



Students for Life

Harper Creek Middle School

2025-2026

Course Selection Book

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Harper Creek Middle School Contacts

Main Office: (269) 441-4750

Counseling Office: (269) 441-4794

Middle School Administration

Kim Thayer, Principal E-mail: thayerk@harpercreek.net

Jason O'Farrell, 7th- 8th Vice Principal E-mail: o'farrellj@harpercreek.net

Rebecca Boltjes, 5th-6th Vice Prinicipal E-mail: boltjesr@harpercreek.net

Middle School Student Support Staff

Amanda Schultz, Counselor E-mail: schultza@harpercreek.net

Kalyn Critchlow, Student Support Specialist E-mail: critchlowk@harpercreek.net

Lisa Carr, Student Support Specialist E-mail: carrl@harpercreek.net

Mindy Johnson, Counseling Secretary E-mail: johnsonm@harpercreek.net

Letter from Principal

Students and Families:

The Harper Creek Middle School Core Course Description Guide offers a comprehensive listing of our school's core and elective offerings, which have been designed as a varied and challenging academic curriculum.

All students are encouraged to take a variety of electives in middle school to explore many interests. In high school, students will develop a multi-year plan for their courses developed around and consistent with their Educational Development Plan (EDP). This plan is first developed in 7th grade and should be reviewed and revised each year.

Harper Creek Middle School's primary goal is to provide our students with the skills and competencies needed to be successful citizens and workers in a technological, multi-cultural, and dynamic society. This goal can best be achieved through a collaborative partnership with students and families in rigorous pursuit of high levels of achievement. To do this, students must pass courses in which they are enrolled so that all course options are available to them in each of the following years. Families can support this need by monitoring that students are regularly attending school and completing assigned tasks. Successful passing of courses leads to more elective options in high school, including Advanced Placement (AP) courses, advanced subject area courses, dual enrollment, the Calhoun Area Career Center (CACC), the Battle Creek Area Mathematics and Science Center (BCAMSC), and more.

The elective courses that are taught each year are ultimately determined by how many students sign up to take them during the scheduling process and staffing availability.

Additionally, it is important for students and families to understand that a middle school student cannot "drop" a class. If a student does not like a class, it is the expectation that they are still required to attend and make their best effort.

The middle school staff encourages thoughtful selection of electives that meet not only current interests, but prepare students for unknown opportunities and challenges in the future.

I look forward to the opportunity for the Harper Creek Middle School staff to partner with you in pursuit of your continued success, both individually and as a member of our learning community.

Kim Thayer

High School Principal

Fifth Grade Course Descriptions

English 5 (SCED Code: 01033)

To be college- and career-ready, students must be culturally literate—not just about their own culture, but about the world. Amplify CKLA is built upon a coherent knowledge sequence that is the result of years of research and consultation with content experts, educators, cognitive scientists, and others. The sequence is designed to build upon earlier content so that students become generally knowledgeable in the early grades and are able to rely on a robust web of prior knowledge when encountering new complex texts and material later in elementary and middle school. In 5th grade, students read progressively more complex texts and make more sophisticated inferences from them. Students are asked to answer literal, evaluative, and inferential questions on all the texts they read and listen to. They are taught to understand, analyze, and apply the literary elements and informational components they discover. By the end of Grade 5, they are able to synthesize information from visual, scientific, and textual sources to show understanding of key concepts and to use a range of articles and literary texts to speak credibly in debate.

Amplify CKLA writing instruction is a natural extension of the reading. It requires students to express the meaning in text through opinion, informative, and narrative writing. In 5th grade, students become increasingly sophisticated writers, using an ever-broader vocabulary to convey thoughts and meaning with precise language and a clear understanding of audience and purpose. Language instruction gives students an ever broader and deeper vocabulary and a more sophisticated understanding of grammar and morphology.

Mathematics 5 (SCED Code: 02035)

In 5th-grade math, we believe that *every student* is a capable mathematician. Our classroom is built on the belief that all students can learn and grow in math when given the right support, encouragement, and opportunities to engage in meaningful learning. We emphasize a growth mindset, where mistakes are seen as part of the learning process and perseverance is celebrated. This course not only focuses on building strong individual skills but also on the power of collaboration, using the resource, MidSchool Math Core Curriculum. Students will regularly work together to explore ideas, solve problems, and learn from each other. Through group discussions, partner activities, and team-based challenges, students develop communication skills, critical thinking, and a deeper understanding of math concepts.

Key areas of focus include:

- Place value and operations with multi-digit numbers
- Adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions and decimals
- Understanding volume and measurement
- Data analysis and graphing
- Geometry, including classifying shapes and working with coordinate planes
- Patterns and algebraic thinking

Science 5 (SCED Code: 03235)

This course builds on various systems: identification and description of cycles, comparisons of forms of matter and energy, and forces. Students will make comparisons and interpret and analyze information.

Social Studies 5 (SCED Code: 04435)

5th Grade

Fifth-grade social studies focuses on the people, events, and ideas that shaped early American history. Students begin by learning about the rich cultures and traditions of Native American groups before European contact. They then dive into European exploration and learn about life in Africa before the 16th century. Students examine the interactions between Native Americans, Europeans, and Africans, including the impact of colonization, the rise of the transatlantic slave trade, and the development of slavery in colonial America. They also study everyday life in the colonies, the growing tensions that led to the American Revolution, and important battles and turning points of the war. The year concludes with the formation of a new government, including the writing of the U.S. Constitution.

Advisory/W.I.N. 5

The purpose of the course is to help the student build the skills in the areas of communication, teamwork, problem solving, and any area of academic need. The advisor seeks to assure that every student has one adult on staff (the advisor) who knows him or her well. They serve to be the student's advocate and a contact between home and school. The activities of the program help students develop skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, and decision making. They also address service learning, character building, and community building. This course is graded on a pass-fail basis.

Spanish 5 (SCED Code: 24050)

Students engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions. Students understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics. Students reinforce and further their knowledge of other disciplines through the world language. Students demonstrate understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of the language studies and their own. Students demonstrate understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of the language studies and their own.

Physical Education 5 (SCED Code: 08035)

Physical education classes are designed to promote good health through a variety of activities, including cardiovascular, strength, flexibility, and team sports. This class is a combination of team sports, fitness, and games. The goal is to introduce basic skills while developing strength, endurance, flexibility, and agility. Exhibits responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others. Recognizes the value of physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and/or social interaction.

Health and Wellness 5 (SCED Code: 08109)

Students will engage in lessons that teach the ability to exhibit responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others. Students will be able to recognize the value of physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and/or social interaction.

Band 5 (SCED Code:05135)

Students will demonstrate selected and developed musical ideas for improvisations, arrangements, or compositions to express intent and explain connection to purpose and context. Present the final version of personal created music to others that demonstrates craftsmanship, and explain the connection to expressive intent. When analyzing selected music, read and perform using standard notation. Explain how context (such as social, cultural, and historical) informs performances. Apply teacher-provided and established criteria and feedback to evaluate the accuracy and expressiveness of ensemble and personal performances. Demonstrate performance decorum and audience etiquette appropriate for the context, venue, genre, and style. Demonstrate and explain, citing evidence, how responses to music are informed by the structure, the use of the elements of music, and context (such as social, cultural, and historical).

Choir 5 (SCED Code:05135)

Students will demonstrate selected and developed musical ideas for improvisations, arrangements, or compositions to express intent and explain connection to purpose and context. Present the final version of personal created music to others that demonstrates craftsmanship, and explain the connection to expressive intent. When analyzing selected music, read and perform using standard notation. Explain how context (such as social, cultural, and historical) informs performances. Apply teacher-provided and established criteria and feedback to evaluate the accuracy and expressiveness of ensemble and personal performances. Demonstrate performance decorum and audience etiquette appropriate for the context, venue, genre, and style. Demonstrate and explain, citing evidence, how responses to music are informed by the structure, the use of the elements of music, and context (such as social, cultural, and historical).

General Music 5 (SCED Code:05135)

Students will demonstrate selected and developed musical ideas for improvisations, arrangements, or compositions to express intent and explain connection to purpose and context. Present the final version of personal created music to others that demonstrates craftsmanship, and explain the connection to expressive intent. When analyzing selected music, read and perform using standard notation. Explain how context (such as social, cultural, and historical) informs performances. Apply teacher-provided and established criteria and feedback to evaluate the accuracy and expressiveness of ensemble and personal performances. Demonstrate performance decorum and audience etiquette appropriate for the context, venue, genre, and style. Demonstrate and explain, citing evidence, how responses to music are informed by the structure, the use of the elements of music, and context (such as social, cultural, and historical).

Art 5 (SCED Code:05185)

Students will apply the creative process and critical thinking to the creation of personal and design-based artworks using a variety of tools, materials, and techniques. Assignments encourage learning through independent exploration and research as well as in-class instruction. The goals of the classes are for students to develop and solve problems as artists and designers, to communicate effectively using visual language, and to understand and critique contemporary and historical works of art and design.

S.T.E.A.M. 5 (SCED Code:23008)

Students will engage collaboratively to apply their knowledge of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math through various problem-based learning opportunities. Students will explore to gain new academic knowledge and life skills that are reality-based and personally relevant to the student and their community.

Technology 5 (SCED Code:22999)

Students will learn a variety of technology skills that build on what they have learned in elementary school.

Sixth Grade Course Descriptions

English 6 (SCED Code: 01034)

Imagine Learning EL Education is a well-rounded language arts program designed to meet academic standards while keeping students truly engaged. It uses meaningful, real-world content to spark curiosity and connect learning to life. The program also supports social and emotional growth and introduces students to rich, challenging texts that help build strong literacy skills.

As your child moves through the school year and advances to higher grades, you'll notice their ability to understand more complex reading material grows. At the same time, they'll become more confident in speaking and writing clearly, always using evidence from what they've read—an essential skill that prepares them for success in college, careers, and life.

In 6th grade, students will study four modules that allow students to build important content knowledge in science, social studies, and literature:

- Module 1 - Greek Mythology
- Module 2 - Critical Problems and Design Solutions
- Module 3 - American Indian Boarding Schools
- Module 4 - Remarkable Accomplishments in Space Science

Mathematics 6 (SCED Code: 02036)

In 6th-grade math, we believe that *every student* can learn, grow, and thrive as a mathematician. Our classroom culture emphasizes a growth mindset—mistakes are valued as learning opportunities, effort is celebrated, and all students are encouraged to challenge themselves and support one another. This course builds on prior knowledge while introducing more advanced mathematical thinking using our resource, MidSchool Math Core Curriculum. Collaboration is a key part of our learning environment: students regularly work together to solve problems, share strategies, and learn from each other's ideas. Through teamwork and discussion, students strengthen both their mathematical understanding and their communication skills.

Core topics include:

- Ratios, rates, and proportional reasoning
- Operations with fractions and decimals
- Expressions, equations, and algebraic thinking
- Area, surface area, and volume
- Integers and rational numbers
- Data analysis and statistical thinking
- Coordinate planes and geometry

Science 6 (SCED Code: 03236)

In sixth-grade science, we use the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) to guide instruction, emphasizing crosscutting concepts and science and engineering practices to enhance student learning. Students will explore a variety of scientific domains, connecting real-world phenomena to the core principles outlined in the NGSS. Key topics include the impact of human activity on the water cycle, the existence and role of microorganisms, the spread of disease and its effects on human body systems, the importance of digestion to overall body function, and the application of Newton's Laws of Motion to everyday experiences. Through inquiry-based learning and hands-on activities, students will deepen their understanding of how science explains and shapes the world around them.

Social Studies 6 (SCED Code: 04436)

In 6th-grade social studies, students will adopt a geographic mindset to begin exploring the world beyond the United States. Students will learn the process of geographic inquiry, using the tools and critical thinking skills of the discipline, to analyze

geographic issues at local, regional, and global scales. After learning essential skills in geography, economics, and government, students will apply this foundational knowledge as they learn about the physical and human geography of specific regions throughout the world. Throughout the course, students will work collaboratively with their peers, engage in project-based learning, and practice problem-solving skills as they consider critical issues and processes shaping the world around them.

Advisory/W.I.N. 6

The purpose of the course is to help the student build the skills in the areas of communication, teamwork, problem solving, and any area of academic need. The advisor seeks to assure that every student has one adult on staff (the advisor) who knows him or her well. They serve to be the student's advocate and a contact between home and school. The activities of the program help students develop skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, and decision making. They also address service learning, character building, and community building. This course is graded on a pass-fail basis.

Spanish 6 (SCED Code: 24050)

Students engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions. Students understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics. Students reinforce and further their knowledge of other disciplines through a world language. Students demonstrate understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of the language studies and their own. Students demonstrate understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of the language studies and their own. *

Physical Education 6 (SCED Code: 08036)

Physical education classes are designed to promote good health through a variety of activities, including cardiovascular, strength, flexibility, and team sports. This class is a combination of team sports, fitness and games. The goal is to further develop the skills introduced in previous grades. Activities focus on building strength, endurance, flexibility, and agility. Exhibits responsible personal and social behavior that respects

self and others. Recognizes the value of physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression and/or social interaction.

Health and Wellness 6 (SCED Code: 08110)

Students will engage in lessons that teach the ability to exhibit responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others. Students will be able to recognize the value of physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and/or social interaction.

Band 6 (SCED Code:05136)

Students will select, organize, construct, and document personal musical ideas for arrangements and compositions within AB or ABA form that demonstrate an effective beginning, middle, and ending, and convey expressive intent. Present the final version of their documented personal composition or arrangement, using craftsmanship and originality to demonstrate an effective beginning, middle, and ending, and convey expressive intent. When analyzing selected music, read and identify by name or function standard symbols for rhythm, pitch, articulation, and dynamics. Identify how cultural and historical context informs performances. Identify and apply teacher-provided criteria (such as correct interpretation of notation, technical accuracy, originality, and interest) to rehearse, refine, and determine when a piece is ready to perform. Demonstrate performance decorum (such as stage presence, attire, and behavior) and audience etiquette appropriate for the venue and purpose. Identify the context of music from a variety of genres, cultures, and historical periods. Generate simple rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic phrases within AB and ABA forms that convey expressive intent.

Choir 6 (SCED Code:05136)

Students will select, organize, construct, and document personal musical ideas for arrangements and compositions within AB or ABA form that demonstrate an effective beginning, middle, and ending, and convey expressive intent. Present the final version of their documented personal composition or arrangement, using craftsmanship and originality to demonstrate an effective beginning, middle, and ending, and convey expressive intent. When analyzing selected music, read and identify by name or function standard symbols for rhythm, pitch, articulation, and dynamics. Identify how cultural and historical context informs performances. Identify and apply teacher-

provided criteria (such as correct interpretation of notation, technical accuracy, originality, and interest) to rehearse, refine, and determine when a piece is ready to perform. Demonstrate performance decorum (such as stage presence, attire, and behavior) and audience etiquette appropriate for the venue and purpose. Identify the context of music from a variety of genres, cultures, and historical periods. Generate simple rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic phrases within AB and ABA forms that convey expressive intent.

General Music 6 (SCED Code:05136)

Students will select, organize, construct, and document personal musical ideas for arrangements and compositions within AB or ABA form that demonstrate an effective beginning, middle, and ending, and convey expressive intent. Present the final version of their documented personal composition or arrangement, using craftsmanship and originality to demonstrate an effective beginning, middle, and ending, and convey expressive intent. When analyzing selected music, read and identify by name or function standard symbols for rhythm, pitch, articulation, and dynamics. Identify how cultural and historical context informs performances. Identify and apply teacher-provided criteria (such as correct interpretation of notation, technical accuracy, originality, and interest) to rehearse, refine, and determine when a piece is ready to perform. Identify the context of music from a variety of genres, cultures, and historical periods. Generate simple rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic phrases within AB and ABA forms that convey expressive intent.

Art 6 (SCED Code:05136)

Students will apply the creative process and critical thinking to the creation of personal and design-based artworks using a variety of tools, materials, and techniques. Assignments encourage learning through independent exploration and research as well as in-class instruction. The goals of the classes are for students to develop and solve problems as artists and designers, to communicate effectively using visual language, and to understand and critique contemporary and historical works of art and design.

S.T.E.A.M. 6 (SCED Code:23009)

Students will engage collaboratively to apply their knowledge of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math through various problem-based learning opportunities. Students will explore to gain new academic knowledge and life skills that are reality-based and personally relevant to the student and their community.

Technology 6 (SCED Code:22999)

The students will learn a variety of technology skills that build on what they have previously learned.

Seventh Grade Course Descriptions

English 7 (SCED Code: 01035)

Imagine Learning EL Education is a robust, standards-aligned language arts curriculum designed to captivate diverse learners with engaging, real-world content. Centered on meaningful material, the program integrates social and emotional learning while offering rich, complex texts that foster advanced literacy development.

As students move through the school year and advance in reading levels, they show a growing ability to understand increasingly sophisticated texts. Simultaneously, their skills in both oral and written communication flourish, grounded in evidence from the text—an essential competency for success in college and beyond.

In 7th grade, students will study four modules that allow students to build important content knowledge in science, social studies, and literature:

- Module 1 - The Lost Children of Sudan
- Module 2 - Epidemics
- Module 3 - The Harlem Renaissance
- Module 4 - Plastic Pollution

Mathematics 7 (SCED Code: 02037)

In 7th grade math, we continue to foster the belief that *all students are capable of learning and succeeding in mathematics*. With a strong focus on developing a growth mindset, students are encouraged to take risks, embrace challenges, and learn from mistakes. Every student is supported in building the confidence and resilience needed to thrive in math. Collaboration plays a central role in the classroom. Students engage in group work, math talks, and peer discussions that allow them to explain their thinking, consider different perspectives, and grow together as a math community. Working together helps deepen understanding and strengthens both academic and interpersonal skills as we work through our resource, MidSchool Math Core Curriculum.

Key areas of study include:

- Ratios and proportions
- Operations with rational numbers (including negatives)

- Expressions, equations, and inequalities
- Formulas for the area and circumference of a circle and angle relationships
- Probability and statistics

Science 7 (SCED Code: 03237)

In science, we will use the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) to anchor instruction, incorporating crosscutting concepts and science and engineering practices to support and extend student learning. Students will explore what determines our traits, gaining an understanding of how genes influence the differences among individuals. They will study the rock cycle, examining how various Earth processes work together to continuously reshape the planet's surface. To deepen their understanding of energy flow and matter cycling, students will investigate volcanoes—one of Earth's most dynamic natural phenomena. Through the use of models, experiments, and hands-on activities, they will explore the key components and processes involved in volcanic activity.

Social Studies 7 (SCED Code: 04051)

Students will develop an understanding of the history of human society from early civilization to the contemporary period, examining geographical studies, political, economic, social, religious, military, scientific, and cultural developments. Students will evaluate evidence, compare and contrast information, interpret the historical record, and develop sound historical arguments and perspectives.

Advisory/W.I.N. 7

The purpose of the course is to help the student build the skills in the areas of communication, teamwork, problem solving, and any area of academic need. The advisor seeks to assure that every student has one adult on staff (the advisor) who knows him or her well. They serve to be the student's advocate and a contact between home and school. The activities of the program help students develop skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, and decision making. They also address service learning, character building and community building. This course is graded on a pass-fail basis.

Spanish 7 (SCED Code: 24050)

Seventh-grade Spanish is designed to prepare students to travel to a Spanish-speaking country. Students engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions. Students understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics. Students reinforce and further their knowledge of other disciplines through a world language. Students demonstrate understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of the language studies and their own. Students demonstrate understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of the language studies and their own.

Physical Education 7 (SCED Code: 08037)

Physical education classes are designed to promote good health through a variety of activities, including cardiovascular, strength, flexibility, and team sports. This class is a combination of team sports, fitness, and games. The goal is to further develop the skills introduced in previous grades. Activities focus on building strength, endurance, flexibility, and agility. Exhibits responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others. Recognizes the value of physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression and/or social interaction.

Health and Wellness 7-A (SCED Code:08111)

Students will engage in lessons that teach the ability to exhibit responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others. Students will be able to recognize the value of physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and/or social interaction.

Health and Wellness 7-B (SCED Code:08111)

Reproductive Health, Xello - Career Pathways, 7th Grade Lessons from Student Support Specialist, Signs of Suicide Lessons (community partnership), Sexual Assault Services Lessons (community partnership)

Life Skills (SCED Code: 19257)

Students will study basic nutrition (with emphasis on kitchen safety and food preparation) and sewing skills (will be required to purchase and construct a project of their choice). Students will explore self-discovery on topics like self-esteem, self-

concept, personality and values. Students will learn how to write goals and a Code of Ethics.

The course consists of health issues and healthy lifestyles. Areas to be covered include: wellness, target heart rate, anatomy, systems of the body, as well as first aid and basic emergency care.

Band 7(SCED Code:05137)

Students will select, organize, develop and document personal musical ideas for arrangements, songs, and compositions within AB, ABA, or theme and variation forms that demonstrate unity and variety and convey expressive intent. Present the final version of their documented personal composition, song, or arrangement, using craftsmanship and originality to demonstrate unity and variety, and convey expressive intent. When analyzing selected music, read and identify by name or function standard symbols for rhythm, pitch, articulation, dynamics, tempo, and form. Identify how cultural and historical context informs performances and results in different music interpretations. Identify and apply collaboratively-developed criteria (such as demonstrating correct interpretation of notation, technical skill of performer, originality, emotional impact, and interest) to rehearse, refine, and determine when the music is ready to perform. Demonstrate performance decorum (such as stage presence, attire, and behavior) and audience etiquette appropriate for venue, purpose, and context. Identify and compare the context of music from a variety of genres, cultures, and historical periods.

Choir 7 (SCED Code:05137)

Students will select, organize, develop, and document personal musical ideas for arrangements, songs, and compositions within AB, ABA, or theme and variation forms that demonstrate unity and variety and convey expressive intent. Present the final version of their documented personal composition, song, or arrangement, using craftsmanship and originality to demonstrate unity and variety, and convey expressive intent. When analyzing selected music, read and identify by name or function standard symbols for rhythm, pitch, articulation, dynamics, tempo, and form. Identify how cultural and historical context inform performances and result in different music interpretations. Identify and apply collaboratively-developed criteria (such as demonstrating correct interpretation of notation, technical skill of performer, originality, emotional impact, and interest) to rehearse, refine, and determine when the music is ready to perform. Demonstrate performance decorum (such as stage presence, attire, and behavior) and

audience etiquette appropriate for venue, purpose, and context. Identify and compare the context of music from a variety of genres, cultures, and historical periods.

General Music 7 (SCED Code:05137)

Students will select, organize, develop, and document personal musical ideas for arrangements, songs, and compositions within AB, ABA, or theme and variation forms that demonstrate unity and variety and convey expressive intent. Present the final version of their documented personal composition, song, or arrangement, using craftsmanship and originality to demonstrate unity and variety, and convey expressive intent. When analyzing selected music, read and identify by name or function standard symbols for rhythm, pitch, articulation, dynamics, tempo, and form. Identify how cultural and historical context informs performances and results in different music interpretations. Identify and apply collaboratively-developed criteria (such as demonstrating correct interpretation of notation, technical skill of performer, originality, emotional impact, and interest) to rehearse, refine, and determine when the music is ready to perform. Identify and compare the context of music from a variety of genres, cultures, and historical periods.

Art 7 (SCED Code:05137)

Students will apply the creative process and critical thinking to the creation of personal and design-based artworks using a variety of tools, materials, and techniques. Assignments encourage learning through independent exploration and research as well as in-class instruction. The goals of the classes are for students to develop and solve problems as artists and designers, to communicate effectively using visual language, and to understand and critique contemporary and historical works of art and design.

S.T.E.A.M. 7 (SCED Code:23010)

Students will engage collaboratively to apply their knowledge of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math through various problem-based learning opportunities. Students will explore to gain new academic knowledge and life skills that are reality-based and personally relevant to the student and their community.

Small Engine Repair 7 (SCED Code:23010)

This course familiarizes students with safety in a workshop/garage environment, the use of hand tools, and small engines. Units of study include engine parts, the operation

of the small engine. Labs emphasize safety, maintenance, and organization while students explore disassembling and reassembling small engines.

Computer Science 7 (SCED Code: 10011)

This course introduces and extends previous computer experience. It aims to help students become more independent as they work with the computer. Students start with a review of keyboarding skills and then proceed to work on assignments that include the word processing and drawing environments of Microsoft Office. We also cover basic internet searches and a website evaluation. Class work comes from academic areas and personal experience to enable the student to use the computer as a tool for learning.

Eighth Grade Course Descriptions

English 8 (SCED Code: 01036)

Imagine Learning EL Education is a comprehensive, standards-based language arts program that engages diverse learners through compelling real-world content. This content-based curriculum emphasizes social and emotional learning and includes rich, complex texts to build deeper literacy skills.

As students progress through the academic year and across grade levels, they increasingly demonstrate their capacity to comprehend more intricate texts. At the same time, their oral and written expression proficiency, rooted in textual evidence, blossoms—an indispensable college and career readiness skill.

In 8th grade, students will study four modules that allow students to build important content knowledge in science, social studies, and literature:

- Module 1 - Folklore of Latin America
- Module 2 - Food Choices
- Module 3 - Voices of the Holocaust
- Module 4 - Lessons from Japanese Internment

English 1 (SCED Code: 01001)

This is a high school freshman-level course. Students in this class will cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development throughout the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text. Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop throughout a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language evokes a sense of time and place; how it sets a formal or informal tone). By the end of this class, students will be able to read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems and be able to delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a

text, assessing whether the reasoning is valid and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; identify false statements and fallacious reasoning.

Students will write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grades 9 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

Students will initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions(one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade-level topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively. Present information, findings, and supporting evidence, concisely and logically, such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and task.

Mathematics 8 (SCED Code: 02038)

In 8th-grade math, we believe that *every student can learn, grow, and succeed in mathematics*. We promote a growth mindset, where effort, persistence, and reflection are seen as key ingredients for success. Mistakes are viewed as opportunities to learn, and students are encouraged to take on challenges with confidence. Collaboration continues to be a vital part of the learning experience as we work through our resource, MidSchool Math Core Curriculum. Students work in teams to solve problems, explore mathematical concepts, and explain their thinking. Through discussion and shared learning, students not only deepen their understanding of math but also strengthen their communication and critical thinking skills.

Core areas of study include:

- Linear equations and systems of equations
- Functions and their representations
- Exponents and scientific notation

- Transformations, congruence, and similarity
- The Pythagorean Theorem
- Data analysis and bivariate data

This course prepares students for high school-level math by building strong algebraic reasoning skills, problem-solving strategies, and mathematical confidence. With the support of a collaborative classroom community, students leave 8th grade ready to take on new challenges in Algebra and beyond.

Algebra 1 (SCED Code: 02052)

This is a high school, freshman-level course that provides a formal development of the algebraic skills and concepts necessary for students to succeed in advanced courses. In particular, the instructional program in this course provides for the use of algebraic skills in a wide range of problem-solving situations. The concept of function is emphasized throughout the course. Topics: (1) operations with real numbers, (2) linear equations and inequalities, (3) relations and functions, (4) polynomials, (5) algebraic fractions, and (6) nonlinear equations.

Science 8 (SCED Code: 03011)

In science, we will use Next Generation Science Standards to anchor learning, applying the cross-cutting concepts and science and engineering practices to further student learning. Students start by discovering how a species can survive a change in the environment through the process of natural selection and adaptation. Students then uncover the concepts of regional weather by looking at the phenomenon of lake effect snow in West Michigan. Students will be able to explain how energy is transferred in a system by engineering cars that can transfer one type of energy to another. Students examine the properties of sound and light by analyzing a problem at a local concert venue.

Social Studies 8 (SCED Code:04101)

Students will continue their study of U.S. history from the development of the Constitution through Reconstruction. Geographic, civics/government, and economics content is integrated within the historical context under study. Students will understand the relevancy and connections of this history to their lives through an inquiry process.

Students will use significant content knowledge, research skills, and inquiry practices to analyze issues and communicate conclusions.

Advisory/W.I.N. 8

The purpose of the course is to help the student build the skills in the areas of communication, teamwork, problem solving, and any area of academic need. The advisor seeks to assure that every student has one adult on staff (the advisor) who knows him or her well. They serve to be the student's advocate and a contact between home and school. The activities of the program help students develop skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, and decision making. They also address service learning, character building, and community building. This course is graded on a pass-fail basis.

Spanish 8 (SCED Code: 24050)

Students will explore the culture and vocabulary of Spanish-speaking countries. Students engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions. Students understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics. Students reinforce and further their knowledge of other disciplines through a world language. Students demonstrate understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of the language studies and their own. Students demonstrate understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of the language studies and their own. *

Spanish 1 (SCED Code: 24052)

Students should have an interest in understanding, speaking, reading, and writing Spanish, and learning about Hispanic cultures. Students engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions. Students understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics. Students reinforce and further their knowledge of other disciplines through a world language. Students demonstrate understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of the language studies and their own. Students demonstrate understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of the language studies and their own. Homework and practice outside of class are required every day. Some projects may be done in Spanish.

French 1(SCED Code:24102)

Students should have an interest in understanding, speaking, reading, and writing French, and learning about francophone cultures. Students engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions. Students understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics. Students reinforce and further their knowledge of other disciplines through a world language. Students demonstrate understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of the language studies and their own. Students demonstrate understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of the language studies and their own. Homework and practice outside of class are required every day. Some projects may be done in French.

Physical Education 8 (SCED Code: 08038)

Physical education classes are designed to promote good health through a variety of activities, including cardiovascular, strength, flexibility, and team sports. This class is a combination of team sports, fitness, and games. The goal is to further develop the skills introduced in previous grades. Activities focus on building strength, endurance, flexibility, and agility. Exhibits responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others. Recognizes the value of physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and/or social interaction.

Weight Lifting & Conditioning (SCED Code:08009)

The focus of this course is to improve overall health and muscle through weight lifting and conditioning. Exhibits responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others. Recognizes the value of physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and/or social interaction.

Life Management (SCED Code:19258)

Life Management is divided into three study areas: basic nutrition and food preparation, sewing skills, and family structure and life skills. Students will keep a portfolio of their work and will have a wide variety of hands-on opportunities for learning. Problem-solving and writing skills will be consistently used throughout the semester. Students will explore topics like self-esteem, decision making, communication skills, and healthy living.

Band 8 (SCED Code:05138)

Students will use standard and/or iconic notation and/or audio/ video recording to document personal rhythmic phrases, melodic phrases, and harmonic sequences. Present the final version of their documented personal composition, song, or arrangement, using craftsmanship and originality to demonstrate the application of compositional techniques for creating unity and variety, tension and release, and balance to convey expressive intent. When analyzing selected music, sight-read in treble or bass clef, simple rhythmic, melodic, and/or harmonic notation. Identify how cultural and historical context informs performances and results in different musical effects. Identify and apply personally-developed criteria (such as demonstrating correct interpretation of notation, technical skill of performer, originality, emotional impact, variety, and interest) to rehearse, refine, and determine when the music is ready to perform. Demonstrate performance decorum (such as stage presence, attire, and behavior) and audience etiquette appropriate for venue, purpose, context, and style. Identify and compare the context of programs of music from a variety of genres, cultures, and historical periods.

Choir 8 (SCED Code:05138)

Students will use standard and/or iconic notation and/or audio/ video recording to document personal rhythmic phrases, melodic phrases, and harmonic sequences. Present the final version of their documented personal composition, song, or arrangement, using craftsmanship and originality to demonstrate the application of compositional techniques for creating unity and variety, tension and release, and balance to convey expressive intent. When analyzing selected music, sight-read in treble or bass clef, simple rhythmic, melodic, and/or harmonic notation. Identify how cultural and historical context informs performances and results in different musical effects. Identify and apply personally-developed criteria (such as demonstrating correct interpretation of notation, technical skill of performer, originality, emotional impact, variety, and interest) to rehearse, refine, and determine when the music is ready to perform. Demonstrate performance decorum (such as stage presence, attire, and behavior) and audience etiquette appropriate for venue, purpose, context, and style. Identify and compare the context of programs of music from a variety of genres, cultures, and historical periods.

General Music 8 (SCED Code:05138)

Students will use standard and/or iconic notation and/or audio/ video recording to document personal rhythmic phrases, melodic phrases, and harmonic sequences. Present the final version of their documented personal composition, song, or

arrangement, using craftsmanship and originality to demonstrate the application of compositional techniques for creating unity and variety, tension and release, and balance to convey expressive intent. When analyzing selected music, sight-read in treble or bass clef, simple rhythmic, melodic, and/or harmonic notation. Identify how cultural and historical context informs performances and results in different musical effects. Identify and apply personally-developed criteria (such as demonstrating correct interpretation of notation, technical skill of performer, originality, emotional impact, variety, and interest) to rehearse, refine, and determine when the music is ready to perform. Identify and compare the context of programs of music from a variety of genres, cultures, and historical periods.

Art 8 (SCED Code:05138)

Students will apply the creative process and critical thinking to the creation of personal and design-based artworks using a variety of tools, materials, and techniques. Assignments encourage learning through independent exploration and research as well as in-class instruction. The goals of the classes are for students to develop and solve problems as artists and designers, to communicate effectively using visual language, and to understand and critique contemporary and historical works of art and design.

S.T.E.A.M. 8 (SCED Code:23011)

Students will engage collaboratively to apply their knowledge of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math through various problem-based learning opportunities. Students will explore to gain new academic knowledge and life skills that are reality-based and personally relevant to the student and their community.

Small Engine Repair 8 (SCED Code:23011)

This course familiarizes students with safety in a workshop/garage environment, the use of hand tools, and small engines. Units of study include engine parts, the operation of the small engine. Labs emphasize safety, maintenance, and organization while students explore disassembling and reassembling small engines.

Computer Science 8 (SCED Code: 10012)

This course introduces and extends previous computer experience. Students will become more independent as they work with the computer. Students start with a review of keyboarding skills and then proceed to work on assignments that include the word processing and drawing environments of Microsoft Office. We also cover basic internet searches and a website evaluation. Class work comes from academic areas and personal experience with the objective of enabling the student to use the computer as a tool for learning.

*Harper Creek Community Schools offers the opportunity for World Language Experience units beginning in elementary school. Most students that attended a Harper Creek elementary building will come to the middle school with one unit completed. HCMS attempts to have all students complete their two units of World Language Experience by the end of 6th grade. Two units are currently required for high school graduation. These units do not equate to high school credits.