JOHN C. DEMPSEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Julie German, Ed.D - Principal
Steve Ringer, Assistant Principal
Jenny Nicely, School Counselor
Jane Ziegler, School Counselor
Guidelines, Policies, and Course Selection Options

Most courses at the middle school level are required and are prescribed for each student; however, several are elective courses and parents and students can make choices based on interests and skills.

Scheduling Policies

All students will fill all eight periods of each school day (not necessarily in this order):

- Language Arts
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies
- Related Arts courses (two periods)
- Lunch/Advisory

Schedule Change Policy

Students are to follow their printed schedules. Schedule changes will be handled by the student’s assigned counselor and administrator.

*Reasons for making a schedule change are:*

- Clerical errors made by the office
- Program changes at Dempsey
- Health concerns
- Scheduling conflicts

No core classes may be changed unless exceptional circumstances arise. In the case of a schedule change, the parents, student, and teacher will need to fill out a schedule change form. The change must then be approved by the student’s assigned counselor and administrator. *No elective courses may be changed after the first eight (8) days of school unless exceptional circumstances arise.*

Advanced Course Placement

Dempsey Middle School offers several advanced or high school level courses, each requiring criteria for enrollment. Students may apply for or are placed into these courses based on standardized test data and/or performance in previous courses. The Dempsey Middle School team works in conjunction with the Director of Student Services for final approval in these courses.
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

**Language Arts 7**
*Grade 7 • Full Year*
Through a Reading and Writing Workshop format, students will read a variety of self-selected books as well as a variety of texts from different literature genres. Students will also write for sustained periods as they explore different writing genres and formats for a range of purposes and a variety of audiences. Students will present their learning outcomes using various technologies, reflecting a focus on the student’s individual growth towards mastery of the state’s language arts standards.

**Advanced Language Arts 7**
*Grade 7 • Full Year • By permission only*
This course uses the Reading and Writing Workshop framework to incorporate the same state language arts standards as LA 7 but with a faster pace and more depth. Students will be scheduled into this course based on district-designed criteria considering LA grades and standardized test results.

**Language Arts 8**
*Grade 8 • Full Year*
Through a Reading and Writing Workshop format, students will read a variety of self-selected books as well as a variety of texts from different literature genres. Students will also write for sustained periods as they explore different writing genres and formats for a range of purposes and a variety of audiences. Students will present their learning outcomes using various technologies, reflecting a focus on the student’s individual growth towards mastery of the state’s language arts standards.

**Advanced Language Arts 8**
*Grade 8 • Full Year • By permission only*
This course uses the Reading and Writing Workshop framework to incorporate the same state language arts standards as LA 8 but with a faster pace and more depth. Students will be scheduled into this course based on district-designed criteria considering LA grades and standardized test results.
Math 7
Grade 7 • Full Year
Students 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 Pre Algebra 7
Grade 7 • Full Year • By permission only
Students will focus on the four critical areas mentioned in Math 7 and additional content from 8th grade. While coherence is retained, this course demands a faster pace for instruction and learning.

Pre Algebra 8
Grade 8 • Full Year
Students will focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two-and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

Accelerated Algebra 1
Grade 7 • 1 HS credit • Full Year • Open only to qualifying students • By permission only
The fundamental purpose of Accelerated Algebra 1 is to formalize and extend the mathematics that students learned through the end of the seventh grade math curriculum. Students interested in taking Algebra 1 will be required to participate in a screening process. This course differs from high school Accelerated Algebra 1 in that it contains content from 8th grade. While coherence is retained, in that it logically builds from the Accelerated Pre Algebra course, the additional content when compared to the high school course demands a faster pace for instruction and learning.

Algebra 1
Grade 8 • 1 HS credit • Full Year • Open only to qualifying students • By permission only
Algebra 1 is a yearlong course designed to give the student a thorough and extensive study of linear, quadratic and exponential functions and graphing on the xy-coordinate system. Students will explore linear expressions, equations, inequalities, functions, systems of linear equations and inequalities, exponents, polynomials, roots and irrational numbers, statistics, and arithmetic sequences. Students will use graphing calculators to explore model and apply their knowledge to concepts. This course is not open to students who have already passed Geometry or any other more advanced course. A graphing calculator, TI-84, TI-84 plus or TI N-spire, is required for this course.
Geometry

1 HS credit • Full Year • Open only to qualifying students • By permission only

Geometry is a yearlong course that introduces the student to the processes of inductive and deductive reasoning and formal proof. It utilizes Algebra skills in the study of both plane and solid geometry. Topics covered include points, lines, planes, angles, polygons, surface area, and volume. Grade-level indicators from the Common Core Standards are included in the syllabus. A graphing calculator, TI-84, TI-84 plus or TI N-spire, is required for this course. Prerequisite: Algebra 1 or equivalent.
Science 7
Grade 7 • Full Year
Students explore Life Science by participating in a variety of learning activities that require them to explore and utilize the habits of mind and the nature of science. The units of study include: the characteristics of science; diversity of living organisms; structure and function of cells; tissues, organs, and organ systems; interdependence of organisms and their environments. Students will learn about some aspects of Physical Science: elements and the Periodic Table; states of matter; properties and changes of matter including physical and chemical changes. Students will also be studying Earth Science which includes the atmosphere and how energy transfers throughout it; weather patterns and forecasts; climate types and the changes that occur; air pollution; freshwater, ocean, and wetland studies. Students will use skills of scientific inquiry processes, scientific investigations and technology throughout the year to progress their knowledge, comprehension and retention of information.

Advanced Science 7
Grade 7 • Full Year • By permission only
The Advanced Science course provides accelerated pacing, a compacted curriculum, and enriched learning experiences that supplement and extend the standard science curriculum in a manner that meets the student's educational needs.

Science 8
Grade 8 • Full Year
Students in the eighth grade explore space and plate tectonics as they continue to draw conclusions from scientific evidence that support theories related to the change of Earth's surface. They acquire knowledge to describe how positions and motions of objects in the universe cause predictable and cyclic events. Students explain that the universe is composed of vast amounts of matter and that it is held together by gravitational force. They explore equipment to study the universe. Motion of objects, effects of forces on objects and how waves (sound, water and earthquake) transfer energy are explored. Students will be able to explain how extinction of a species occurs when the environment changes and its adaptive characteristics are insufficient to allow survival. Students design a solution to a problem or design and build a product, given certain constraints. Technological influences on the quality of life are also explored.

Physical Science Integrated
1 HS credit • Full Year • Open only to qualifying students • By permission only
Physical Science is an exploration of the physical world. It is a mix of physics, chemistry and earth science. Placement into this science course will be based on administrative criteria, including standardized assessment history. High school credit will be given upon successful completion of the course.
SOCIAL STUDIES

**World Studies**
*Grade 7 • Full Year*

World Studies explores the origins and enduring impacts of ancient Greece and ancient Rome and the Roman empire. The course also examines Europe’s Middle Ages, feudal societies in Europe and Japan, the Italian Renaissance, Europe’s Reformation, West African Empires and the Age of European Exploration. This course not only challenges students to develop their social studies skill set, which includes map and graph literacy and working effectively as a group member, but to also develop 21st Century skills such as research, evaluating the quality of sources, debate, analyzing opposing perspectives, applying democratic values towards respectful communication and creating solutions to historical problems.

**American History 8**
*Grade 8 • Full Year*

Students will study United States history in accordance with the Ohio 8th grade social studies standards from the European discovery of North America to Reconstruction (approximately 1877). Topics of focus include the European discovery and exploration of North America, Spanish, French and English colonization, the thirteen colonies, events leading up to the Declaration of Independence, the American Revolution, the creation of the U.S. Constitution, our new nation and the problems we faced, the War of 1812, westward expansion and manifest destiny, the growing division between the North and the South, the Civil War and the Reconstruction period after the war.
RELATED ARTS

Students are scheduled into two periods of Related Arts. Students will have some choice of the classes they will take. Other classes may be required or prescribed for each student. Students interested in music performance may choose one additional Related Arts course. Students may take Chorus in addition to Band or Orchestra; a rotating schedule will be determined by the directors of each course. Grade 8 students who take a music course and a world language will not be eligible for other Related Arts courses.

Chorus
Grade 7 & Grade 8 • Full Year
Choir is a fun and exciting way to be part of a large active group during the middle school years. Students will demonstrate an understanding of proper vocal technique and good singing habits as a result of this course. Our mission is to learn and share different types of quality literature through community performances, concerts, contests and other school-related concerts, trips and events. Choir will perform in regularly scheduled concerts throughout the school year. Members are required to attend all dress rehearsals and concerts.

Band
Grade 7 & Grade 8 • Full Year • Previous experience required
Band is a year-round course that includes all aspects of concert performance. Concert band will rehearse every day during school. The objectives of concert band are to assist students in developing music performance skills necessary to perform challenging literature and to expand their enjoyment and understanding of music. The concert band will perform for scheduled concerts and OMEA competitions. Members are required to attend all dress rehearsals and concerts.

Orchestra
Grade 7 & Grade 8 • Full Year • Previous experience required
Orchestra is open to all string students with previous experience. All other string players must audition. Students will learn string literature representative of various styles of music. Orchestra participates in OMEA adjudicated events and regularly scheduled concerts. Members are required to attend dress rehearsals and concerts.

Art
Grade 7 & Grade 8 • Nine Weeks
This course correlates with the academic core curriculum and the Ohio Academic Content Standards for the Visual Arts. Students are exposed to major works/styles of art and create their own works using the Elements of Design. This course strives to develop aesthetic awareness, imagination, perception, appreciation, knowledge and skills; foster creativity, self-expression, self-confidence, self-discipline; expand craftsmanship, problem solving abilities, cultural understandings and safety. Assignments and activities are designed to reinforce basic skills and to expand students' interests and abilities.
RELATED ARTS

**Consumer Science and Leadership**
*Grade 7 & Grade 8 • Nine Weeks*
This course will help all students increase their ability to act responsibly and productively, work cooperatively, apply concepts of balancing school, friends and family, maintain healthy lifestyles and acquire critical thinking skills that lead them to contribute to the good of the community and society. The students will learn to navigate the challenges of living in a global and diverse economy by integrating 21st century skills with their traditional academic content standards. This course also focuses on financial literacy, consumer power, career exploration and managing a life plan.

**Health**
*Grade 7 & Grade 8 • Nine Weeks*
This course has been designed to encourage healthful behaviors that promote positive physical, mental, emotional and social well-being. The curriculum will focus on mental health and stress management. Students will also engage in programs and lessons relating to CPR, substance abuse, sexual decision making, human growth and development and positive choices.

**Physical Education**
*Grade 7 & Grade 8 • Nine Weeks*
Physical Education is focused toward the physical and social development of the middle school adolescent. Activities are designed around skill development in many popular activities. Students are challenged at their own skill levels. Activities focus on promoting a healthy lifestyle, physical fitness, sportsmanship through team building and safety through proper skill and technique. Grade levels are combined for this course.

**Technology Education**
*Grade 7 & Grade 8 • Nine Weeks*
Word, Excel, Powerpoint, GarageBand, Photobooth and the Google Chrome browser will be explored to equip students with the 21st Century Skills necessary for the district’s core classes and beyond. Students will learn to use these applications for word processing, graphics, spreadsheets, presentations and Internet research. Students will study the technology language, network concepts and computer hardware and software basics. Students will learn the Qwerty style of keyboarding using an online application. Canvas, an online classroom will be used for 24/7 learning.
World Language Survey

*Grade 7 • Nine Weeks*
French and Spanish are introduced to 7th graders in this course. They learn about the countries where both of these world languages are spoken and develop an understanding and an appreciation for some of the cultural differences. With the aid of videos and DVDs, students are able to hear and see native speakers. Through songs, skits and other activities students acquire the skills to introduce themselves, have a short conversation, identify colors, count to 30 and learn to spell their French or Spanish name using the French or Spanish alphabet. Holidays and other special events are integrated into the curriculum when appropriate and timely. Representative foods are sampled and a cookbook is compiled to take home.

Academic Assist

*Grade 7 & Grade 8 • Nine Weeks*
All Grade 7 students will be scheduled into at least one section of Academic Assist. Grade 8 students may be scheduled into one or more terms of Academic Assist. This is a course in which students receive additional time for reading, test taking, organization, homework completion and assistance.

Introduction to Business

*Grade 8 • Nine Weeks*
This is an introductory course for the Business and Administrative Services, Finance and Marketing career fields which introduces students to specializations within the three career fields. Students will obtain knowledge and skills in fundamental business activities. They will acquire knowledge of business processes, economics and business relationships. Students will use technology to synthesize and share business information. Employability skills, leadership and communications and personal financial literacy will be addressed. The instructor and curriculum for this course will provided by the Delaware Area Career Center.

Career Based Intervention (CBI)

*Grade 8 only • Full Year • Open only to qualifying students • By permission only • Application required*
CBI is a career technical program sponsored by the Delaware Area Career Center for 8th grade students who desire to develop and explore career and work experiences in and around the school, and upon approval, a work experience. Students will be selected for CBI based on teacher recommendation, application and eligibility. This course will take one elective period; a second period is needed for the work component. The CBI teacher will contact parents and students if recommended for this course. *Students in CBI will have no other Related Arts courses in their schedule.*

RELATED ARTS
French 1
Grade 8 only • 1 HS credit • Full Year • By permission only • Application required
French 1 introduces the students to the French language. Proficiency in the language is the main goal. Listening, speaking, reading and writing skills are developed. Correct pronunciation is emphasized as well as the acquisition of basic speech patterns and a small, practical vocabulary. Cultural material deals with Francophone countries with particular emphasis on France and Canada. Students learn to speak, read, write and listen within the range of a basic vocabulary.

Spanish 1
Grade 8 only • 1 HS credit • Full Year • By permission only • Application required
Spanish 1 introduces the students to the Spanish language. Proficiency in the language is the main goal. Listening, speaking, reading and writing skills are developed. Correct pronunciation is emphasized as well as the acquisition of basic speech patterns and a small, practical vocabulary. Cultural material compares and contrasts Spanish-speaking countries and the United States. Students learn to speak, read, write and listen within the range of a basic vocabulary.
John C. Dempsey Middle School
Contact Information

Dr. Julie German 833-1801
Principal

Mr. Steve Ringer 833-1803
Assistant Principal

Mrs. Karla Delong 833-1815
Athletic Director/Dean of Students

Mrs. Jenny Nicely 833-1813
7th Grade Counselor (2015-2016)

Ms. Jane Ziegler 833-1814
8th Grade Counselor (2015-2016)

Ms. Kim Ballinger 833-1806
Guidance and Athletic Administrative Assistant

Mrs. April Green 833-1802
Principals’ Administrative Assistant

Ms. Melissa Gilligan 833-1804
Attendance Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Liz Bertsch 833-1821
Food Services

Mrs. Kelly Wagner 833-1809
School Nurse

School Fax Number 833-1899

District Administration Offices 833-1100

District Website www.delawarecityschools.net