

**2024-2025**  
**Middle School**



**Encore Course**  
**Description Book**

## **ART**

### **GRADE 6**

**ART 6** - *This is a required class for 6<sup>th</sup> graders and meets every other day for one semester.*

Art 6 introduces students to the artistic process that includes finding inspiration, designing artwork, creating art, and reflecting upon what they have made. There will be a major emphasis on incorporating the elements and principles of design, as well as an introduction to craftsmanship. Art 6 includes studio skill development with a variety of mediums and techniques. Students will learn to use observational skills, understand and apply the concepts of space and proportion, tell stories through their art, visually document and record events, and share elements of themselves through art.

### **GRADE 7**

**ART 7** - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*

Art 7 continues to apply the artistic process that includes finding inspiration, designing artwork, creating art, and reflecting upon what they have made. There will be a major emphasis on craftsmanship and its importance in creating quality art. Art 7 includes skill development in a variety of mediums and techniques, as well as utilizing artistic behaviors. Students will learn to use art to communicate, solve problems, think globally, make others think, and make a difference. Students will also have the opportunity to explore temporary art.

### **GRADE 8**

**EXPLORATIONS IN ART** - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*

Explorations in Art continues to expand upon the artistic process and craftsmanship. This course places a major emphasis on composition in art. Explorations in Art includes skill development in a variety of mediums and techniques, as well as continued development of the artistic behaviors. Students will learn to seek out resources to help further their skill development in art, work with what they have and within certain parameters, use non-traditional artmaking materials, explore themes, develop critical thinking skills through questioning, and take risks in their art.

**DISCOVERIES IN ART** - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*

Discoveries in Art continues to expand upon the artistic process and craftsmanship. This course places a major emphasis on composition in art. Discoveries in Art includes skill development in a variety of mediums and techniques, as well as continued development of the artistic behaviors. Students will learn to borrow ideas from others, create original works of art, use their art to take a stand on issues, collaborate with one another, develop an individual style, and use experimentation with a variety of mediums and techniques to further enhance their art.

## **BUSINESS EXPLORATION**

### **GRADE 6**

**KEYBOARDING** - *All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will take this class. It meets every other day for one semester.*

Students will learn proper keyboarding techniques. The students will also work on skill building activities to increase speed and accuracy. A computerized program will be used to allow the students to individually increase their speed and accuracy.

### **GRADE 7**

**COMPUTER APPLICATIONS** - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*

Students will be introduced to many of the Microsoft Office programs including Word, Excel and PowerPoint, as well as various other computer applications. The students will learn various tools and applications that will assist them in enhancing school projects now and in the future.

### **GRADE 8**

**BUSINESS EXPLORATION I** - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*

This course will introduce students to the world of business. This course will enable students to participate in a hands-on experience of running a business and a school store (Viking Shop). The class will organize

as a business allowing students to research a product to sell, produce the product, and organize sales. Through this experience, students will learn how business decisions are made and how a business is run. Students will also be introduced to the stock market. Students will create a stock portfolio to invest in for the semester.

## **BUSINESS EXPLORATION II**

*This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*

*Prerequisite: Business Exploration I*

This second semester course will apply the concepts of their first business exploration course into the world of business. Through a variety of hands on projects, students will develop a product and marketing plan. Students will then execute that plan through various marketing materials including brochures, advertisements, and commercials. Students will also be introduced to the means through which other companies market their products, and see first-hand the processes they go through.

## **ENTREPRENEURSHIP/ BUSINESS STORE MANAGEMENT I & II**

*This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*

*Prerequisite: Students must complete an Application from the Business Teacher*

Entrepreneurship/Business Store Management will give students a chance to learn real world aspects of running a store. Through various hands-on lessons, students will order, produce products, promote & advertise, as well as handle the financial aspects of the store. The class will not only run the store, but develop various fundraising opportunities throughout the semester.

## **FRENCH**

### **GRADE 8**

**EXPLORING FRENCH** - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*

This course introduces students to the basics of the French language. Students will learn basic expressions used in conversations, the French alphabet, and numbers. Students will discover the process of learning to speak a foreign language through games and authentic activities. Students will also get the opportunity to learn about French culture and different French-speaking countries around the world.

## **HEALTH**

### **GRADE 6**

**HEALTH 6** - *This is a required class for 6<sup>th</sup> graders and meets every other day for one semester.*

In 6th grade health, students have the opportunity to explore and practice ways to make healthy choices. In class we will learn about the different dimensions of health and what impacts them. We will examine social skills to effectively choose and differentiate between healthy and unhealthy choices within different health topics such as nutrition, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, puberty/hygiene, communication and dealing with emotions.

### **GRADE 7**

**HEALTH 7** - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*

In 7th grade health, students will be challenged to demonstrate and develop personal and social responsibility skills. Students will have a goal setting unit where they will be learning how to write and set SMART goals along with dealing with setbacks and challenges in the goal setting process. The students will also be introduced to techniques in dealing with mental emotional health. In class, students will participate in hands-on learning activities each day such as: relaxation exercises, guided imagery, breathing techniques and skits. Lessons will include stress and time management, managing emotions. Lastly, students will have a social health unit discovering their values and what a healthy vs. unhealthy relationship looks like. Lessons include: Communication styles, knowing their values, love, dating, harassment and abuse, STD's, pregnancy and using value decision making process to analyze how sexual activity can impact their goals and values in life.

## GRADE 8

**HEALTH 8** - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*

During 8th grade health, students will have the opportunity to focus on their personal health and wellness. Students will be learning in-depth about nutrition, physical activity, weight management, community & online resources for health and disease prevention. Students will engage in nutrition labs, hear guest speakers, participate in physical activities and learn how to advocate for healthy choices.

## MUSIC CLASSES - General (non-performance)

### GRADE 6

#### GENERAL MUSIC

*This class is required for 6<sup>th</sup> graders who do not take a music performance class. It meets every other day for one semester.*

Sixth grade music reinforces the basic elements of music taught in elementary school, and applies these elements in a hands-on, creative process, so that students can express their individuality. Students will focus on the elements of music (expression, rhythm, form, melody, timbre, texture and harmony), and will compose simple rhythms and melodies. They will explore a variety of musical styles while learning about the history of music. Students will take a retrospective look at music from the Baroque period to styles of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century such as Jazz and Folk music. This class will also feature the relationship between musical and dance art forms as students participate in classic American folk dances.

### GRADE 7

**AMERICAN POPULAR MUSIC** - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*

This course will explore the different styles and cultural phenomenon of music from the 1830's through to the present day. The study of American music genres and the famous musicians of these genres are incorporated into projects and classwork. American Popular Music journeys through the evolution of popular music through the genres of Ragtime, Minstrel, Vaudeville, Jazz, Country, Rhythm & Blues, Rap/Hip Hop, Pop and Rock, Motown, Disco, Folk, and others. This is a non-performance class, but a variety of projects are presented to the class throughout the semester.

### GRADE 8

**MUSIC LAB** - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*

This course takes music to the next level as students are immersed in the authentic practice of playing music from other cultures. In World Music Drumming, students will be introduced to the principles and fundamental techniques of playing a variety of percussion instruments while learning songs, dances, historical and cultural information from West Africa, the Caribbean, and other countries. Students will focus on authentic drumming techniques in student-led drum circles. This class is also designed for the student who wants to learn to functionally read music and develop basic guitar and drumming skills. Students will take a "hands-on" approach to music making on a variety of instruments, including a unit on basic guitar foundation. We will cover rhythm, time signatures, bass and treble clefs, scales and chord structure while learning and creating songs. This course will also include the study of music in current events and music as it relates to history, culture and other subjects.

## MUSICAL PERFORMANCE PROGRAMS

*\*NOTE: Band, Choir and Orchestra may only be dropped during a 2 week window BEFORE the start of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.*

### BAND

#### GRADE 6

**BAND 6** - *This is a year-long elective class and meets every other day for the entire school year.*

In this course students will begin instrumental music instruction in the summer before 6<sup>th</sup> grade with a four-week program that starts the last week of July and continues through the first three weeks of August. When school resumes in September, students continue individual/small group lessons once every week for twenty minutes in addition to the full rehearsals. First year instruction centers on developing tonal concept, counting fundamental rhythmic patterns, and correct fingerings and hand position on their chosen

instrument. Music performed is of a grade 1 level and occasionally 1-1/2. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade band will give 2-3 evening performances (attendance required) during the school year.

## **GRADE 7**

**BAND 7** - *This is a year-long elective class and meets every other day for the entire school year.*

In their second year of instrumental music study, students begin a combined marching program with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade band. The majority of marching band instruction takes place during the four-week summer band program that begins in July and culminates the third week of August with the annual Holmen Kornfest Parade. When school begins, further marching band instruction takes place during the day and with required coursework. Marching band performances during the fall include the Homecoming Parade, the Oktoberfest Torchlight Parade, and a combined performance with the HHS marching band. Increased scale study begins in 7<sup>th</sup> grade where quality grade 2 level, and occasionally 1-1/2 and 2-1/2 level music are studied. Students have the opportunity to audition for chair placement within the concert band at the close of marching season, and learn about the audition process, as well as sight-reading techniques. ALL students also complete a major unit emphasizing solo and small ensemble playing and will participate in the WSMA District Solo & Ensemble Festival or other approved performance. Jazz Ensemble and/or Jazz Combo are offered as after school co-curricular experiences. Large group requirements include performances at evening concerts at the end of each quarter of study (typically in January, March, and May), as well as participation in the WSMA Large Group Festival in April. Individual/small group lessons continue once each week for twenty minutes each.

## **GRADE 8**

**BAND 8** - *This is a year-long elective class and meets every other day for the entire school year.*

Audition techniques and sight-reading skills are reviewed for seating placement in concert band in the fall, and continued throughout the year. Advanced scales and technical studies are added, and top students are recommended to participate in Wisconsin's two middle-level honors bands. Marching band, solo & ensemble festival, and jazz study are all continued as are other occasional performance opportunities in the school district and community. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade band also performs for the school's Veteran's Day Assembly in November. Quality band literature of a grade 2-1/2 level and occasionally 2 and 3 level music is studied. Large group requirements include performances at evening concerts at the end of each quarter of study (typically in January, March, and May), as well as participation in the WSMA Large Group Festival in April. Individual/small group lessons continue once each week for twenty minutes each.

## **CHOIR**

### **GRADE 6**

**CHOIR 6** - *This is a year-long elective class and meets every other day for the entire school year.*

6th grade singers will learn appropriate posture and breathing techniques while singing in a variety of musical styles, including "pop" and "show choir". We will work to develop our voices through fun warm-ups and exercises. 6th grade choir members will learn the fundamentals of healthy singing and work as a choral ensemble in preparation for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade choir. Activities include performing at the HMS Veteran's Day Assembly in November, the December Holiday Concert, and our Spring Concert in May. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend all of these performances.

### **GRADE 7**

**CHOIR 7** - *This is a year-long elective class and meets every other day for the entire school year.*

In addition to our Veteran's Day Program, Holiday Concert and Spring Concert, 7th grade singers may participate in the WSMA Solo/Ensemble Festival in February. For this event students prepare and memorize a solo song, duet, or trio and perform it for a judge who gives constructive verbal and written feedback. 7th grade choir members will also participate in the WSMA Large Group Festival where the entire choir performs for judges, receives feedback, and is followed by a live critique workshop. 7th grade choir students will also receive a 20-minute small group voice lesson once a week with the instructor. The 7th and 8th grade choirs combine at times throughout the year to form our HMS Concert Choir which sings a variety of choral literature.

## **GRADE 8**

**CHOIR 8** - *This is a year-long elective class and meets every other day for the entire school year.*

All 8th grade singers continue to learn appropriate vocal technique and hygiene to prepare them for continued success at the high school level. Students will continue to take a 20-minute voice lesson once per week with the vocal instructor and have the opportunity to participate in the Solo & Ensemble district festival in February. Again, in March the 8th choir will sing at the Large Group Festival for a critiqued performance by judges. As in 6th and 7th grades, we strive for beauty and purity of tone, correct posture and breathing, musicality and artistic interpretation. The 8th grade choir sings in all the programs listed for the 6th and 7th grade choirs during the school year.

## **ORCHESTRA**

### **GRADE 6**

**ORCHESTRA 6** - *This is a year-long elective class and meets every other day for the entire school year.*

Students begin orchestra instruction in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Orchestra class begins and will meet every other day during Encore time. In addition, students will have individual/small group lessons once each week for twenty minutes each. First year instruction centers on developing tonal concept, counting fundamental rhythmic patterns and proper playing technique. The students will be involved in three evening concert programs per year. Attendance and performance at these concerts is a required part of the course. Various other performances and activities may happen throughout the year.

### **GRADE 7**

**ORCHESTRA 7** - *This is a year-long elective class and meets every other day for the entire school year.*

In their second year of orchestra, instruction continues with increased scale study and progression into more challenging music. Students also complete a major unit emphasizing solo and small ensemble playing and have the opportunity to participate in the WSMA Solo & Ensemble Festival. The students will be involved in three evening concert programs per year. Attendance and performance at these concerts is a required part of the course. Various other performances and activities may happen throughout the year. Individual/small group lessons continue once every week for twenty minutes each.

### **GRADE 8**

**ORCHESTRA 8** - *This is a year-long elective class and meets every other day for the entire school year.*

In the third year of orchestra instruction, advanced scales and technical studies are combined with more advanced literature. Chamber music and jazz study are all continued, as are other occasional performance opportunities in the school and community. Orchestra students will be involved in three evening concert programs per year. Attendance and performance at these concerts is a required part of the course. Various other performances and activities may happen throughout the year. Individual/small group lessons continue once every week for twenty minutes each.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

*This is a required class for ALL HMS students and meets every other day for the entire school year.*

The units have been developed around the national standards for physical education. These units will consist of individual and team activities that will be conducted in the gymnasiums, wellness center and outdoor facilities.

## **SPANISH**

### **GRADE 6**

**EXPLORATORY SPANISH** - *All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will take this class. It meets every other day for one quarter.*

Students will learn expressions used in basic Spanish conversation. They will also learn vocabulary related to the calendar, weather, numbers, colors, emotions, some activities students like to do in their free time and foods they like to eat. We will talk about Spanish speaking countries and some of their traditions. A variety of teaching methods will be used in every course in order to reach every student's skills.



## GRADE 7

### **SPANISH I** - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*

This is a continuation of grade 6. Conversations will be more detailed and interesting to students. More vocabulary and language structure will be acquired in this course. Students will make projects, and present some of them. They will prepare and present skits or short videos.

## GRADE 8

### **SPANISH I** - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*

This is a continuation of grade 6. Conversations will be more detailed and interesting to students. More vocabulary and language structure will be acquired in this course. Students will make projects, and present some of them. They will prepare and present skits or short videos.

### **SPANISH II** - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*      *Prerequisite: 7th or 8th Spanish I*

This class is recommended for students who want to continue studying Spanish in High School. This is a continuation of Spanish I. Students will continue their acquisition of the Spanish language in all areas: written, oral, listening and reading.

### **SPANISH III** - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*      *Prerequisite: Spanish II*

Students need to earn a passing grade in Spanish II (their first semester in 8<sup>th</sup> grade) in order to continue to Spanish III, second semester. Students who complete this course successfully will be able to take an advanced placement test in May. Students will have the possibility to test out of Spanish I in high school if they obtain the set score which is 86%

The Spanish culture will be explored in every course. Respect towards cultural diversity will be emphasized in every class.

## TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

## GRADE 6

### **TECH ED 6** - *Students who elect general music will also take this class. It meets every other day for one semester.*

In this course students will learn general woods lab safety, the proper use of a variety of hand tools, and the correct operation of the drill press, band saw, disc sander and spindle sander. Students will then learn about bridges and will build a model truss bridge using 1/4" pine and hot glue that we will test the strength of. Students will also choose two wooden toys to construct. They will be able to choose from cars, trucks, tractors and others. Safety will be emphasized throughout this course. In addition, the students will learn basic isometric drawing skills and how to use read a standard ruler.

## GRADE 7

### **TECH ED 7** - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*

In this course students will learn general woods lab safety, the proper use of a variety of hand tools, and the correct operation of the drill press, band saw, and miter saw. Students will then design and use a variety of tools and equipment to build a CO2 powered wooden dragster. In addition, the students will learn the basics of the computer drafting program Inventor. Safety and measurement will be emphasized throughout this course.

## GRADE 8

### **TECH ED 8** - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*

In this course students will review general woods lab safety and measurement concepts. Students will use power and hand tools to construct a push stick, wall shelf, and cribbage board all from solid wood. Equipment that students will use include: band saws, miter saw, planer, spindle sander, drill, jointer and many other hand tools. Students will learn basic woodworking concepts such as wood grain patterns, proper use of a kreg jigs and squaring a board.

## World Cultures

### GRADE 6

**INTRODUCTION TO WORLD CULTURES** - *All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will take this class. It meets every other day for one quarter.*

This course introduces students to basic world geography and culture. Students will learn the names and locations of the seven continents and five oceans. Students will learn about the different features of maps and globes and the advantages and disadvantages of each. The rich and innovative culture of the ancient Inca, Mayan, and Aztec civilizations of Central and South America will be introduced and explored.

### GRADE 7

**WORLD CULTURE I** - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*

In this course, students will learn about the different elements that make up culture. Students will have the opportunity to create a mini-society within the classroom. Students can contribute to the design of a class flag and rules based on their own interests and backgrounds. Cultural sharing, family heritage research, and current events will all be incorporated. While studying different geographic areas of the world, students will explore differences and similarities to their own lifestyles and acknowledge diversity in an increasingly interconnected world.

### GRADE 8

**WORLD CULTURE II** - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*

In this first semester course, students will continue to explore how culture is a product of geography, history, values, beliefs, and traditions. Students will investigate how culture shapes perceptions of the world. Students will have the opportunity to taste sweet and savory snacks from different countries and learn about traditional ethnic foods around the globe. Each student will be connected with a pen-pal that lives in another region of the world in order to participate in a cultural exchange.

**WORLD CULTURE III** - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*

This course dives into the birthplace of Western civilization and focuses on European studies. Students will explore three "revolutions" of the 17th-19th centuries: The Scientific Revolution, the Enlightenment, and the Industrial Revolution which greatly impacted culture and world perceptions. Students will describe the revolutionary nature of these three eras and explain their influence on the lives of Europeans. Students will get a chance to "tour" through Europe visiting famous landmarks, art museums, and trying some of the typical cuisine.

## PUPIL NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT



**English:**

The right of the student to be admitted to school and to participate fully in curricular, extracurricular, student services, recreational or other programs or activities shall not be abridged or impaired because of a student's age, race, creed, color, disability, pregnancy, marital or parental status, religion, sex, citizenship, national origin, ancestry, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or gender nonconformity.

**Spanish:**

El derecho del estudiante para ser admitido en la escuela y participar plenamente en el currículo, extracurriculo, servicios estudiantiles, recreativos u otros programas o actividades que no se podrán coartar o menoscabado debido a su edad, raza, credo, color, discapacidad, embarazo de una estudiante, el estado civil o paternal, religión, sexo, nacionalidad, origen nacional, ascendencia, estado socioeconómico, orientación sexual, identidad de género, expresión de género, o la no conformidad de género.

**Hmong:**

Txoj cai muab rau tus menyuam thaum tuaj kawm ntawv thiab thaum mus ua si ncaws pob, hu nkauj, los yog ua yeeb yam pem tsev kawm ntawv yuav tsis pauv. Txawm tus menyuam lub hnuv yug loj los me, nws yog haiv neeg twg, nws txoj kev ntseeg yog li cas, nws muaj kev tsis taus, nws lub cev xeeb tub, muaj txij nkawm li cas, yog poj niam los txiv neej, yog pej xeem los tsis yog, tuaj lub tej chaws twg tuaj, poj koob yawm txwv yog li cas, los yog tham li cas, txoj cai yuav nyob li qub.