

# EAST TROY

**COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

*Committed to the Growth & Success of Each Student, Each Year*

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL PLANNING GUIDE**

**2025-2026**



[www.easttroy.k12.wi.us](http://www.easttroy.k12.wi.us)

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Dear Students and Families

Thank you for taking the time to review the East Troy Middle School Planning Guide. Inside, you will find information related to the courses offered, programming, and requirements for each grade level. Our goal at East Troy Middle School is to provide a personalized learning environment where students are empowered through voice and choice in their classes. We offer a variety of elective courses at East Troy Middle School and allow our students to travel to the High School to take advantage of even more opportunities. We encourage students to take a variety of courses throughout their time at ETMS as they explore different interests. If you have questions regarding any of the courses we offer, please do not hesitate to reach out!

Promoting a Culture of Learning,

Adam Trindl  
*Principal*

Brian Skweres  
*Dean of Students*

Kateri Kuhn  
*School Counselor*

## Contact Information

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# East Troy Community School District:

## Mission, Vision, and Goals

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### **Our Mission**

To ensure and provide 21<sup>st</sup> century learning through: engaged student learning, quality teaching, strong leadership, rigorous coursework, and community service opportunities while demonstrating efficiency and effectiveness for the betterment of both students and the community.

### **Our Vision**

- Time for learning-remove barriers
- Competency based education-look at outcomes, not being defined by grade or age
- School partnerships with community members/parents/agencies/higher education
- Provide meaningful, practical application skills through assignments/projects
- High quality instruction-more engagement/interest, meeting the needs of all learners
- High levels of accountability for students and staff
- Creating opportunities through individualized experiences to encourage self-directed learning

### **Our Goals**

- Ensuring a year to a year plus of learning growth for each child, each year.
- Ensuring programming opportunities through systems and practices that develop the talents of each child in an era of globalization.
- Ensuring individualized learning by empowering students with a personalized learning environment.
- Employing the highest quality professional staff.
- Adapting facilities for current and future educational needs.
- Demonstrating fiscal responsibility through efficiency and effectiveness.



### **Personalized Learning Environment**

We are committed to the personalized learning of every learner who attends our schools, placing the individual learner at the center of the learning process. It is our focus to provide opportunities and flexible assessments that promote the 6cs (collaboration, communication, critical thinking, creativity, curiosity, and competency of content) and empower our students to take ownership of their learning. To understand more about personalized learning explore the personalized learning section on [our website](#) and our district's [personalized learning environment policy](#).

### **East Troy Middle School Mission**

The goal of East Troy Middle School is to empower students to meet the challenges of a changing world.

# Scheduling

## Timeline and Course Selection

Pupil Services staff and teachers begin the scheduling process with learners during winter of the previous school year. Learners are expected to engage in core academic courses (English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies), continuing to build their foundational knowledge and skills. Through the selection of elective courses learners will explore interests, deepen and apply learning, and grow in the 6cs (communication, collaboration, critical thinking, competency of content, creativity, and curiosity).

## Course Changes

During scheduling, learners are asked to select elective choices. Every effort is made to accommodate these choices. However, sometimes conflicts do occur which may require learners to be scheduled in alternate courses. Classes are determined based on learner interest and the number of students selecting a course. Due to this, it is difficult to change courses. Learners are encouraged to explore this guide, talk to their counselor, and talk with their families to ensure courses are carefully selected.

Parents and guardians can request course changes prior to the start of the school year. Students can also submit a course change request form during the first week of school year. Pupil Services staff will consider all requests and communicate changes with students and families.

## East Troy Middle School Required Courses

### 6th Grade

English Language Arts 6  
Math 6 - Core Connections 1  
Science 6  
Social Studies 6  
Physical Education/Health 6  
Music (1 trimester) - General Music, Band, or Choir  
Art 6 A & B  
Robotics 6  
STEAM 6  
Introduction to Spanish  
Elective Survey Courses depending on Music choice

### 7th Grade

English Language Arts 7  
Math 7 - Core Connections 2  
Science 7  
Social Studies 7  
Physical Education 7

### 8th Grade

English Language Arts 8  
Math 8 - Core Connections 3  
Science 8  
Social Studies 8  
Physical Education 8



6th and 7th grade students will make their course selections for next year using the Skyward. Pupil Services staff will work with students to understand their elective options and navigate the Skyward platform. Families have access to Skyward through the family portal. If you have questions about how to access the family portal, please contact your students' counselor.

For information regarding programs and courses offered at East Troy High School, check out the East Troy High School Planning Guide on our [district website](#).



# Course Information

## Course Overviews (Curriculum)

The East Troy Community School District aligns curriculum to the Wisconsin Academic Standards in all subjects. The standards provide transparent and comprehensive guidelines for successful learning beyond the classroom. The standards are designed to be rigorous and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills our learners need for success in college and careers.

The course overviews detail explicit goals for daily instruction and highlight essential skills, concepts, and knowledge to provide a clear focus for student learning and assessments. They also provide parents/guardians a consistent, clear understanding to support their child's learning at home.

### Where can I find the course overviews?

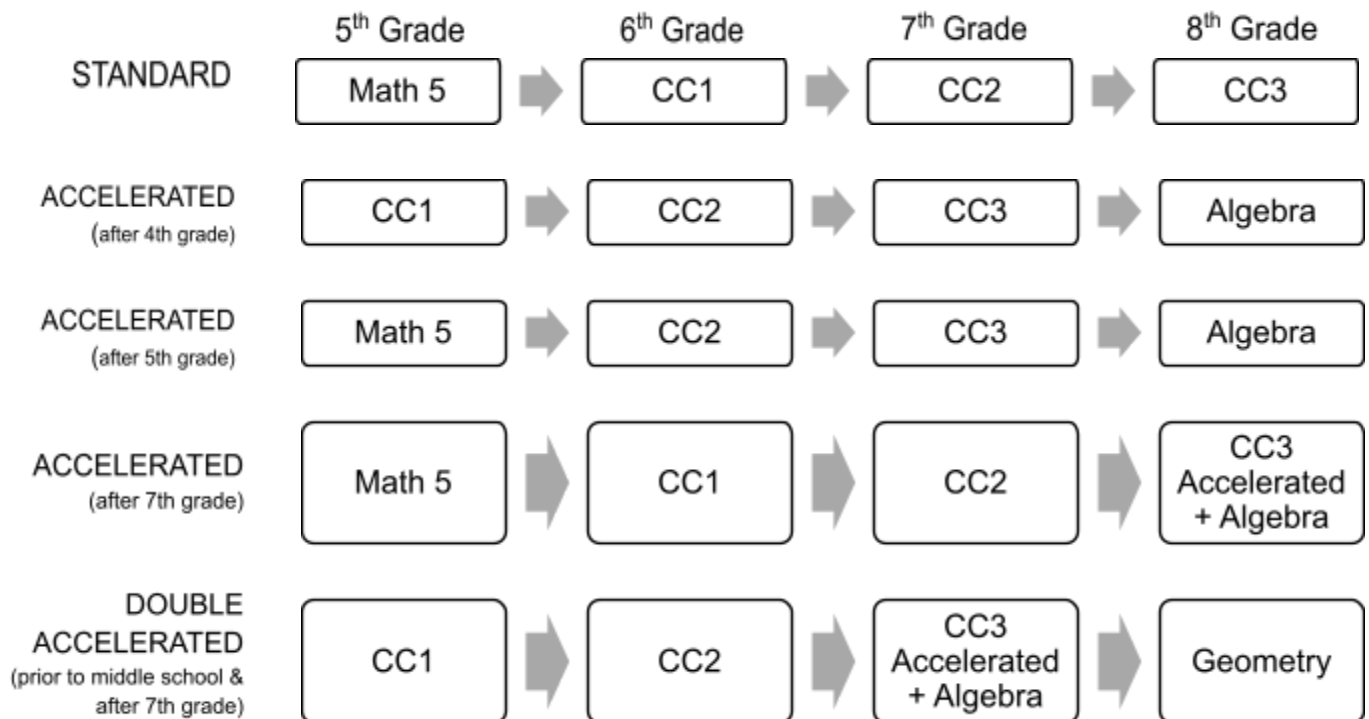
Course overviews for elementary, middle, and high school are available on the district website under ["Course Overviews."](#)

## Grading and Reporting

At East Troy Middle School, the purpose of a grade is to clearly communicate, as part of the feedback process, the demonstration of knowledge or skill in an established standard in comparison to where students should be at the end of each trimester. ETMS utilizes a standards-based reporting system that is more accurate and grows student confidence in their learning. Using academic standards as the foundation, we can more accurately monitor, measure, and communicate a student's learning growth and academic achievement while ensuring the conditions for teachers to provide clear and meaningful feedback for each student based on their specific needs and goals. Feedback and reporting on character traits are incorporated to support students in developing and sustaining behavioral skills, attitudes, and habits for lifelong success now and in their post-secondary endeavors.

## Mathematics Course Progressions

Decisions about advancement in mathematics are made in collaboration with families using specific criteria. Advancement can occur after 4th grade Math, 5th grade Math, and/or after taking CC2 (typically in 7th grade).



### General Criteria for Advancement in Mathematics ([Click to View Grade-Level Specific Criteria](#))

- 85th percentile or higher on 3 out of 5 of their most recent MAP assessment (including recent Spring assessment)
- Demonstrated proficiency in essential skills (measurement specific to each grade level)

One of the above criteria, if not met, may be replaced by one of the following depending on grade level:

- Teacher recommendation including evidence from daily in-class work demonstrating high level problem solving.
- Proficiency on skill-based assessment (administered at parent request if only one of the two criteria is met)



# Academic and Career Planning Process



## What is ACP?

Academic and Career Planning, or ACP, is a student-driven, adult-supported process in which students create and cultivate their own unique and information-based visions for post-secondary success, obtained through self-exploration, career exploration, and the development of career management and planning skills.

Check out [Wisconsin DPI's website](#) for answers to ACP frequently asked questions.

All East Troy Middle School students will participate in activities that will help them through the ACP process. Students will utilize the tools and resources in [Xello](#), a career-researching website.

## What is the ACP Process?

Throughout the ACP process students will begin to reflect on the following:

1. Who am I? (**KNOW**)
  - a. Self-Awareness Activities
  - b. Individual Goal Setting and Reflection
2. What do I want to do? (**EXPLORE**)
  - a. Career Awareness Assessment
  - b. Career Research
3. How do I get there? (**PLAN**)
  - a. Connecting middle and high school instructional activities with opportunities to explore or learn more about a field of interest
  - b. Discussion on work-based learning opportunities, extra-curricular and community-based learning experiences
  - c. Postsecondary options
  - d. Financial plan to cover the cost of postsecondary training
4. Let's go! (**GO**)
  - a. Update regularly
  - b. Adapt/Modify Intentional Sequence of Courses
  - c. Adapt/Modify Personal Goals
  - d. Adapt/Modify Postsecondary/Career Goals
  - e. ACP Conferencing with families in 8th grade

ACP is an ongoing process in which students will practice goal setting and planning in each grade and continuously develop and revise their personal ACP plan. Each student's plan will gradually build from one year to the next as the student begins to get to know themselves better, explore their options, and uniquely develop. We anticipate and encourage plans to change annually based on their personal experiences.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Transition to High School

The transition from 8th grade to high school is an important one, and we take many steps to prepare for it. The transition process includes but is not limited to a tour of the high school with teachers presenting information on courses offered, parent night outlining opportunities at the high school, high school counselor presentations, continued ACP lessons, and high school course selection. 8th grade planning conferences are a key ingredient to the transition from middle school to high school. Topics discussed are student's academic and extracurricular goals, course selection based on their goals, previous and future standardized tests, and the transition to high school.

*For information regarding programs and courses offered at East Troy High School, check out the East Troy High School Planning Guide on our [district website](#).*





# Special Education & Supports

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## **General Information**

- Special education needs are met by the East Troy Community School District according to the procedures established through Chapter 115 of the State Statutes and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of the Federal Statutes.
- If a student is determined to be a child with a disability and needs specialized instruction, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is developed to identify the goals, objectives, and related services the learner requires to be able to access a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE).

## **Services and Supports**

A wide range of services and supports are provided to learners who have been identified with educational disabilities requiring special education services to meet their unique needs and ensure that each child is College and Career Ready when they graduate from High School. To meet learner needs within the least restrictive environment and ensure that all learners receive a FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education), all learners with identified disabilities will be instructed in regular education classes. Exceptions to this may be made when individual needs require additional special education programming and course development to meet individualized disability-related needs. In those situations, the learner's IEP team will outline the need for specially designed instruction which is aligned with common core standards and the school curriculum. Each learner's IEP team makes placement decisions in courses and instruction based on factors such as subject matter and disability related needs.

In addition to special education courses, some learners may receive intervention courses which provide reading, writing and mathematics skill development. Learners are placed in these courses based on academic performance levels.

## **Contact Information**

If you have concerns regarding your child's social, emotional, behavioral, or academic progress and believe that they may have a special education disability, please contact the school psychologist or school principal.

Should you have additional questions regarding special education courses or programming options within the District, please contact Amanda Jones, Director of Special Education & Pupil Services.

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## **Non-Discrimination**

The Board of the East Troy School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education program of activity and is required by Title IX and its implementing regulations not to discriminate in such a manner. The requirement not to discriminate in its education program or activity extends to admission and employment. The District's Title IX Coordinator(s) is/are:

Amanda Jones  
Director of Pupil Services  
East Troy School District  
2040 Beulah Ave.,  
East Troy, WI 53120  
262-642-6710 x 1275  
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Any inquiries about the application of Title IX and its implementing regulations to the District may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator(s), the Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both.

The Board has adopted a grievance process that provides for the prompt and equitable resolution of student and employee complaints alleging any action that is prohibited by Title IX and/or its implementing regulations. The grievance process is included in Policy 2264 - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities, which is available at: <http://www.eastroy.k12.wi.us/district/annual-notices.cfm>. The grievance process specifically addresses how to report or file a complaint of sex discrimination, how to report or file a formal complaint of Sexual Harassment, and how the district will respond.





# Home-Based Private Education Program (FAQs)

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## **What is a home-based private educational program?**

Under Wisconsin Statute, “A home-based private educational program means a program of educational instruction provided to a child by the child’s parent or guardian or by a person designated by the parent or guardian. An instructional program provided to more than one family unit does not constitute a home-based private educational program.” To comply with the compulsory school attendance law, a parent or guardian has the right to select a home-based private educational program, commonly referred to as homeschooling.

## **What are the requirements for a homeschooling program?**

Wisconsin Statute 118.165(1) specifies that a home-based private educational program must provide at least 875 hours of instruction each school year. Additionally, the program must provide a sequentially progressive curriculum of fundamental instruction in reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, and health.

## **Does the school district provide curriculum and textbooks to students who are enrolled in a home-based private educational program?**

Families who choose to enroll their child in a home-based private educational program assume all responsibilities including providing instruction in the required subject areas and obtaining the curriculum and educational resources.

## **Can a student who is enrolled in a home-based private educational program take courses at a public school?**

The part-time attendance law allows homeschooled students to attend a public school on a part-time basis. Space permitting, a school district is required to allow pupils who are enrolled in a homeschool program to take up to two courses per semester. Students must satisfy the minimum standards for admission to a course offered by the school district.

## **Can a homeschool student attend summer school at a public school?**

A homeschool student may attend summer school in the student’s resident school district. If they wish to attend in a non-resident district, the district must charge tuition.

## **Can a student who is enrolled in a home-based private educational program participate in extracurricular activities and clubs offered by a public school?**

Homeschool students may participate in interscholastic athletics or extracurricular activities in their resident school district on the same basis and to the same extent as pupils enrolled in the district. A school board may charge fees for a homeschool pupil who participates in extracurricular activities on the same basis and to the same extent that it charges these fees to a pupil who is enrolled in the school district.

## **Can a homeschool student participate in the eighth-grade promotion ceremony?**

Participation in the promotion ceremony signifies the successful completion of the district’s entire middle school curriculum. As a result, homeschool students do not take part in the promotion ceremony.

## **How do homeschool students receive a high school diploma?**

In Wisconsin, high school diplomas are issued by public and private schools. A home-based private educational program does not lead to a traditional Wisconsin high school diploma. Therefore, homeschool students do not take part in the high school graduation ceremony.

A student who is enrolled in a home-based private educational program may wish to pursue the requirements for a General Educational Development (GED) certificate and/or High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED). Additional information about obtaining a GED or HSED is available on the DPI website at

<https://dpi.wi.gov/ged>.

More information regarding Home-Based Private Education Programs is available on the DPI website at

<http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/home-based>.



# Course Listing

Courses are subject to change, be sure to check with your counselor for the most up-to-date information.

Core Courses			
	Course Name (*required)	Grades	Prerequisites & Notes
English Language Arts	English Language Arts (ELA) 6*	6	
	English Language Arts (ELA) 7*	7	
	English Language Arts (ELA) 8*	8	
Math	Math 6 - Core Connections (CC) 1*	6	
	Math 7 - Core Connections (CC) 2*	7	
	Math 8 - Core Connections (CC) 3*	8	
	Accelerated Core Connections (CC) 3	7, 8	Advancement Criteria on page 6
	Algebra I	7, 8	Advancement Criteria on page 6
Science	Science 6*	6	
	Science 7*	7	
	Science 8*	8	
Social Studies	Social Studies 6*	6	
	Social Studies 7*	7	
	Social Studies 8*	8	
Elective Courses (*required)			
	Course Name	Grades	Prerequisites & Notes
Agriculture	Introduction to Agriculture	6	
	Exploring Ag: Wildlife & Natural Resources	7, 8	Offered in fall alternating years
	Exploring Ag: Biotechnology	7, 8	Offered in winter alternating years
	Exploring Ag: Animal Science	7, 8	Offered in spring alternating years
	Exploring Ag: Food Science	7, 8	Offered in fall alternating years
	Exploring Ag: Products & Experiences	7, 8	Offered in winter alternating years
	Exploring Ag: Plant Science	7, 8	Offered in spring alternating years
Art	Art 6A*	6	
	Art 6B*	6	Art A
	Combo Art 6A & Art 6B (Replaces Act 6A & Art 6B)	6	Only for 6th grade students in Band and Choir
	2-Dimensional Art	7, 8	
	3-Dimensional Art	7, 8	
	Studio Art	7, 8	

Elective Courses Continued (*required)			
	Course Name	Grades	Prerequisites & Notes
<b>Business</b>	Chromebook Workshops	6	
	Customized Communication	7, 8	
	Automatic Analysis	7, 8	
	Digital Design	7, 8	
<b>Computer Science</b>	Programming Fundamentals	8	
	Programming Games	8	Programming Fundamentals
<b>Music</b>	Band 6	6	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Band or Teacher Consent
	Band 7	7	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Band or Teacher Consent
	Band 8	8	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Band or Teacher Consent
	Choir 6	6	
	Choir 7	7	
	Choir 8	8	
	General Music* (Required if not in band or choir)	6	
	Modern Music	7, 8	
<b>Other Electives</b>	Leaders in Training	7, 8	
<b>Physical Education &amp; Health</b>	Physical Education/Health 6*	6	
	Physical Education 7*	7	
	Physical Education 8*	8	
<b>Science</b>	Animal Anatomy	7, 8	
	Science Pentathlon	6, 7, 8	
<b>Social Studies</b>	America: The Last 60 Years	7, 8	
<b>Technology</b>	Robotics 6*	6	
	STEAM 6*	6	
	Combo Robotics 6 & STEAM 6 (Replaces Robotics 6 & STEAM 6)	6	Only for 6th grade students in Band and Choir
	Robotics 7/8	7, 8	
	STEAM 7/8	7, 8	
	Technology Education 7	7	
	Technology Education 8	8	
<b>World Language</b>	Introduction to Spanish*	6	
	Exploring Spanish	7, 8	
	Spanish 1A	8	Exploring Spanish or Teacher Consent
	Spanish 1B	8	Spanish 1A



# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Descriptions

Required Courses: ELA 6, Math CC 1 (or approved advanced math course), Science 6, Social Studies 6, Physical Education 6/Health, Art 6 (at least 1 trimester), Music (at least 1 trimester of General Music, Band, or Choir)

## Core Courses

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Core Courses are required foundational courses that provide learners with the opportunity to build on essential developmental skills.

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) 6

**Grade Level: 6**

**Length: 3 trimesters, daily class**

In this course, students work on exploring the many facets of English Language Arts focusing on the following main areas: literature, informational text, language vocabulary, writing, and speaking and listening to develop comprehension, fluency, and communication through the Reader's and Writer's Workshop, Patterns of Power, Words Their Way, and other approaches.

### MATH CORE CONNECTIONS (CC) 1

**Grade Level: 6**

**Length: 3 trimesters, daily class**

In this course, students will use problem-solving strategies, questioning, investigating, analyzing critically, gathering and constructing evidence, and communicating rigorous arguments justifying thinking. Under teacher guidance students learn in collaboration with others while sharing information, expertise, and ideas. The course helps students to develop multiple strategies to solve problems and to recognize the connections between concepts. The course focuses on four critical areas (1) ratios and rates; (2) division of fractions and rational numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking.

### SCIENCE 6

**Grade Level: 6**

**Length: 3 trimesters, every other day class**

Science 6 explores the wonders of Earth and space science. Earth and space scientists are curious. Since ancient times, they have been asking and answering questions about the universe and the world around them. Students will ponder the origins of the universe and the Earth's place in it. Students will explore other celestial bodies and space phenomena. Moving closer to home, students will examine geological time and the processes that have shaped the Earth and its inhabitants. From there, we'll examine the effects of weather and climate and delve into Earth's natural resources. Finally, we'll investigate how human interactions shape Earth's ecosystems.

### SOCIAL STUDIES 6

**Grade Level: 6**

**Length: 3 trimesters, every other day class**

Have you ever wondered what a historian does? In Social Studies 6, you will take on the role of a historian while you learn about American history from the Civil War through the present day. Learners will engage in inquiry methods to be able to think about and explain relationships between people and events from the past and today. Student choice determines what topics students will dive into more deeply and flexible pacing allows students to move through the content and standards at their own pace. Like most historians, students will showcase their learning at various points throughout the year.

## Exploratory Course Pathways

6<sup>th</sup> grade students follow a progression of courses that offers an introduction to the various elective departments at the middle school. Students will follow one of the three exploratory pathways below.

Students have 12 non-core class periods per year (4 each trimester)

	For Students Choosing to Take General Music for 1 Trimester	For Students Choosing to Take Band OR Choir for 3 Trimesters	For Students Choosing to take Band AND Choir for 3 Trimesters each
1	Physical Education/Health	Physical Education/Health	Physical Education/Health
2			
3			
4	General Music	Band or Choir	Band
5	Introduction to Spanish		
6	Art 6A		
7	Art 6B	Introduction to Spanish	Choir
8	Robotics 6	Art 6A	
9	STEAM 6	Art 6B	
10	Introduction to Agriculture	Robotics 6	Introduction to Spanish
11	Chromebook Workshops	STEAM 6	Combo Art 6A & Art 6B
12	Science Pentathlon 6	Introduction to Agriculture	Combo Robotics 6 & STEAM 6

## **ART 6A**

**Grade Level: 6**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

**\*Required course**

6th grade students will take two trimesters of art. Art will provide students the opportunity to creatively express ideas and develop skills in various mediums. Students will learn how to manage studio materials, follow studio procedures, and explore different mediums within drawing, painting, and sculpture. In Art 6A, there will be a heavier emphasis on 2-dimensional art. Projects are based around exploring artistic skill sets and showing growth and understanding in those artistic skill sets.

## **ART 6B**

**Grade Level: 6**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

**\*Required course**

Once students have completed Art 6A, they will take a second trimester to further build artistic skill sets. Knowing how to navigate studio materials and follow procedures, students will focus on building artistic skills and techniques. Students will have the opportunity to explore sculptural mediums such as cardboard construction and ceramics further. Art 6B will provide students with more choices based on their project outcomes and begin focusing on the creative process rather than a desired teacher-led outcome.

## **COMBO ART A&B**

**Grade Level: 6**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

**\*Only for students taking Band and Choir**

This course is an accelerated version of Art A and Art B that last 1 trimester and allows 6th grade students to take both Band and Choir.

## **BAND 6**

**Grade Level: 6**

**Length: 3 trimesters, every other day class**

**Prerequisites: 5th Grade Band or Director Consent**

**\*1 trimester of Music required**

Band is designed for students who have one year of band experience. Students are given small group lessons with the emphasis on continuing learning of notes, rhythms, and techniques to improve individual instrumental skills. In addition, students rehearse in the full ensemble every other day to prepare music for concerts. Students have typically performed in concerts in November, March, and May. Band encourages the development of discipline, teamwork, and self-esteem. Come be a part of our amazing band tradition at East Troy Middle School!

## **CHOIR 6**

**Grade Level: 6**

**Length: 3 trimesters, every other day class**

**\*1 trimester of Music required**

Do you want a place where you can be you without judgment? Do you want lots of friends that last a lifetime? Are you interested in a class that will guarantee fun and put you in a good mood no matter what your day is like? Well, choir is just the place for you! You don't need to be an American Idol singer to join. We will help you grow! Choir 6 is a non-auditioned course designed to introduce students to the choral art. Students develop the skills of unison and part singing while working as a group to create a performance. Choir members grow as musicians through the study and performance of music from different style periods and cultures. The curriculum includes elements of music theory, and an understanding of music notation, with the goal of developing music literacy. Students typically perform concerts in November, December, and May. Come be a part of the amazing choir program at East Troy!

## **CHROMEBOOK WORKSHOPS**

**Grade Level: 6**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

In this class, students will be guided to use technology in a workshop format. This course includes hands-on interactive projects with their Chromebooks. We will explore various Google apps more in depth including options such as: Keep, Calendar, Gmail, Photos, Drawings, Drive, Docs, Sheets, Slides, and Sites. Students will complete their own creative projects with Google apps based on their interests and passions.

## **GENERAL MUSIC**

**Grade Level: 6**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

**\*1 trimester of Music required**

General Music builds on the skills learned in elementary music with a focus on performing. Students study music literacy as needed to play classroom instruments such as the recorder, piano keyboard, and percussion.

## **INTRODUCTION TO AGRICULTURE**

**Grade Level: 6**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

Adventure awaits you in the world of agriculture! In this course, you'll explore everything from forestry to animals; food science to bee production; wildlife to horticulture, and much more! This course uses a hands-on learning approach that utilizes both the outdoor learning classroom and the greenhouse. It is offered in three sections. All sections will include an FFA and leadership component; as well as an opportunity for interested students to become FFA members.

## **INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH**

**Grade Level: 6**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

**\*Required course**

Intro to Spanish is a FUN and practical class where students will take the first steps to becoming bilingual. The successful 6th grade Spanish student will be able to: explain the benefits of learning a second language; identify places all over the world where Spanish is spoken; compare their own culture and language to the Spanish language and various Latino cultures; survive in an immersion classroom; understand basic written materials with strong visual support in Spanish; carry on a conversation in Spanish on familiar topics such as favorites, family, and school; and develop and utilize study skills conducive to language learning.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH 6**

**Grade Level: 6**

**Length: 3 trimesters, every other day class**

**\*Required course**

Physical Education is a class that all sixth grade students will take throughout the school year. Students will practice the necessary skills to complete a variety of traditional and nontraditional games. Students will reflect on current fitness levels and potential barriers, and create a plan for improvement. Students will have the tools to engage in lifelong fitness that will benefit personal health. Health Education covers a variety of topics and skills to help students make educated decisions regarding their own health. Students will learn what stress is and how to manage it in a healthy way. Students will engage in conversation about the dangers of Alcohol/Tobacco/Other Drugs, how to refuse unhealthy behaviors, as well as advocate for others. Lastly, students will learn about the food groups, age-appropriate portion sizes, and choosing healthy options.

**ROBOTICS 6****Grade Level: 6****Length: 1 trimester, every other day class****\*Required course**

This course is designed to introduce students to the basics of LEGO EV3 programming. Students will learn how to program their robot to navigate in its environment to complete multiple challenges from basics such as going forward, turning, and arm movement to using sensors (color, touch, and ultrasonic). Students will use their imagination and the application of science, technology, engineering, and math concepts (STEM) to solve problems.

**COMBO ROBOTICS 6 & STEAM 6****Grade Level: 6****Length: 1 trimester, every other day class****\*Only for students taking Band and Choir**

This course is an accelerated version of Robotics 6 & STEAM 6 that last 1 trimester and allows 6th grade students to take both Band and Choir.

**SCIENCE PENTATHLON 6****Grade Level: 6****Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

This course features five project-based learning challenges for students to build and test while learning about the science concepts relevant to each project. Students will build models designed for a specific function or task that use engineering and design principles.

**STEAM 6****Grade Level: 6****Length: 1 trimester, every other day class****\*Required course**

Did you enjoy exploring, learning, and having fun in the SmartLab at Prairie View? Do you want to get your hands on some cool new technology? If so, Introduction to STEAM is for you. This introductory course explores STEM and digital arts through technology and problem-based learning. Students will refine skills like critical thinking, collaboration, communication, teamwork, and creativity. Students in this class will be introduced to the SmartLab, the different engagements, and how the ePortfolio is completed at the Middle School. Come explore and have fun with the Engineering Design Process.

**COMBO ROBOTICS 6 & STEAM 6****Grade Level: 6****Length: 1 trimester, every other day class****\*Only for students taking Band and Choir**

This course is an accelerated version of Robotics 6 & STEAM 6 that last 1 trimester and allows 6th grade students to take both Band and Choir.



# 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Descriptions

Required Courses: ELA 7, Math CC 2 (or approved advanced math course), Science 7, Social Studies 7, Physical Education 7

## **Required Courses**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Core Courses are required foundational courses that provide learners with the opportunity to build on essential developmental skills.

### **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) 7**

**Grade Level: 7**

**Length: 3 trimesters, daily class**

This course encourages students to refine their understanding of the English language. ELA 7 focuses on the following main areas: literature, informational text, language vocabulary, writing, and speaking and listening to develop comprehension, fluency, and communication. During this year, students will engage in a variety of learning activities to promote proficiency through the workshop model for reading and writing. Students will apply a variety of strategies to expand their vocabulary including, but not limited to: Words Their Way, Greek & Latin root study, and Patterns of Power.

### **MATH CORE CONNECTIONS (CC) 2**

**Grade Level: 7**

**Length: 3 trimesters, daily class**

In this course, students will use problem-solving strategies, questioning, investigating, analyzing critically, gathering and constructing evidence, and communicating rigorous arguments justifying their thinking. Under teacher guidance, students learn in collaboration with others while sharing information, expertise, and ideas. The course helps students to develop multiple strategies to solve problems and to recognize the connections between concepts. You will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

### **ACCELERATED CORE CONNECTIONS (CC) 3**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1 trimester, daily class**

**\*Criteria for Advancement in Math found on page 6**

CC3 Accelerated is an accelerated version of the CC3 Math Curriculum. This course allows students who would like to take Algebra during 8th grade to have three trimesters of Math and allows advancement after 7th grade.

### **ALGEBRA**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 2 trimesters, daily class**

**\*Criteria for Advancement in Math found on page 6**

Core Connections Algebra aims to deepen and extend student understanding built in previous courses by focusing on developing fluency with solving linear equations, inequalities, and systems. These skills are extended to solving quadratic equations, exploring linear, quadratic, and exponential functions graphically, numerically, symbolically, and as sequences, and by using regression techniques to analyze the fit of models to distributions of data.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7**

**Grade Level: 7**

**Length: 3 trimesters, every other day class**

Physical Education is a course that all 7th grade students take throughout the school year. Students will engage in a variety of activities to expand their knowledge of health fitness. Students will learn specific skills to participate in a variety of games that can be played for a lifetime. Students will learn to reflect and set S.M.A.R.T. based on their current fitness level.

### **SCIENCE 7**

**Grade Level: 7**

**Length: 3 trimesters, every other day class**

In Science 7, students will study aspects of life science from cells to ecosystems by conducting investigations, performing experiments, and solving problems. Students will use microscopes and other lab equipment to learn about cells. Students will learn about tissues, body organs, and body systems. Students will research environmental problems and propose solutions. Students will also explore genetics and heredity as well as evolution.

### **SOCIAL STUDIES 7**

**Grade Level: 7**

**Length: 3 trimesters, every other day class**

Social Studies 7 focuses on the United States Constitution and the branches of our National Government. Learners will compare and contrast various forms of government, explore the beginnings of our country's independence, interpret the meanings and uses of the preamble, and develop understandings of how the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches are set up and function. Learners will also evaluate the historical aspects and current uses of the amendments to the Constitution. In addition, this course focuses on the economics and financial literacy in our daily lives. Through research and creation of living budgets on given salaries and participating in simulations of credit use and life on minimum wage, learners will experience "real life" economics. In addition, learners will compare and contrast saving and investment opportunities, explore the risks and rewards of entrepreneurship, and compare market types and marketing strategies.



## 7th Grade Elective Course Options

Electives provide learners the option to explore a range of areas and interests while applying learning from core courses and experiences. The number of elective courses taken will vary based on course choices as these courses vary in length and offering.

### Agriculture

**Courses are Available Every Other Year**  
**These courses are available 2025-2026**

#### **EXPLORING AG: WILDLIFE & NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

**Only Available Trimester 1**

**\*This course has a fee**

This course explores the connections between humans, animals, plants, and the environment, focusing on conservation and sustainability in agriculture. Students will study ecosystems, wildlife biology, and natural resource management. They'll learn practical skills used by professionals in the natural resources sector. The course aims to develop environmental stewardship, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills while encouraging curiosity about the natural world and its daily applications.

#### **EXPLORING AG: BIOTECHNOLOGY**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

**Only Available Trimester 2**

**\*This course has a fee**

This course introduces students to agricultural biotechnology, exploring how modern biological techniques are transforming farming and addressing global challenges. Through hands-on experiments and projects, students will learn about DNA extraction, plant propagation, and the use of beneficial microorganisms in agriculture. The course covers ethical considerations and potential impacts of biotechnology on food security, the environment, and society. Students will develop a solid understanding of biotechnology's role in agriculture while enhancing their scientific inquiry skills and critical thinking abilities. This course focuses on building student critical-thinking, scientific inquiry, and applicable skills and techniques in the lab.

#### **EXPLORING AG: ANIMAL SCIENCE**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

**Only Available Trimester 3**

**\*This course has a fee**

This engaging course introduces students to animal science and its crucial role in agriculture. Students will explore various aspects of animal husbandry, including nutrition, health, breeding, and management of both livestock and companion animals. Through hands-on activities, demonstrations, and potential field trips, students will gain practical experience in animal care and learn about responsible ownership and sustainable livestock production. By the end of the course, students will have developed a solid foundation in animal science principles, fostering appreciation for animal care while enhancing their scientific observation, critical thinking, and ethical decision-making skills.

**Courses are Available Every Other Year**  
**These courses are available 2026-2027**

#### **EXPLORING AG: FOOD SCIENCE**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

**Only Available Trimester 1**

**\*This course has a fee**

This exciting course explores food science and its vital connection to agriculture, turning kitchens into labs and meals into scientific adventures. Students will uncover the secrets behind their favorite foods, investigating the journey from farm to fork and the chemistry of cooking. Through hands-on experiments, they'll learn about nutrition, food preservation, packaging, and even create their own food products. The course tackles real-world challenges in food security and sustainability, empowering students to become informed consumers and potential food innovators.

#### **EXPLORING AG: PRODUCTS & EXPERIENCES**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

**Only Available Trimester 2**

**\*This course has a fee**

This exciting course combines hands-on agriculture and entrepreneurship through Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE), where students develop personalized projects ranging from animal raising to agricultural research. Students will explore the diverse world of agricultural products, learning about their journey from raw materials to finished goods. Through interactive lessons, possible field trips, and industry guest speakers, students will gain insights into product development, marketing, and agriculture's economic impact. With the highlight of SAE exploration through the diverse virtual landscape of minecraft, this class ensures every student is able to explore the possibilities in agriculture! The course emphasizes practical skills, problem-solving, and project management, preparing students for future careers while deepening their appreciation for agriculture's role in our daily lives.

#### **EXPLORING AG: PLANT SCIENCE**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

**Only Available Trimester 3**

**\*This course has a fee**

This hands-on Plant Science course transforms students into plant detectives, exploring the botanical world from roots to leaves. Students will investigate plant life cycles, photosynthesis, and plant adaptations, while examining the crucial role of plants in agriculture and the environment. Through classroom labs, students will apply their knowledge by growing their own plants and exploring sustainable farming practices. By the course's end, students will have cultivated a deep appreciation for plants' importance in agriculture and daily life, while developing critical thinking and scientific skills.

## Art

### **2D Art**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

**Only Available Trimester 1**

**\*This course has a fee**

Welcome to 2D Art! This course is designed to spark creativity and build foundational art skills while introducing students to various techniques, materials, and artistic concepts. Students will explore the exciting world of two-dimensional art, including drawing, painting, printmaking, collage and mixed media. The content throughout this course will be choice-based which allows students to make individual decisions within their artwork while refining specific skill sets within 2D artmaking approaches.

### **3D Art**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

**Only Available Trimester 2**

**\*This course has a fee**

Welcome to 3D Art! This course offers students an engaging exploration of three-dimensional art forms, encouraging creativity, problem-solving, and hands-on learning. Students will experiment with various materials, tools, and techniques while developing foundational skills in 3D design and sculpture, such as: wire and cardboard construction, clay, paper mache and fiber sculptures. By the end of this course, students will have created a portfolio showcasing their unique artistic voice and technical growth. Projects revolve around a choice-based curriculum which allow assessments to narrow the scope on specific success criteria while allowing individual artmaking solutions.

### **Studio Art**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

**Only Available Trimester 3**

**\*This course has a fee**

Studio Art offers students a dynamic and engaging exploration of both two-dimensional and three-dimensional art forms. Designed to nurture creativity and individuality, the class allows students to experiment with a wide range of mediums, including drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, fibers and mixed media. Projects are designed to encourage independent and collaborative problem-solving, critical thinking, and self-expression, with opportunities for students to showcase their unique vision through their work. Emphasis is placed on the artistic process, from brainstorming and planning to creating and reflecting, helping students build confidence in their creative abilities. By the end of the course, students will have created a portfolio of work that demonstrates their growth as artists and their understanding of how art can communicate ideas and emotions. It is encouraged that students have taken either 2D or 3D art before taking studio art but is not required.

## Business

### **AUTOMATIC ANALYSIS**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

Through project-based instruction, students will familiarize themselves with Microsoft Excel. By the end of this course, students will be able to use formatting techniques, formulas, and charts to create professional business spreadsheets. Along the way, students will build on their computer basics of file management and keyboarding.

### **CUSTOMIZED COMMUNICATION**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

Through project-based instruction, students will build on their knowledge of Google Docs by utilizing the advanced features of Microsoft Word and OneNote to create documents that are suitable in a professional setting. Along the way, students will build on their computer basics of file management and keyboarding.

### **DIGITAL DESIGN**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

Through project-based instruction, students will use their creativity skills to design effective presentations and graphics. Using Microsoft PowerPoint and Publisher students will enhance their design and communication skills. Along the way, students will build on their computer basics of file management and keyboarding.

## Music

### **BAND 7**

**Grade Level: 7**

**Length: 3 trimesters, every other day class**

**Prerequisites: 6th Grade Band or Director Consent**

Band 7 is designed for students who have two years of band experience. Students are given small group lessons with the emphasis on continuing learning of notes, rhythms, and techniques to improve individual instrumental skills. In addition, students rehearse in the full ensemble every other day to prepare music for concerts. Students have typically performed in concerts in December, March, and May. In addition, students will be given the opportunity to participate in the District Solo Ensemble Festival in February. They may also sign up to be in small ensembles such as flute choir, clarinet choir, brass choir, or audition for jazz band which is made up of both 7th & 8th grade students. Students will also march with the eighth grade in the Homecoming and Memorial Day Parades. Band encourages the development of discipline, teamwork, and self-esteem. Come be a part of our amazing band tradition at East Troy Middle School!

### **CHOIR 7**

**Grade Level: 7**

**Length: 3 trimesters, every other day class**

Do you want a place where you can be you without judgment? Do you want lots of friends that last a lifetime? Are you interested in a class that will guarantee fun and put you in a good mood no matter what your day is like? Well, choir is just the place for you! You don't need to be an American Idol singer to join. We will help you grow! Choir 7 is a non-auditioned course designed to introduce students to or continue the study of the choral art. Students develop the skills of 2-4 part singing while working as a group to create a performance. Choir members grow as musicians through the study and performance of music from different style periods and cultures. This course includes elements of music theory, and an understanding of music notation, with the goal of developing music literacy. Students typically perform concerts in December and May. Come be a part of the amazing choir program at East Troy!

### **MODERN MUSIC**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

In this course, students discover their music preferences as they explore diverse musical genres throughout recent history, learn about the singer-songwriter process, and experiment with modern technology to make music using programs such as Bandlab. Students will also learn the basics of playing the acoustic guitar and learn simple percussion techniques and how they are used in popular music. No previous musical experience is required.

## Science

### **ANIMAL ANATOMY**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

**\*This course has a fee**

Animal anatomy is a trimester-long, dissection-based course that will give students the opportunity to explore various invertebrate and vertebrate animals' anatomy, adaptations, methods for successful reproduction, and behaviors, as well as their importance within ecosystems at an in-depth level.

### **SCIENCE PENTATHLON 7/8**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1-3 trimesters, every other day class**

**\*This course has a fee**

This course features five project-based learning challenges for students to build and test while learning about the science concepts relevant to each project. Students will build models designed for a specific function or task that use engineering and design principles.

## Social Studies

### **AMERICA: THE LAST 60 YEARS**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1-3 trimesters, every other day class**

Students will tour the decades and news events/people/culture/ technology impact of the last 60 years over the course of the selected elective trimester. The fall trimester will explore the 50s, 60s, and 70s. The winter trimester will explore the 80s and 90s. The spring trimester will explore the 2000s. Each trimester will allow students the opportunity to research and inquiry question and share their findings with classmates. Through the use of various sources, including first-person accounts, articles and newspapers of the time, video, and interviews when applicable, students will recreate the era and teach the class about their learning.

## Technology

### **ROBOTICS 7/8**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1-3 trimesters, every other day class**

**\*This course has a fee.**

This course is designed to build upon and explore more advanced LEGO EV3 programming. Students will learn how to program their robot to navigate in its environment to complete multiple challenges using sensors and various robot configurations. Students will apply science, technology, engineering, and math concepts (STEM), along with their imagination, to complete their choice of the available FLL boards. Students will also manufacture a research project that allows them to identify problems associated with their theme, and then create an innovative solution for a problem. Some of the themes students may explore are: Senior Solution, World Class, Nature's Fury, City Shaper, Into Orbit, Trash Trek, and Hydro Dynamics. This course is repeatable with a focus on a new theme each additional trimester.

### **STEAM 7/8**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1-3 trimesters, every other day class**

**\*This course has a fee.**

Do you like to explore, discover, and figure out why things happen? Are you interested in space, car mechanics, or film? Do you enjoy taking photographs and altering them? Are you interested in renewable energy sources or creating music on the computer? Do you want to design and build your future home? If so, then the SmartLab is the place for you. In this course, students will explore STEM concepts and digital arts through technology and problem-based learning. Students will refine skills like critical thinking, collaboration, communication, teamwork, and creativity. Learners will personalize their own education throughout a year of discovery and take ownership of their learning by developing their projects and activities within the parameters of each given unit. In this course, learners discover failing is not a bad thing, just an obstacle to overcome, and the importance of thinking critically to overcome obstacles.

### **TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION 7**

**Grade Level: 7**

**Length: 1-3 trimesters, every other day class**

**\*This course has a fee**

Students will explore the areas of engineering, the FAB Lab, and woods. Engineering and FAB Lab will incorporate an industry standard drawing program known as Solid Works. They will also be introduced to the program Adobe Illustrator which is the main software program used to operate many of the FAB Lab machines.

## World Language

### **EXPLORING SPANISH**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1-3 trimesters, every other day class**

7th & 8th Grade Exploratory Spanish is a FUN and practical class where students will continue on the journey to becoming bilingual. The successful 7th/8th grade Spanish student will be able to: explain the benefits of learning a second language, as it pertains to a future career of their choice; identify famous Hispanic Americans and explain their contributions to the American culture; compare their own culture and language to the Spanish language and various Latino cultures; survive in an immersion classroom; understand basic written materials with strong visual support in Spanish; carry on a conversation on familiar topics such as discussing one's likes and dislikes; planning a party; and making a purchase; develop and utilize study skills conducive to language learning.

## Other Electives

### **LEADERS IN TRAINING**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

Leaders in Training not your normal class, challenging and assisting students with developing well rounded personal qualities to aid them in leading themselves and others, each and every day. Throughout the course of the students development, they will have daily opportunities to grow their personalities while learning and leading. The students have the opportunity to learn different leadership styles, identify their own areas of strength and development, and support classmates. Our goal is to provide students with valuable life lessons which will carry on outside of the classroom setting, and embody what it means to be an East Troy Trojan.



# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Descriptions

Required Courses: ELA 8, Math CC 3 (or approved advanced math course), Science 8, Social Studies 8, Physical Education 8

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## **Required Courses**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Core Courses are required foundational courses that provide learners with the opportunity to build on essential developmental skills.

### **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) 8**

**Grade Level: 8**

**Length: 3 trimesters, daily class**

In this course, students focus on the following main areas: literature, informational text, language vocabulary, writing, and speaking and listening to develop comprehension, fluency, and communication. Students will take part in a reading and writing workshop model that will include a limited amount of whole class direct instruction, guided reading, and personalized lessons emphasizing individual student needs in reading and writing. Students will continue to apply the reading strategies of predicting, evaluating, connecting, clarifying, and questioning with an emphasis on being able to support the analysis of text with textual evidence. Students will be offered choice in reading materials through which they will apply and develop their analytical and evaluative skills. Students will hone writing skills, expand vocabulary, and become more adept at oral expression. Writing will include both formal and informal pieces, including but not limited to persuasive writing, research based informative and explanatory texts, narratives, and poetry.

### **MATH CORE CONNECTIONS (CC) 3**

**Grade Level: 8**

**Length: 3 trimesters, daily class**

In this course, students will use problem-solving strategies, questioning, investigating, analyzing critically, gathering and constructing evidence, and communicating rigorous arguments justifying their thinking. Under teacher guidance, students learn in collaboration with others while sharing information, expertise, and ideas. The course helps students to develop multiple strategies to solve problems and to recognize the connections between concepts.

#### **ACCELERATED CORE CONNECTIONS (CC) 3**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1 trimester, daily class**

**\*Criteria for Advancement in Math found on page 6**

CC3 Accelerated is an accelerated version of the CC3 Math Curriculum. This course allows students who would like to take Algebra during 8th grade to have three trimesters of Math and allows advancement after 7th grade.

#### **ALGEBRA**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 2 trimesters, daily class**

**\*Criteria for Advancement in Math found on page 6**

Core Connections Algebra aims to deepen and extend student understanding built in previous courses by focusing on developing fluency with solving linear equations, inequalities, and systems. These skills are extended to solving quadratic equations, exploring linear, quadratic, and exponential functions graphically, numerically, symbolically, and as sequences, and by using regression techniques to analyze the fit of models to distributions of data.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8**

**Grade Level: 8**

**Length: 3 trimesters, every other day class**

Physical Education is a course that all 8th grade students take throughout the school year. Students will engage in a variety of activities to expand their knowledge of health fitness. Students will learn specific skills to participate in a variety of games that can be played for a lifetime and even create a game with rules and objectives. Students will learn to reflect and set S.M.A.R.T. goals based on their current fitness level.

### **SCIENCE 8**

**Grade Level: 8**

**Length: 3 trimesters, every other day class**

Science 8 focuses on the physical sciences by exploring principles of physics, Newton's Laws of Motion, Matter and Energy, Electricity and Magnetism, Sound and Waves, and Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table of Elements. Students perform lab activities and complete projects that reflect the concepts covered in each unit. Such projects may include constructing catapults, 2L bottle rockets, electromagnets, and a variety of different challenges.

### **SOCIAL STUDIES 8**

**Grade Level: 8**

**Length: 3 trimesters, every other day class**

Social Studies 8 is designed to provide learners with an understanding of the relationships between physical and human geography. Through collaboration, critical thinking and creativity learners will also explore how physical features of the earth, population settlement patterns, communication, human activities, customs, and traditions contribute to defining a place, a culture, and a people.

## 8th Grade Elective Course Options

Electives provide learners the option to explore a range of areas and interests while applying learning from core courses and experiences. The number of elective courses taken will vary based on course choices as these courses vary in length and offering.

### Agriculture

**Courses are Available Every Other Year**  
**These courses are available 2025-2026**

#### **EXPLORING AG: WILDLIFE & NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

**Only Available Trimester 1**

**\*This course has a fee**

This course explores the connections between humans, animals, plants, and the environment, focusing on conservation and sustainability in agriculture. Students will study ecosystems, wildlife biology, and natural resource management. They'll learn practical skills used by professionals in the natural resources sector. The course aims to develop environmental stewardship, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills while encouraging curiosity about the natural world and its daily applications.

#### **EXPLORING AG: BIOTECHNOLOGY**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

**Only Available Trimester 2**

**\*This course has a fee**

This course introduces students to agricultural biotechnology, exploring how modern biological techniques are transforming farming and addressing global challenges. Through hands-on experiments and projects, students will learn about DNA extraction, plant propagation, and the use of beneficial microorganisms in agriculture. The course covers ethical considerations and potential impacts of biotechnology on food security, the environment, and society. Students will develop a solid understanding of biotechnology's role in agriculture while enhancing their scientific inquiry skills and critical thinking abilities. This course focuses on building student critical-thinking, scientific inquiry, and applicable skills and techniques in the lab.

#### **EXPLORING AG: ANIMAL SCIENCE**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

**Only Available Trimester 3**

**\*This course has a fee**

This engaging course introduces students to animal science and its crucial role in agriculture. Students will explore various aspects of animal husbandry, including nutrition, health, breeding, and management of both livestock and companion animals. Through hands-on activities, demonstrations, and potential field trips, students will gain practical experience in animal care and learn about responsible ownership and sustainable livestock production. By the end of the course, students will have developed a solid foundation in animal science principles, fostering appreciation for animal care while enhancing their scientific observation, critical thinking, and ethical decision-making skills.

**Courses are Available Every Other Year**  
**These courses are available 2026-2027**

#### **EXPLORING AG: FOOD SCIENCE**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

**Only Available Trimester 1**

**\*This course has a fee**

This exciting course explores food science and its vital connection to agriculture, turning kitchens into labs and meals into scientific adventures. Students will uncover the secrets behind their favorite foods, investigating the journey from farm to fork and the chemistry of cooking. Through hands-on experiments, they'll learn about nutrition, food preservation, packaging, and even create their own food products. The course tackles real-world challenges in food security and sustainability, empowering students to become informed consumers and potential food innovators.

#### **EXPLORING AG: PRODUCTS & EXPERIENCES**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

**Only Available Trimester 2**

**\*This course has a fee**

This exciting course combines hands-on agriculture and entrepreneurship through Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE), where students develop personalized projects ranging from animal raising to agricultural research. Students will explore the diverse world of agricultural products, learning about their journey from raw materials to finished goods. Through interactive lessons, possible field trips, and industry guest speakers, students will gain insights into product development, marketing, and agriculture's economic impact. With the highlight of SAE exploration through the diverse virtual landscape of minecraft, this class ensures every student is able to explore the possibilities in agriculture! The course emphasizes practical skills, problem-solving, and project management, preparing students for future careers while deepening their appreciation for agriculture's role in our daily lives.

#### **EXPLORING AG: PLANT SCIENCE**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

**Only Available Trimester 3**

**\*This course has a fee**

This hands-on Plant Science course transforms students into plant detectives, exploring the botanical world from roots to leaves. Students will investigate plant life cycles, photosynthesis, and plant adaptations, while examining the crucial role of plants in agriculture and the environment. Through classroom labs, students will apply their knowledge by growing their own plants and exploring sustainable farming practices. By the course's end, students will have cultivated a deep appreciation for plants' importance in agriculture and daily life, while developing critical thinking and scientific skills.



## Art

### **2D Art**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

**Only Available Trimester 1 \*This course has a fee**

Welcome to 2D Art! This course is designed to spark creativity and build foundational art skills while introducing students to various techniques, materials, and artistic concepts. Students will explore the exciting world of two-dimensional art, including drawing, painting, printmaking, collage and mixed media. The content throughout this course will be choice-based which allows students to make individual decisions within their artwork while refining specific skill sets within 2D artmaking approaches.

### **3D Art**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

**Only Available Trimester 2 \*This course has a fee**

Welcome to 3D Art! This course offers students an engaging exploration of three-dimensional art forms, encouraging creativity, problem-solving, and hands-on learning. Students will experiment with various materials, tools, and techniques while developing foundational skills in 3D design and sculpture, such as: wire and cardboard construction, clay, paper mache and fiber sculptures. By the end of this course, students will have created a portfolio showcasing their unique artistic voice and technical growth. Projects revolve around a choice-based curriculum which allow assessments to narrow the scope on specific success criteria while allowing individual artmaking solutions.

### **Studio Art**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

**Only Available Trimester 3 \*This course has a fee**

Studio Art offers students a dynamic and engaging exploration of both two-dimensional and three-dimensional art forms. Designed to nurture creativity and individuality, the class allows students to experiment with a wide range of mediums, including drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, fibers and mixed media. Projects are designed to encourage independent and collaborative problem-solving, critical thinking, and self-expression, with opportunities for students to showcase their unique vision through their work. Emphasis is placed on the artistic process, from brainstorming and planning to creating and reflecting, helping students build confidence in their creative abilities. By the end of the course, students will have created a portfolio of work that demonstrates their growth as artists and their understanding of how art can communicate ideas and emotions. It is encouraged that students have taken either 2D or 3D art before taking studio art but is not required.

## Business

### **AUTOMATIC ANALYSIS**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

Through project-based instruction, students will familiarize themselves with Microsoft Excel. By the end of this course, students will be able to use formatting techniques, formulas, and charts to create professional business spreadsheets. Along the way, students will build on their computer basics of file management and keyboarding.

### **CUSTOMIZED COMMUNICATION**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

Through project-based instruction, students will build on their knowledge of Google Docs by utilizing the advanced features of Microsoft Word and OneNote to create documents that are suitable in a professional setting. Along the way, students will build on their computer basics of file management and keyboarding.

### **DIGITAL DESIGN**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

Through project-based instruction, students will use their creativity skills to design effective presentations and graphics. Using Microsoft PowerPoint and Publisher students will enhance their design and communication skills. Along the way, students will build on their computer basics of file management and keyboarding.

## Computer Science

### **PROGRAMMING FUNDAMENTALS**

**Grade Level: 8**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

**\*This course is a prerequisite for Programming Games**

Programming Fundamentals introduces students to the fundamental concepts of programming. Throughout the course, students learn about sequencing, selection, iteration, and variables by creating simple applications and games in Python. At the end of the course, students will develop an application or game of their own design.



## **PROGRAMMING GAMES**

**Grade Level:** 8

**Length:** 1 trimester, every other day class

**Prerequisites:** Programming Fundamentals \*After completing may enroll in Developing Desktop Applications in 9th grade.

Programming Games reinforces and expands on the concepts learned in Programming Fundamentals and Programming Physical Devices. During this course, students learn about classes, objects, and graphical user interface design through the creation of games in Python. At the end of the course, students will build a game of their own design.

## **Music**

### **BAND 8**

**Grade Level:** 8

**Length:** 3 trimesters, every other day class

**\*Prerequisites:** 7th Grade Band or Director Consent

Band 8 is designed for students who have three years of band experience. Students are given small group lessons with an emphasis on continuing learning of notes, rhythms, and techniques to improve individual instrumental skills. In addition, students rehearse in the full ensemble every other day to prepare music for concerts. Students typically perform in concerts in December, March, and May. In addition, students will have the opportunity to participate in the District Solo Ensemble Festival in February and perform at the Kalahari Band Festival in May. They may also sign up to be in small ensembles such as flute choir, clarinet choir, brass choir, or audition for jazz band which is made up of both 7th & 8th grade students. Students will also march with the seventh grade in the Homecoming and Memorial Day Parades. Band encourages the development of discipline, teamwork, and self-esteem. Come be a part of our amazing band tradition at East Troy Middle School!

### **CHOIR 8**

**Grade Level:** 8

**Length:** 3 trimesters, every other day class

Do you want a place where you can be you without judgment? Do you want lots of friends that last a lifetime? Are you interested in a class that will guarantee fun and put you in a good mood no matter what your day is like? Well, choir is just the place for you! You don't need to be an American Idol singer to join. We will help you grow! Choir 8 is a non-auditioned course designed to introduce students to or continue the study of the choral art. Students develop the skills of 3-4 part singing while working as a group to create a performance. Choir members grow as musicians through the study and performance of music from different style periods and cultures. This course includes elements of music theory, and an understanding of music notation, with the goal of developing music literacy. Students typically perform concerts in December and May. Come be a part of the amazing choir program at East Troy!

### **MODERN MUSIC**

**Grade Level:** 7/8

**Length:** 1 trimester, every other day class

In this course, students discover their music preferences as they explore diverse musical genres throughout recent history, learn about the singer-songwriter process, and experiment with modern technology to make music using programs such as Bandlab. Students will also learn the basics of playing the acoustic guitar and learn simple percussion techniques and how they are used in popular music. No previous musical experience is required.

## **Science**

### **ANIMAL ANATOMY**

**Grade Level:** 7/8

**Length:** 1 trimester, every other day class

**\*This course has a fee**

Animal anatomy is a trimester-long, dissection-based course that will give students the opportunity to explore various invertebrate and vertebrate animals' anatomy, adaptations, methods for successful reproduction, and behaviors, as well as their importance within ecosystems at an in-depth level.

### **SCIENCE PENTATHLON 7/8**

**Grade Level:** 7/8

**Length:** 1-3 trimesters, every other day class

**\*This course has a fee**

This course features five project-based learning challenges for students to build and test while learning about the science concepts relevant to each project. Students will build models designed for a specific function or task using engineering and design principles.

## **Social Studies**

### **AMERICA: THE LAST 60 YEARS**

**Grade Level:** 7/8

**Length:** 1-3 trimesters, every other day class

Students will tour the decades and news events/people/culture/ technology impact of the last 60 years over the course of the selected elective trimester. The fall trimester will explore the 50s, 60s, and 70s. The winter trimester will explore the 80s and 90s. The spring trimester will explore the 2000s. Each trimester will allow students the opportunity to research and inquiry question and share their findings with classmates. Through the use of various sources, including first-person accounts, articles and newspapers of the time, video, and interviews when applicable, students will recreate the era and teach the class about their learning.

## Technology

### **ROBOTICS 7/8**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1-3 trimesters, every other day class**

**\*This course has a fee.**

This course is designed to build upon and explore more advanced LEGO EV3 programming. Students will learn how to program their robot to navigate in its environment to complete multiple challenges using sensors and various robot configurations. Students will apply science, technology, engineering, and math concepts (STEM), along with their imagination, to complete their choice of the available FLL boards. Students will also manufacture a research project that allows them to identify problems associated with their theme, and then create an innovative solution for a problem. Some of the themes students may explore are: Senior Solution, World Class, Nature's Fury, City Shaper, Into Orbit, Trash Trek, and Hydro Dynamics. This course is repeatable with a focus on a new theme each additional trimester.

### **STEAM 7/8**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1-3 trimesters, every other day class**

**\*This course has a fee.**

Do you like to explore, discover, and figure out why things happen? Are you interested in space, car mechanics, or film? Do you enjoy taking photographs and altering them? Are you interested in renewable energy sources or creating music on the computer? Do you want to design and build your future home? If so, then the SmartLab is the place for you. In this course, students will explore STEM concepts and digital arts through technology and problem-based learning. Students will refine skills like critical thinking, collaboration, communication, teamwork, and creativity. Learners will personalize their own education throughout a year of discovery and take ownership of their learning by developing their projects and activities within the parameters of each given unit. In this course, learners discover failing is not a bad thing, just an obstacle to overcome, and the importance of thinking critically to overcome obstacles.

### **TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION 8**

**Grade Level: 8**

**Length: 1-3 trimesters, every other day class**

**\*This course has a fee**

Students will explore the areas of engineering, the FAB Lab, and woods. Engineering and FAB Lab will incorporate an industry standard drawing program known as Solid Works. They will also be introduced to the program Adobe Illustrator which is the main software program used to operate many of the FAB Lab machines.

## World Language

### **EXPLORING SPANISH**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1-3 trimesters, every other day class**

7th & 8th Grade Exploratory Spanish is a FUN and practical class where students will continue on the journey to becoming bilingual. The successful 7th/8th grade Spanish student will be able to: explain the benefits of learning a second language, as it pertains to a future career of their choice; identify famous Hispanic Americans and explain their contributions to the American culture; compare their own culture and language to the Spanish language and various Latino cultures; survive in an immersion classroom; understand basic written materials with strong visual support in Spanish; carry on a conversation on familiar topics such as discussing one's likes and dislikes; planning a party; and making a purchase; develop and utilize study skills conducive to language learning.

### **SPANISH 1A & SPANISH 1B**

**Grade Level: 8**

**Length: 2 trimesters, daily class**

**Prerequisites: Exploring Spanish or Teacher Approval**

**\*Students demonstrating proficiency in Spanish 1A and 1B may choose to enroll in Spanish 2 in 9th grade.**

Spanish 1A is designed to introduce the basics of the Spanish language. This course is recommended for students entering academic fields at the college level or as a bilingual job skill. Spanish 1A introduces the four basic skill areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing using text, audios, films, music, and other media. Emphasis is placed upon pronunciation, vocabulary acquisition and basic grammatical concepts. Cultural concepts are taught as part of the learning process.

## Other Electives

### **LEADERS IN TRAINING**

**Grade Level: 7/8**

**Length: 1 trimester, every other day class**

Leaders in Training not your normal class, challenging and assisting students with developing well rounded personal qualities to aid them in leading themselves and others, each and every day. Throughout the course of the students development, they will have daily opportunities to grow their personalities while learning and leading. The students have the opportunity to learn different leadership styles, identify their own areas of strength and development, and support classmates. Our goal is to provide students with valuable life lessons which will carry on outside of the classroom setting, and embody what it means to be an East Troy Trojan.