

GCMS



COUGARS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

7th Grade Course Selection Sheet	3
8th Grade Course Selection Sheet	4
 <u>Course Descriptions:</u>	
• English	5-6
• Mathematics	6-7
• Science	7
• Social Studies	8
• World Language	8
• Fine Arts	9
• Technology	9
• Physical Education	10
• Additional Electives	10

Garden City Middle School - Course Selection Sheet

7th Grade

Student Name:

Student ID #:

Phone #:

Credit: 1 credit 1 full year course (course runs both semesters)
 ½ credit ½ year course (course runs only one semester)

REQUIRED COURSES for 7th Grade Students:

English 7 / English 7A	1	credit
Math 7 / Math 7A	1	credit
Science 7	1	credit
World Studies	1	credit
Physical Education	½	credit
Technology Lab 7	½	credit

ELECTIVES:

For the 1 remaining credit, 7th grade students will select from the offerings below. While every effort will be made to accommodate your top choices, it may not always be possible. Please review each elective offering below and RANK your choices (1-2-3-4-5 with 1 being your FIRST choice).

_____ Band	1	credit
_____ Chorus - Semester 1	½	credit
_____ Chorus - Semester 2	½	credit
_____ Japanese Introduction	½	credit
_____ Japanese Intermediate	½	credit
_____ Spanish Introduction	½	credit
_____ Spanish Intermediate	½	credit
_____ Middle School Success	½	credit

Form must be returned by:

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date:

Garden City Middle School - Course Selection Sheet

8th Grade

Student Name:

Student ID #:

Phone #:

Credit: 1 credit 1 full year course (course runs both semesters)
 ½ credit ½ year course (course runs only one semester)

REQUIRED COURSES for 7th Grade Students:

English 8	1	credit
Math 8 / Algebra 8	1	credit
Science 8	1	credit
American History	1	credit
Computer Technology 8	½	credit
Art 8	½	credit

ELECTIVES:

For the 1 remaining credit, 8th grade students will select from the offerings below. While every effort will be made to accommodate your top choices it may not always be possible. Please review each elective offering below and RANK your choices (1-2-3-4-5 with 1 being your FIRST choice).

_____ Band	1	credit
_____ Chorus - Semester 1	½	credit
_____ Chorus - Semester 2	½	credit
_____ Japanese Introduction	½	credit
_____ Japanese Intermediate	½	credit
_____ Spanish Introduction	½	credit
_____ Spanish Intermediate	½	credit
_____ Physical Education	½	credit
OR		
_____ Safety Education	½	credit

Form must be returned by:

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date:

ENGLISH COURSES

ELA 7

7th Grade REQUIRED

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 multi-media 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 7A

7th Grade

Full Year

The 7th Grade Accelerated English course follows the State of Michigan's Common Core Standards as the other 7th grade ELA classes. At the advanced level, students will use a wider variety of text to increase their use of critical thinking skills. The curriculum delves into a more concentrated focus of independent reading, grammar, language, and writing analysis. 7th grade Accelerated English is suitable for students who have already demonstrated a high level of skill in the English Language Arts at the elementary level. Students considered for this class should be analytical readers, effective writers, and willing participants in class discussions. Further, students should be curious, enthusiastic about books and ideas, disciplined, willing to work hard, eager to be challenged, and have an excellent attendance record. A summer reading/writing assignment is required prior to the start of the new school year.

Students are selected for this class based upon a few criteria, including performance in sixth grade ELA class, teacher recommendation, NWEA scores, and an on-demand writing sample.

The process will be as follows:

- a. An *initial* roster will be generated based on all students achieving above grade level based on spring (of the previous year) NWEA Reading Assessment results.
- b. Those students will be invited to complete the 7th grade on-demand writing sample.
- c. A committee of teachers and administrators will review current year performance, NWEA test results, and on-demand writing samples.

Students are expected to keep up with a regular, daily schedule of reading over the summer break following sixth grade, so as not to lose any progress made throughout the school year. A recommended reading list will be provided to guide summer reading selections.

ELA 7 Self-Contained Reading

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. **This course follows Michigan's Common Core Standards for Language Arts.**

ENGLISH COURSES CONTINUED

ELA 8

8th Grade REQUIRED

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 the process 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

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 the process 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

7th Grade REQUIRED

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

7th Grade

Full Year

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 2 and take Algebra in eighth grade. This class is for students who are academically strong in math and willing to work hard. Students are selected for this class based upon a few criteria including performance in sixth grade math class, teacher recommendation, NWEA scores, and an exit test. The process will be as follows:

- a.) An *initial* roster will be generated based on all students achieving above grade level based on spring (of the previous year) NWEA Math Assessment results.
- b.) Those students will be invited to complete the 7th grade math exit test.
- c.) A committee of teachers and administrators will review current year performance, NWEA test results, and exit test results.
- d.) Depending on results, there may be one, two, or no accelerated math course.

Students are expected to keep up with their math skills over the summer break following sixth grade so

as not to lose any progress made throughout the school year.

MATH COURSES CONTINUED

Math 7 Self-Contained

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. **This course follows Michigan's Common Core Standards for Mathematics.**

Math 8

8th Grade REQUIRED

Full Year

This course, required of all eighth grade students not recommended for Algebra 1, 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

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

8th Grade

Full Year

PREREQUISITE: The eighth grade Algebra class follows the common core standard 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 selected for this class based upon a few criteria including performance in seventh grade math class, teacher recommendation, and NWEA scores. 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.

SCIENCE COURSES

Science 7

7th Grade REQUIRED

Full Year

This course, required of all seventh grade students, focuses on three significant areas of science. Areas of study include diversity of life, earth history, and force & motion. Students will have plenty of hands-on interaction with the curriculum through the use of science kits and inquiry-based instruction.

Science 8

8th Grade REQUIRED

Full Year

This course, required of all eighth grade students, encompasses the study of the earth and space as

related to the student's environment. The areas of study include weather, astronomy, geology, space exploration, energy systems of the earth and space, mineralogy, and chemistry.

SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES

World Studies 7

7th Grade REQUIRED

Full Year

The seventh grade social studies curriculum focuses on early world history and geography. Students will investigate human history from the beginning to 1500. As students explore history they will learn to ask questions, frame problems, and organize evidence to drive inquiry. Students will analyze global patterns and change over time. Maps, graphs, timelines, and graphic organizers used with informational reading will be utilized.

American History 8

8th Grade REQUIRED

Full Year

This course, required of all eighth grade students, is a survey of American history that will provide a general understanding of the people and the events that have made the United States what it is today. The course will provide a chronology of American history to help students place American events in the perspective of world history.

WORLD LANGUAGE COURSES - Electives

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

Japanese Introduction

7/8th Grade (ELECTIVE)

One Semester

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 pre-requisite to Japanese Intermediate.

Japanese Intermediate

7/8th Grade (ELECTIVE)

One Semester

PREREQUISITE: Japanese Introduction

This course builds on material learned in Japanese Introduction. Students will learn the katakana alphabet and continue to expand communication skills. Students who did not take Japanese Introduction are not eligible for this course.

Spanish Introduction

7/8th Grade (ELECTIVE)

One Semester

Spanish Introduction 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 pre-requisite to Spanish Intermediate.

Spanish Intermediate

7/8th Grade (ELECTIVE)

One Semester

PREREQUISITE: Spanish Introduction

Spanish Intermediate 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

take Spanish Introduction are not eligible for this course.

FINE ART COURSES - Electives

Art 8 **8th Grade (ELECTIVE)** **One Semester**
In this course, students will explore the elements of art, such as line, shape, form, color, value, texture and space. Projects will focus mostly on a two dimensional format such as drawing, painting, collage and printmaking. A variety of mediums will be used.

Band 7/8 **7/8th Grade (ELECTIVE)** **Full Year**
This course is intended for both beginners and experienced students. Instruments taught are: flute, clarinet, alto sax, trumpet, trombone, baritone and bells. Students will learn how to maintain and assemble their instruments. Students will need to purchase or rent their own instrument. Grades are based on participation in daily practice, daily individual playing, written tests and quizzes, and concert attendance. We will play four concerts a year, both at the middle school and at the high school. Students will learn many techniques from note reading, rhythm counting, explaining musical terminology, and writing rhythm composition.

Choir 7/8 **7/8th Grade (ELECTIVE)** **One or Two Semester(s)**
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.

TECHNOLOGY COURSES - Electives

Technology Lab 7 **7th Grade (REQUIRED)** **One Semester**
Technology Lab is a one semester course set in a "hands on" learning center designed to introduce students to basic computer skills/software and introductory engineering activities. Pairs of students rotate through a series of stations and are exposed to different areas of technology at each. The majority of the stations use computers. Students are presented with specific lessons and problem-solving activities as well as totally new and exciting experiences. They are not expected to master any one of these work stations but are given exposure to each one and are expected to do their best at the challenges they encounter. In addition to the assigned projects, students are encouraged to go beyond and to experiment on their own. Students are required to document all activities in the form of a portfolio which includes a daily objective, journal entry, and graphic organizer.

Computer Technology 8 **8th Grade (REQUIRED)** **One Semester**
This 8th grade 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. Math and English content will be integrated into the curriculum. Students will learn to use the appropriate technology to safely and responsibly access, communicate, and manage information.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSES - Electives

Physical Education 7

7th Grade (REQUIRED)

One Semester

Physical Education 8

8th Grade (ELECTIVE)

One Semester

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 tee shirt.

Safety Education 8

8th Grade (ELECTIVE)

One Semester

Students will be trained in adult, child and infant CPR. They will also be instructed in the use of the AED machine. Additionally, students will also receive certification by the State of Michigan to operate boats and jet skis. Also included within the Safety Education curriculum will be the State of Michigan mandated health curriculum component.

ADDITIONAL COURSES - Electives

Middle School Success

7th Grade

One Semester

Middle School Success is a one semester class designed to help students in their core academic classes as well as become acclimated to and succeed in the middle school environment. Students will focus on maintaining a positive attitude and successful behavior. The course will assist students in the following areas: completion of homework and projects, organization, use of student planner, developing healthy nutrition and hygiene habits, setting goals, self-monitoring of academic progress, how to interact with adults and peers, team building, test taking skills, core area skills with a focus on informational reading, and Junior Achievement.

Life Skills 7

7th Grade

Full Year

Life Skills 8

8th Grade

Full Year

This course, an elective for students with special needs, *per their IEP*, focuses on daily organizational and study skills, such as keeping a planner, scanning non-fiction informational texts for main ideas and outlining chapters. Many personal skills are taught, such as using abbreviations, understanding prefix and suffix meanings, reading maps and using a map legend, interpreting graphs, using guide words in a dictionary, and searching for information on the web. Other skills are addressed like working cooperatively in groups, surviving middle school social situations, and game etiquette and sportsmanship. Some basic math skills are included as they relate to daily living, such as totaling a restaurant check, figuring tax, and writing a check. In addition to skill lessons, students will be given

personal assistance with homework.