



Dickinson Middle School

Growing minds.
Building community.

2019-2020 Course Descriptions

Dickinson Middle School
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6th Grade Dickinson Middle School Descriptions

Course Name: Literacy 6	Class Type: Core	Grade: 6
Description: Read Like a Writer - Write Like a Reader		

Course Name: Math	Class Type: Core	Grade: 6
Description: This course explores 6th grade mathematics. Major areas of emphasis are basic operations with fractions and decimals, area, perimeter and volume of geometric shapes and algebraic expressions. 6th grade students will learn through independent practice, group collaborations and hands on activities.		

Course Name: Science	Class Type: Core	Grade: 6
Description: This course explores all aspects of science. The major areas of emphasis are life, Earth, physical, and biological. Students will learn through labs, hands-on activities, technology, cooperative learning, and by using a scientific thought process.		

Course Name: Social Studies	Class Type: Core	Grade: 6
Description: This course explores a number of ancient civilizations including Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome, China, and the Middle Ages. Student learning focuses on six aspects of daily life in each civilization including religion, environment, culture, innovations, politics, and economy.		

6th Grade Music Options:

Music is required for all 6th Grade students. Students must choose band or choir. Music classes are yearlong and meet on an alternating A/B day schedule.

Course Name: Choir	Class Type: Required	Grade: 6
Description: 6th grade choir students sing in a variety of musical styles, learn appropriate singing techniques and fundamental music skills as related to the music being taught. Students will have required performances during the school year. This is a gender based class for 6th grade students: boys and girls meet separately in choir classes. 6th Grade Choir members will have the opportunity to audition for the "Surround the State in Sound Choir"		

Course Name: Beginning Band	Class Type: Required if not in Choir	Grade: 6
Description: Beginning Band is designed to provide students with an introductory experience on band instruments. The 6th Grade Beginning Band class meets every other day and is part of the students' daily academic routine at Dickinson Middle School. Band is a year-long course of instruction. Students must provide a personally owned or rental instrument for this program. Students with a personally owned instrument should have it approved by the director prior to the start of the class. Students and parents should plan for the student to complete the entire school year of the course once they select it as the required music option.		

Course Name: Physical Education (P.E.)	Class Type: Required	Grade: 6
Description: This course explores physical activity. Major areas of exploration will be Fitness components, Skill development, and cooperative team work development. Students will learn through effort, attitude, and participation. This course meets on an A/B schedule and is a yearlong course.		

Course Name: Math Boost (Intervention)	Class Type: Referral	Grade: 6
Description: Math intervention is designed to "fill the holes" from prior year(s) math classes. This course aims to build math comprehension and fluency. By going back to the basics we will begin with building and cementing basic math skills that will in turn build each student's confidence in the math classroom. We will be working on Khan Academy, IXL or Xtramath 60 minutes per week depending on grade level. This class is designed to preteach, reteach, and provide support for students taking grade-level math. These classes will work with smaller groups for more 1 on 1 attention. Homework time will be provided as deemed necessary.		

Course Name: Reading Boost (Intervention)	Class Type: Referral	Grade: 6
Description: This course is an extension of Language Arts aimed to build reading comprehension and fluency as well as build on the skills currently being taught in their daily Language Arts class. We will work to build each student's confidence in the English Language classroom. This class is designed for guided practice, pre-teaching, re-teaching, and providing support for students taking grade-level Language Arts. These classes will work with smaller groups for more 1on 1 attention. Homework time will be provided as deemed necessary.		

Course Name: Read 180 (Intervention)	Class Type: Referral	Grade: 6
Description: Read 180 is a research based reading intervention program designed to raise the reading levels and test scores of struggling readers. Read 180 addresses the problems of adolescent students who read below grade level. Research has shown the effectiveness of Read 180 in meeting the needs of struggling readers. Read 180 provides language support for ELL students with high interest and adaptive software support that benefit struggling readers.		

Course Name: Art	Class Type: Required Elective	Grade: 6
Description: This course explores the beginning skills associated with drawing, painting and clay. A major emphasis is placed on learning to see and draw like an artist does. Students will learn through hands on projects.		

Course Name: Health	Class Type: Required Elective	Grade: 6
Description: Students will learn about physical, mental, emotional and social health. Students will understand how to improve and maintain their health, prevent disease, and reduce risky behaviors.		

Course Name: Keyboarding	Class Type: Required Elective	Grade: 6
Description: This course builds skills in introductory typing by utilizing different computer software programs, such as Microsoft Word. Emphasis is placed on developing correct typing techniques and improving speed and accuracy when producing documents. Through this course, students become familiar with different keyboard and document functions while improving typing speed and accuracy.		

Course Name: Library Skills	Class Type: Required Elective	Grade: 6
Description: This course provides students with a basic understanding of the library research process. Students develop skills by which they can successfully find and cite information for research, presentations, and other class assignments. Students will learn how to navigate the library, school research databases, and the World Wide Web for credible, relevant information.		

Course Name: 21 st Century Learning	Class Type: Required Elective	Grade: 6
Description: This course is instructed by the guidance counselors at DMS. It will cover basic study skills such as communication, problem solving, technology safety, social skills and substance abuse prevention. Students will also participate in D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education). D.A.R.E. is a police officer-led series of classroom lessons that teaches children how to resist peer pressure and live productive drug and violence-free lives.		

Course Name: Skills for Daily Living	Class Type: Required Elective	Grade: 6
Description: This course explores many topics related to family and consumer science. Major areas of emphasis are cooking, nutrition, and sewing. Students will learn through a modular based curriculum.		

7th Grade Dickinson Middle School Descriptions

Course Name: Geography	Class Type: Core	Grade: 7
Description: Geography focuses on the Six Essential Elements and Five Themes of Geography. We will explore these across different regions in the world. Within each region, students will learn about the physical and cultural features as well as economic concepts that make that region unique. Students will learn about governments, mountains, lakes, religions, people, currency, how to read and use a map, and many other key topics. We will also take time to discuss and learn about current events. Geography helps students understand the relationship among people, places and the environment over time. The aim of this course is to help students become more globally minded, understand multiple perspectives, and appreciate diversity. Studying the human and physical geographic regions of the world helps students develop an understanding of the greater world creating awareness and concern.		

Course Name: Language	Class Type: Core	Grade: 7
Description: This course explores the reading, writing, speaking, and listening standards needed to be successful in comprehension and communication. Students will read a variety of genres to increase awareness and apply reading skills. Students will use various types of writing to further develop the writing process and learn to adapt to specific types of writing.		

Course Name: Math	Class Type: Core	Grade: 7
Description: This course explores mathematical thinking. Major areas of emphasis are operations with rational number, ratios, rates, proportions and linear equations. Students will learn through group work, hands on activities and teacher instruction.		

Course Name: Science	Class Type: Core	Grade: 7
Description: This course explores all aspects of science. The major areas of emphasis are life, Earth, physical, and biological. Students will learn through labs, hands-on activities, technology, cooperative learning, and by using a scientific thought process.		

Course Name: Environmental Issues	Class Type: Core	Grade: 7
Description: This 7 th grade semester course will explore the relevance of nature in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Students will be exploring topics such as: Biomedical (heart rate, blood pressure, EKG, etc.), Hydroponics, Biomimicry, Alternative Energy Sources (Wind & Solar), Oil Spill Clean Up, and a variety of other topics.		

Course Name: Innovations in Engineering	Class Type: Core	Grade: 7
Description: This 7 th grade semester course will explore solutions to problems using Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Students will use the engineer design process to create innovative solutions to everyday problems.		

Course Name: Physical Education (P.E.)/Health	Class Type: Required	Grade: 7
Description: This course explores physical activity. Major areas of exploration will be Fitness components, Skill development, Cooperative team work development. Students will learn through effort, attitude, and participation. Students will learn about physical, mental, emotional and social health. Students will understand how to improve and maintain their health, prevent disease, and reduce risky behaviors.		

Course Name: Lifelong Literacy	Class Type: Required	Grade: 7
Description: This course explores literacy and reading skills for the 21 st century learner. Major areas of emphasis are critical thinking skills in text, using technology and project based learning - to promote collaboration and develop meaningful conversation about text.		

Course Name: Art	Class Type: Elective	Grade: 7
Description: This course explores the beginning and advanced skills associated with drawing, painting sculpting and printmaking. A major emphasis is placed on enhancing drawing as well as using color in various color media. Students will learn through hands on projects.		

Course Name: Band	Class Type: Elective	Grade: 7
Description: The 7th Grade Band is designed to provide students with an intermediate experience on band instruments. Curriculum for this course is an extension of the skills and concepts introduced in Beginning Band. 7th Grade Band is open to all 7th Grade students who have successfully completed a full year of 6th Grade Beginner Band. The 7th Grade Band class meets every other day and is part of the students' daily academic routine at Dickinson Middle School. Band is a year-long course of instruction. Students will have required performances during the school year. Students and parents should plan for the student to complete the entire school year of the course once they select it as an elective option. Students will have the opportunity to audition for the "North Dakota Middle School All State Band" and participate in Jazz Band.		

Course Name: Choir	Class Type: Elective	Grade: 7
Description: 7th grade choir students continue to develop appropriate singing techniques, sing in a variety of musical styles, and further their music theory skills as related to the music being taught. New 7th grade students to choir class are welcomed! Students will have required performances during the school year. Students will have the opportunity to audition for the "North Dakota Middle School All State Choirs". This is a mixed choir; both girls and boys meet in choir classes. This course meets on an A/B schedule and is a yearlong course.		

Course Name: Computer Applications 1	Class Type: Elective	Grade: 7
Description: This course explores basic computer science and application skills. Major areas of emphasis are keyboarding, MS Office and digital citizenship. Students will learn through critical thinking, problem solving, analyzing and editing different types of applications and their uses. This course consists of learning software applications, technology vocabulary, typing skills, and real-world uses for technology.		

Course Name: Drumming	Class Type: Elective	Grade: 7
Description: 7th Grade "So You Think You Can Drum?" 7th Grade students may choose this option if they wish to have an in-depth study of world music drumming and marimba playing. In this class, students will focus largely on ensemble playing and will experience a variety of drumming and marimba styles from around the world including but not limited to Caribbean, Latin and West African drumming styles and traditions. Students will learn to play a variety of instruments through this course and demonstrate their knowledge through class participation and when available, public performances. This course meets on an A/B schedule and is a yearlong course.		

Course Name: Skills for Daily Living	Class Type: Elective	Grade: 7
Description: This course explores many topics related to family and consumer science. Major areas of emphasis are cooking, sewing, family resources, consumer services and resources, and nutrition. Students will learn through a variety of teaching techniques, as well as work outside of the classroom.		

Course Name: Spanish 1A	Class Type: Elective	Grade: 7
Description: This course explores the Spanish language and culture. Major areas of emphasis are recognition, listening, and introduction conversation. Students will learn through conversation, activities, presentation and technology integration.		

Course Name: Strength & Conditioning	Class Type: Elective	Grade: 7
Description: This course is designed to give students the opportunity to learn weight training concepts and techniques used for obtaining optimal physical fitness. Students will benefit from comprehensive weight training and cardiorespiratory endurance activities. Students will learn the basic fundamentals of weight training, strength training, aerobic training, and overall fitness training and conditioning. Course includes both lecture and activity sessions. Students will be empowered to make wise choices, meet challenges, and develop positive behaviors in fitness, wellness, and movement activity for a lifetime.		

Course Name: Math Boost (Intervention)	Class Type: Referral	Grade: 7
Description: Math intervention is designed to “fill the holes” from prior year(s) math classes. This course aims to build math comprehension and fluency. By going back to the basics we will begin with building and cementing basic math skills that will in turn build each student’s confidence in the math classroom. We will be working on Khan Academy, IXL or Xtramath 60 minutes per week depending on grade level. This class is designed to preteach, reteach, and provide support for students taking grade-level math. These classes will work with smaller groups for more 1on 1 attention. Homework time will be provided as deemed necessary.		

Course Name: Reading Boost (Intervention)	Class Type: Referral	Grade: 7
Description: This course is an extension of Language Arts aimed to build reading comprehension and fluency as well as build on the skills currently being taught in their daily Language Arts class. We will work to build each student’s confidence in the English Language classroom. This class is designed for guided practice, pre-teaching, re-teaching, and providing support for students taking grade-level Language Arts. These classes will work with smaller groups for more 1 on 1 attention. Homework time will be provided as deemed necessary.		

Course Name: Read 180 (Intervention)	Class Type: Referral	Grade: 7
Description: Read 180 is a research based reading intervention program designed to raise the reading levels and test scores of struggling readers. Read 180 addresses the problems of adolescent students who read below grade level. Research has shown the effectiveness of Read 180 in meeting the needs of struggling readers. Read 180 provides language support for ELL students and high interest and adaptive software support that benefit Special Education students. Read180 is not JUST for ESL and Special Education; it is a program that benefits any struggling reader.		

Course Name: Language Strategies (Intervention)	Class Type: Referral	Grade: 7
Description: We will learn to read critically, organize our writing, and improve our vocabulary, spelling, and grammar skills.		

Course Name: Math Strategies	Class Type: Referral	Grade: 7
Description: Math strategies: This class reviews addition and subtraction, calendar skills, and decimals, before focusing on multiplication, division, fractions, and positive and negative numbers. We will begin each concept with hands on manipulatives before moving to more abstract problems. This class uses the "Do the math: Now" program.		

Course Name: Resource	Class Type: Referral	Grade: 7
Description: This class will use the read naturally program and one-on-one instruction to help students increase basic reading and writing skills. It will give you a chance to finish homework for other classes with teacher assistance and support.		

8th Grade Dickinson Middle School Descriptions

Course Name: Exploring Solutions	Class Type: Core	Grade: 8
Description: This 8 th grade semester course will emphasize engineering solutions in the exploration of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Students will explore solutions to problems in areas such as: Tower design and stability, Plumbing and Electricity, Small Engines, CO2 dragsters, Robotics, 3-D printing, and a variety of other topics.		

Course Name: Innovations in Technology	Class Type: Core	Grade: 8
Description: This 8 th grade semester course will emphasize engineering design using Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Students will explore engineering using these technologies: CNC mill, CADD, Audio Broadcasting, Robotics, Drones, Computer Graphics and Animation, Electricity and Electronics, and flight.		

Course Name: Language	Class Type: Core	Grade: 8
Description: This course explores the reading, writing, speaking, and listening standards for grade 8 ELA. The curriculum in Language Arts is an integrated combination of reading skills, writing skills, speaking and listening skills, grammar study, and vocabulary acquisition. The teaching and learning activities are designed to improve upon existing skills and extend learning.		

Course Name: Math	Class Type: Core	Grade: 8
Description: This course explores mathematical thinking. Major areas of emphasis are linear and non-linear functions, Pythagorean Theorem, Geometric Transformations, and Systems of Equations. Students will learn through group work, hands on activities and teacher instruction.		

Course Name: Science	Class Type: Core	Grade: 8
Description: This course explores all aspects of science. The major areas of emphasis are life, Earth, physical, and biological. This course includes an introduction to chemistry. Students will learn through labs, hands-on activities, technology, cooperative learning, and by using a scientific thought process.		

Course Name: U.S. History/ND Studies	Class Type: Core	Grade: 8
Description: This course explores early US History from the American Revolution to the cultural reforms in early 1900. While covering these topics we also discuss the events occurring in North Dakota. Students will learn through discussion, lecture, and cooperative group activities.		

Course Name: Physical Education (P.E.)/Health	Class Type: Required	Grade: 8
Description: This course explores physical activity. Major areas of exploration will be Fitness components, Skill development, Cooperative team work development. Students will learn through effort, attitude, and participation. Students will learn about physical, mental, emotional and social health. Students will understand how to improve and maintain their health, prevent disease, and reduce risky behaviors.		

Course Name: Lifelong Literacy	Class Type: Required	Grade: 8
Description: This course explores literacy and reading skills for the 21 st century learner. Major areas of emphasis are higher level critical thinking skills in text, using technology and project based learning - to promote collaboration and develop meaningful conversation about text.		

Course Name: Advanced Drumming	Class Type: Elective	Grade: 8
Description: Prerequisite: All 8th grade students must have taken a full semester of 7th grade beginning world drumming class in order to choose this option. 8th Grade students may choose this option if they wish to continue to study world music drumming and marimba playing. In this class, students will focus on improving their ensemble skills, add to their African/Latin American drumming techniques and study other world cultures and their music. Students will also improve their marimba playing skills within the ensemble and play a variety of instruments throughout this course. Students will demonstrate their knowledge through class participation and when available, public performances.		

Course Name: Art I	Class Type: Elective	Grade: 8
Description: This course explores the beginning and advanced skills associated with drawing, painting, sculpting and printmaking. A major emphasis is placed on exposing the students to multiple media as they continue to enhance skills developed in 6th and 7th grade. Students will learn through hands on projects.		

Course Name: Art II	Class Type: Elective	Grade: 8
Description: This course is OPEN to 8th grade art students that are serious about art and have <u>SUCCESSFULLY taken and passed 8th Grade Art I.</u> The class explores advanced skills associated with drawing, painting, sculpting and introduce students to the basics of Photography. A major emphasis is placed on exposing the students to advanced techniques in media students were exposed to in 8th Grade Art I. This class is limited to one section and will be run second semester of the school year. Students will learn through hands on projects.		

Course Name: Band	Class Type: Elective	Grade: 8
Description: The Eighth Grade Band is designed to provide students with an advanced experience on band instruments. Curriculum for this course is an extension of the skills and concepts introduced in seventh grade band. This band is open to all eighth grade students who have successfully completed seventh grade band. The 8th Grade Band class meets every other day and is part of the students' daily academic routine at Dickinson Middle School. Band is a year-long course of instruction. Students will have required performances during the school year. Students and parents should plan for the student to complete the entire school year of the course once they select it as an elective option. Students will have the opportunity to audition for the "North Dakota Middle School All State Band" and participate in Jazz Band.		

Course Name: Choir	Class Type: Elective	Grade: 8
Description: 8th grade students continue to develop appropriate singing techniques, sing in a variety of musical styles, and further their music theory skills as related to the music being taught. New 8th grade students to choir class are welcomed! Students will have required performances during the school year. Students will have the opportunity to audition for the "North Dakota Middle School All State Choirs". This is a mixed choir; both girls and boys meet in choir classes. This course meets on an A/B schedule and is a yearlong course.		

Course Name: Computer Applications 1	Class Type: Elective	Grade: 7
Description: This course explores basic computer science and application skills. Major areas of emphasis are keyboarding, MS Office and digital citizenship. Students will learn through critical thinking, problem solving, analyzing and editing different types of applications and their uses. This course consists of learning software applications, technology vocabulary, typing skills, and real-world uses for technology.		

Course Name: Computer Applications 2	Class Type: Elective	Grade: 8
Description: This course explores advanced computer science and application skills. Major areas of emphasis are keyboarding, MS Office and using a computer as a resource. Students will learn through critical thinking, problem solving, analyzing and editing different types of applications and their uses. This course consists of learning software applications, technology vocabulary, typing skills, and real-world uses for technology.		

Course Name: Guitar	Class Type: Elective	Grade: 8
Description: "All Amped Up": This class is an elective for 8th grade students. 8th grade students enrolled in this class will learn and develop basic to intermediate guitar skills. Students do not need previous experience on guitar. Students will learn basic technique, information and music theory concepts. Students will study and learn to play a variety of musical styles. Guitars will be provided for class use. Personal guitars may be used but must be approved by the director prior to taking the class. This course meets on an A/B schedule and is a yearlong course.		

Course Name: Skills for Daily Living	Class Type: Elective	Grade: 8
Description: *This course is not available if you took it in 7 th grade. This course explores many topics related to family and consumer science. Students will learn through a variety of teaching techniques, as well as work outside of the classroom. This course explores many topics related to family and consumer science. Major areas of emphasis are cooking, sewing, careers, housing, family living, human development, nutrition, and wellness.		

Course Name: Spanish 1A	Class Type: Elective	Grade: 8
Description: This course explores the Spanish language and culture. Major areas of emphasis are recognition, listening, and introduction conversation. Students will learn through conversation, activities, presentation and technology integration.		

Course Name: Spanish 1B	Class Type: Elective	Grade: 8
Description: This course is a continuation of the exploration of the Spanish language and culture. Major areas of emphasis are reading, writing, recognition, listening, and basic conversation. Students will learn through conversation, activities, presentation and technology integration. Spanish 1A is a prerequisite. **		

Course Name: Strength & Conditioning	Class Type: Elective	Grade: 8
Description: This course is designed to give students the opportunity to learn weight training concepts and techniques used for obtaining optimal physical fitness. Students will benefit from comprehensive weight training and cardiorespiratory endurance activities. Students will learn the basic fundamentals of weight training, strength training, aerobic training, and overall fitness training and conditioning. Course includes both lecture and activity sessions. Students will be empowered to make wise choices, meet challenges, and develop positive behaviors in fitness, wellness, and movement activity for a lifetime.		

Course Name: Math Boost (Intervention)	Class Type: Referral	Grade: 8
Description: Math intervention is designed to “fill the holes” from prior year(s) math classes. This course aims to build math comprehension and fluency. By going back to the basics we will begin with building and cementing basic math skills that will in turn build each student’s confidence in the math classroom. We will be working on Khan Academy, IXL or Xtramath 60 minutes per week depending on grade level. This class is designed to preteach, reteach, and provide support for students taking grade-level math. These classes will work with smaller groups for more 1 on 1 attention. Homework time will be provided as deemed necessary.		

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Course Name: Read 180 (Intervention)	Class Type: Referral	Grade: 8
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Course Name: Language Strategies (Intervention)	Class Type: Referral	Grade: 8
Description: We will learn to read critically, organize our writing, and improve our vocabulary, spelling, and grammar skills.		

Course Name: Math 8	Class Type: Referral	Grade: 8
Description: This class reviews basic Math skills but works on fractions, decimals, percent, and operations with a goal of increasing Math skills to grade level in preparation for high school algebra.		

Course Name: Resource	Class Type: Referral	Grade: 8
Description: This class will use the read naturally program and one-on-one instruction to help students increase basic reading and writing skills. It will give you a chance to finish homework for other classes with teacher assistance and support.		