short stories, plays, poetry, and novels. Students will expand their vocabulary and understand relationships between words in creating work analogies. Students will continue to build on writing skills when creating essays and an autobiography. Utilizing the multimedia resource center, students will develop research methods and techniques for writing a research paper.

ELA 8 Self-Contained Reading (03007)

8th Grade

Full Year

This course, required *per student IEP*, focuses on using the reading process to construct meaning from a variety of classic and contemporary literary genres including short stories, plays, poetry and novels. Improving reading fluency is a daily exercise. Students will expand their vocabulary and review basic principles of phonics. Students will continue to build on writing skills when creating essays, journaling, writing short stories as well as a brief autobiographical experience. Utilizing the multimedia resource center, students will develop research methods and techniques for writing a research paper.

MATH COURSES

Math 7 (03011 & 03015)

7th Grade

Full Year

This course, required of all seventh grade students, will reinforce computational skills as new concepts are introduced. Emphasis will be placed on higher order thinking skills. Units of study will include geometry, number theory, variables, equations, integers, and statistics.

Math 7A (03012 & 03016)**7th Grade****Full Year****Students are selected for this class based off teacher recommendation and NWEA scores.**

The seventh grade Accelerated Math class follows the same Common Core standards as the other seventh grade Math classes. The pace is faster and thus will cover additional curriculum. Much of the eighth grade Common Core curriculum is also covered in order to help bridge the learning gap that happens when students skip Math 8 and take Algebra in eighth grade. This class is for students who are academically strong in math and willing to work hard.

Math 7 Self-Contained (03019)**7th Grade****Full Year**

This course, required *per student IEP*, will provide a working foundation for Math 2, the 8th grade mathematics course. Topics to be covered will include review of rational numbers, ratios and proportions, algebra, graphs, percents, properties of geometric figures, data exploration, and probability. In addition to these, students practice and review basic operations, fractions, and functional life skills math, such as telling time, using money, and following recipes.

Math 8 (03013 & 03017)**8th Grade****Full Year**

This course, required of all eighth grade students not recommended for Algebra 8, will provide a working foundation for Algebra I at Garden City High School. Higher order thinking skills will continue to be emphasized. Topics to be covered include data exploration, graphs, algebraic expressions, and properties of geometric figures.

Math 8 Self-Contained (03019)**8th Grade****Full Year**

This course, required *per student IEP*, will provide a working foundation for Algebra I at Garden City High School. Topics to be covered will include basic principles of algebra, review of rational numbers, graphs, exponents, percents, properties of geometric figures, and data exploration. In addition to these, practice and review of basic operations, and living skills, such as counting money, making change, keeping a bank balance, and reading gages and clocks will be included in the course content.

Algebra 8 (03014 & 03018)**8th Grade****Full Year**

Students are selected for this class based off successful completion of Math 7A, teacher recommendation, and NWEA scores. The eighth grade Algebra class follows the Common Core standards for high school Algebra 1 in addition to some of the eighth grade standards not covered in the Accelerated Math 7A class in seventh grade. The pace is faster than that of the Algebra 1 class at the high school as it covers more than a year's curriculum. This class is for students who are academically strong in math and willing to work hard. Students are expected to keep up with their math skills over the summer break following seventh grade so as not to lose any progress made throughout the school year.

Algebra 2 (6507 & 6508)**8th Grade****Full Year****PREREQUISITE: Successful completion of Algebra 8.**

This class builds on topics from Algebra 1 and introduces some basics of geometry. Specific topics include properties of real numbers, properties of exponents, function notation, parent functions, systems of linear equations, matrices, and inequalities. Students will learn to solve quadratic functions using multiple processes, as well as investigate complex numbers with computations and graphs of all functions.

SCIENCE COURSES

Science 7 (03026 & 03027)

7th Grade

Full Year

This course, required of all seventh grade students, focuses on two significant areas of science. Areas of study include chemical interactions and diversity of life. Students will have hands-on interactions with the curriculum through the use of science kits and inquiry-based instruction.

Science 8 (03028 & 03029)

8th Grade

Full Year

This course, required of all eighth grade students, encompasses the study of earth's history, natural disasters, natural resources, human impact on the environment, and genetics. Students will have hands-on interactions with the curriculum through activities and inquiry-based instruction.

SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES

World Studies 7 (03030 & 03031)

7th Grade

Full Year

In 7th Grade World Studies, students will explore diverse cultures, histories, and geographies of the world's ancient civilizations including the Fertile Crescent, Egypt, India, China, Greece, and Rome. Students will examine the social, political, economic, environmental, and cultural dimensions of each society through a combination of readings, discussions, projects, and multimedia resources. This course is designed to foster a deep understanding and appreciation for the richness of human civilization while developing critical thinking, research, and communication skills.

American History 8 (03032 & 03033)

8th Grade

Full Year

In 8th Grade American History, students will examine the history of the Americas beginning with ancient indigenous civilizations. From there the course progresses through interactions between Native American tribes and European explorers, the founding of the thirteen colonies, the Revolutionary War, and the establishment of the U.S. Constitution. The rest of the course follows a chronological progression through Westward Expansion, the Antebellum Era, ending with the Civil War and Reconstruction. Through engaging discussions, readings, projects, critical analysis, and interactive activities, students will develop historical thinking skills, effective communication, and a sense of civic responsibility essential for informed citizenship.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Art Elements (03056)

7/8th Grade

½ Year

This class will focus on the 7 Elements of Art. As each element is introduced, a noted artist and his/her work will be studied. The students will then create art projects relating to the element, artist, and their work.

Art Principles (03054)

7/8th Grade

½ Year

This class will focus on the 7 Principles of Art. As each principle is introduced, a noted artist and his/her work will be studied, and students will create art projects relating to the principle, artist, and their work.

Beginning Band 7/8 (743)**7/8th Grade****Full Year**

This course is intended for students who have no or very limited experience playing a musical instrument. In this course students will learn how to play a Concert Band instrument and how to work as a team in order to perform together! Students enrolling in this course should expect to play an instrument every day in class, to practice in class and at home, and perform at Band Concerts throughout the year. Attendance at performances is required.

Concert Band 7/8 (840)**7/8th Grade****Full Year**

This course is intended for students with more than one year of instrumental experience. The students in Concert Band will perform music at a higher level than Beginning Band. Students will continue to learn the proper techniques involved with playing their instruments, and perform at least two concerts a school year. Attendance at performances is required. Students must have either taken and successfully passed Beginning Band or have experience playing a band instrument.

Choir 7/8 (03074)**7/8th Grade****Full Year or ½ Year**

Choir is a performing experience in singing. This class introduces part singing and basic theory concepts including sight singing and ear training. Attendance at performances is required.

Computer Technology (03057)**7/8th Grade****½ Year**

This course introduces students to a variety of skills needed to improve learning in all subjects and to acquire lifelong knowledge in the 21st century. Students will create text documents, spreadsheets, graphic presentations, and other creative projects as they improve their computer literacy skills. Students will learn about HTML, cyber security, and video creation. Students will learn to use the appropriate technology to safely and responsibly access, communicate, and manage information.

English Language Learner Course (03049)**7/8th Grade****Full Year or ½ Year**

This is an elective class, in which students receive daily, direct English Language instruction from a trained, certified English as a Second Language teacher. The focus of this class will be the development of the English Learner's proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening in English. The class will also offer academic support for EL students in their other daily classes. Additionally, the class will assist students in fostering skills for success in school such as the development of academic vocabulary, self-monitoring of academic progress, and self-advocacy.

Health (03894)**7/8th Grade****½ Year**

This is a semester-long course that will include fitness and wellness activities. Content knowledge includes skilled movement, anatomical basis of movement, personal fitness planning, social and emotional development, and energy balance. Health units include alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use prevention; personal health; mental health and wellness; injury and violence prevention; emotional and social health; and human growth and development.

Japanese 1A (06310)**7/8th Grade****½ Year**

Watashi wa nihongo ga suki desu! In this course, students will learn to comprehend similar statements and other sentences about themselves. This course emphasizes speaking skills and reading the hiragana alphabet. Completion of this course is a prerequisite to Japanese 1B.

Japanese 1B (06311)**7/8th Grade****½ Year**

PREREQUISITE: Japanese 1A

This course builds on material learned in Japanese 1A. Students will practice their hiragana reading

and writing and continue to expand communication skills. Students who did not pass Japanese 1A are not eligible for this course.

COMPLETION OF BOTH 1A AND 1B WORLD LANGUAGE CLASSES (WITH A 60% OR BETTER) WILL FULFILL THE FIRST YEAR HIGH SCHOOL LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT.

Japanese 2A (03042)

8th Grade

½ Year

This course builds on material learned in Japanese 1. Students will learn the katakana alphabet and begin to learn how to comprehend kanji. The emphasis of this course is to use previous knowledge to build new communication skills. Students who did not pass Japanese 1 are not eligible for this course.

Japanese 2B (03043)

8th Grade

½ Year

This course builds on material learned in Japanese 2A. Students will continue to build up reading comprehension using hiragana, katakana and kanji intermixed. Communication skills will emphasize making plans with others and describing people and places. Students who did not pass Japanese 2A are not eligible for this course.

Middle School Success (03061)

7/8th Grade

Full Year or ½ Year

Middle School Success is a one semester OR full year class designed to help students in their core academic classes as well as become acclimated to and succeed in the middle school environment. The course will assist students in the following areas: completion of homework and projects, organization, use of student planner, test taking skills, typing skills, and self-monitoring of academic progress. Students will also be taught how to become responsible individuals by teaching them positive character traits, career development, leadership, and life skills so they can make appropriate choices and achieve their full potential.

Publications (03915)

7/8th Grade

Full Year

Publications is designed to provide students with skills in writing, editing, and designing various forms of print and digital publications. Throughout the course, students will explore the principles of journalism, creative writing, photography, and graphic design while producing content for school publications such as the student newspaper and the school yearbook. While in this course, students will develop skills such as conducting interviews, writing articles, and utilizing digital publishing tools. Students will also explore aspects of yearbook production, including theme development, photo composition, caption writing, layout design, and yearbook distribution. Students will engage in discussions and peer editing sessions while developing skills in time management, organization, and communication as they collaborate with classmates to gather content and meet deadlines.

Orton-Gillingham Reading Course (03009)

7/8th Grade

Full Year

This course is a special education resource, intended for students with Individual Education Plans, who have reading disabilities in the area of Basic Reading; and who are struggling with encoding and decoding basic words. Students are placed in this class according to reading achievement and ability. Orton-Gillingham is a multi-sensory approach to learning to read. Beginning with short vowel sounds, students train to recognize sounds as they are represented in the English language, through audio, visual and tactile methods. Students will master recognition of phonograms, including: consonants; consonant blends and teams; vowels sounds; and vowel teams. Students will master syllable spelling patterns found in word structure. For older students, this is a remedial approach to reading instruction that reinforces prior knowledge through methods, such as mnemonics and repetition. Students will exit this class with a working understanding of: Latin prefixes and suffixes; Greek word

parts; and Anglo-Saxon word origins. Reading fluency and comprehension are reinforced throughout the year.

Physical Education (03064)

7/8th Grade

½ Year

The purpose of this course is to instill the desire to become physically fit through various sports activities. Students will learn a variety of skills, rules and concepts that will allow them to compete and enjoy each activity. These activities include: touch football, basketball, volleyball, badminton, golf, bocce ball, tennis, ping pong, corn hole, and other small group games. Leadership, teamwork, and sportsmanship are stressed. The curriculum is designed to help individuals become sensitive, healthy persons who take an active role in protecting, maintaining, and improving their health. Students are required to furnish an appropriate physical education outfit which includes: socks, tennis shoes with laces, shorts, and t-shirt.

Programming & Coding (03776)

7th/8th Grade

½ Year

PREREQUISITE: Successful completion of Computer Technology, Technology Lab, or 8th grade status.

This course introduces students to computer science concepts, with a focus on problem solving. Students will design and code animations and games, and a variety of apps for different purposes. Students will explore Python and Javascript programming languages.

Spanish 1A (06322)

7/8th Grade

½ Year

Spanish 1A is a course designed for students to learn about the Spanish language and culture. Students will learn to read and write simple sentences and increase speaking skills. Topics covered include days of the week, numbers, greetings, describing people, and family. Completion of this course is a prerequisite to Spanish 1B.

Spanish 1B (06323)

7/8th Grade

½ Year

PREREQUISITE: Spanish 1A

Spanish 1B is a course that will continue the study of the Spanish language. Students will continue to read and write simple sentences and enhance their speaking skills. Students who did not pass Spanish 1A are not eligible for this course.

COMPLETION OF BOTH 1A AND 1B WORLD LANGUAGE CLASSES (WITH A 60% OR BETTER) WILL FULFILL THE FIRST YEAR HIGH SCHOOL LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT.

Spanish 2A (03047)

8th Grade

½ Year

Spanish 2A is a direct continuation of Spanish 1B. Seasons, weather, places in a city, transportation, travel, giving and receiving directions will be focal points of this semester. Shopping and bartering in an open market will also be emphasized. Students are presented with the higher functioning grammar points including direct and indirect object pronouns and familiar command. The student's speaking, listening, writing and reading skills will be expanded.

Spanish 2B (03048)

8th Grade

½ Year

A recycling for mastery of 2A grammatical concepts in new contexts. Vocabulary will include describing a house, negotiating responsibilities, and ordering and talking about food. Students who did not pass Spanish 2A are not eligible for this course.

Study Skills 7 (03008)

7th Grade

Full Year or 1/2 Year

Study Skills 8 (03010)

8th Grade

Full Year or 1/2 Year

This is a Special Education elective course requiring 4-5 Resource Room hours in a student's IEP. This class is a great resource to help incoming special ed. students with their transition into middle and high school. The class focus is on pre-teaching, reinforcing, and reteaching the Common Core curriculum in the student's general education classes. The students construct a graphic organizer notebook with study tools and notes for all four core subjects, learn how to fill out their daily planners, monitor their grades, and navigate Student Connect. Students will also learn how to create their own Quizlet accounts and study sets which they will be able to use throughout their academic careers.

Technology Lab (03059)

7/8th Grade

1/2 Year

Technology Lab is a one semester course. It is designed to introduce students to basic computer and design thinking skills and provide a solid foundation for future computer science studies. Students will learn to create surveys, websites, analyze data, and utilize various tools to communicate their findings. Throughout this course students will develop a better understanding of Google Suites and all of its applications. Students will learn about cyber security, digital storytelling, and escape rooms. Basic computer skills such as keyboarding, email, MiStar, Google Classroom, and Clever will be taught.

STANDARDIZED STUDENT ASSESSMENTS

NWEA - Northwest Evaluation Association

Target: 7th Grade - Reading, Math, Science

8th Grade - Reading, Math, Science

When: Fall, Winter, Spring

Where: Garden City Middle School

M-STEP - Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress

Target: 7th Grade - ELA & Math

8th Grade - Science & Social Studies

When: Spring

Where: Garden City Middle School

PSAT - Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test

Target: 8th Grade - ELA & Math

When: Spring

Where: Garden City Middle School

WIDA - World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment

Target: English Language Learners

When: Winter

Where: Garden City Middle School