



La Vista Middle School



8th Grade
Course Registration Handbook
2023-2024



Students:

This Course Registration Handbook has been designed to help you make important educational decisions. It has been developed to provide you with understanding and direction as you plan your next year of studies. Your first responsibility is to familiarize yourself with the contents of the handbook. Second, you should consult with your parents/guardians and plan together a course of study for your next year. And, finally, you may wish to consult with a counselor who will assist you with answers to any questions you may have regarding the registration process.

If you have any questions, please speak with a counselor to ensure a smooth transition to 8th grade.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jen Carson, Principal

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COURSE LISTINGS

The school counselors will provide group guidance and counseling for all students for the purpose of registration of classes for the school year. Individual counseling is provided to parents and students upon request.

Students are required to take one year of English, Math, Science and Social Studies. Physical Education, Health, Weights, and STEM are also required courses. The following elective courses are one year in length; Spanish, Band, Chorus and Drama. All Enrichment classes are 7 weeks in length. **Classroom space and staff availability will determine final placement of students in Enrichment classes.**

COURSES

8th Grade – Required

- 0. Monarch Advisory (year)
- 1. English Language Arts (year)
- 2. Mathematics - Math 8 (year)
 - Algebra I (year)
 - Geometry (year)
- 3. Science 8 (year)
- 4. Social Studies 8 (year)
- 5. Enrichment Block I
 - a. PE 8 (7 weeks)
 - b. Health 8 (7 weeks)
 - c. Weights 8 (7 weeks)
 - d. STEM 8 (7 weeks)
 - e. Lifetime Fitness 8 (7 weeks)

Electives

Spanish 1 (year)
Concert Band (year)
Chorus (year)
Drama (year)
Reading (by teacher recommendation)

Enrichment Block II

- a. Business 8 (7 weeks)
- b. Robotics 8 (7 weeks)
- c. Art 8 (7 weeks)
- d. FCS 8 (7 weeks)
- e. Computer Science 8 (7 weeks)

Enrichment Block III

- a. Exploring Business (7 weeks)
- b. FCS (7 weeks)
- c. Music (7 weeks)
- d. STEM (7 weeks)
- e. Art (7 weeks)

Student Aide - by application only – 7 week block (will come out of Study Hall/Flextime)

REQUIRED COURSES

Course Title: Monarch Advisory

Course Number: 7000

All students will be assigned to a Monarch Advisory group. This group will meet each day and will be engaged in a variety of activities based around social skills, character education, relationship building, reading, respect, responsibility, service projects, goal setting, etc. We also follow Second Step Middle School Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)

Course Title: ELA 8

Course Number: 1800

Eighth grade English Language Arts is a year-long course and a continuation of seventh grade ELA. ELA 8 will engage students to think critically with a balanced literacy approach through developing and strengthening communication skills through reading, writing, researching, and speaking. There will be a focus on literature analysis, fiction and non-fiction text, including 2 required novels. Students will continue to build comprehension, vocabulary, grammar skills and writing, using the *My Perspectives* textbook.

MATHEMATICS

Course Title: Math 8

Course Number: MA08

The content of this course includes computation of rational numbers, evaluating and solving algebraic expressions equations and inequalities, proportional reasoning and similarity, advanced topics in statistical literacy and interpreting basic probability concepts aligned with NE Grade 8 Math Standards.

Course Title: Algebra I

Course Number: MA05

This course is designed to include an in-depth study of the concepts addressed in Math 8, plus Algebra I, which includes computation with real numbers, solving linear equations and inequalities, adding and subtracting polynomials, solving systems of equations and inequalities, spatial and logical reasoning and applications of geometric principles, proportional reasoning, direct and indirect variation, basic probability concepts, and statistical literacy.

Course Title: Geometry

Course Number: MA06

This course will focus on the development of reasoning and problem solving skills, not necessarily mathematical in nature. Topics of study include the topics of geometry, however, geometry places an emphasis on algebra concepts including; writing equations of lines, solving systems of equations, solving advanced linear equations, and coordinate problems. For this reason, a strong background in algebra is highly recommended because connections between algebra and geometry are routinely made in this course.

SCIENCE

Course Title: Science 8

Course Number: 3800

The Science programs in the Papillion La Vista Community Schools have been selected to give students exposure to a wide range of topics. At the middle school level, students will learn a variety of topics about Physical Science, Life Science, and Earth Science. The basic philosophy of our program includes:

- Students will understand science concepts and skills.
- Students will learn and apply scientific inquiry to make informed and reasoned decisions.
- Students will communicate their scientific understanding.
- Students will make relevant connections using science concepts.

Science 8 exposes students to the physical and earth strands of science. Students will continue to pose solutions to scientific problems and real-life situations using inquiry. The lab and activity centered approach allows students to experience science and not just observe it.

The students will investigate the following areas of scientific study:

1. Matter
 2. Astronomy
 3. Force and Motion
 4. Weather and Climate
-

SOCIAL STUDIES

Course Title: Social Studies 8

Course Number: 4800

United States History 8 focuses on a review of the Colonial Foundation followed by a study of our nation's history from the United States Constitution up to World War I. Students will engage in inquiry to gather and analyze evidence in order to draw conclusions and communicate them effectively. The curriculum for this course is aligned with the Nebraska Social Studies Standards for this grade level.

Objectives:

1. Students will examine the reasons for settling in America and how England benefited from establishing the thirteen colonies.
 2. Students will understand that disagreements between English citizens and their government resulted in colonial revolution in North America culminating in a new central government.
 3. Students will understand and analyze our living Constitution.
 4. Students will make sense of our early efforts to establish a new nation, and how America grew and changed from the 1780's to the 1850's.
 5. Students will understand how intense feelings aroused by the slavery questions and states' rights resulted in the Civil War, and the challenges of rebuilding the nation after the war.
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Enrichment Block I

(7 week long courses)

**Course Title: Physical Education (P.E.) 8
Lifetime Fitness 8**

**Course Number: 5800
Course Number: 5830**

Purpose: The purpose of our program is to ***prepare*** students with the knowledge and skills to ***pursue an active, healthy lifestyle***. Students will:

- Standard 1: Demonstrate competency in motor skills and movement patterns needed to perform a variety of physical activities.
 - Standard 2: Demonstrate and apply concepts and principles of human movement to the development of motor skills and the learning of new skills.
 - Standard 3: Participate regularly in physical activity.
 - Standard 4: Achieve and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical fitness.
 - Standard 5: Exhibit responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others in physical activity settings.
 - Standard 6: Understand that physical activity provides the opportunity for enjoyment, challenge, self-expression and communication.
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Course Title: Weights 8

Course Number: 5820

Purpose: This class will introduce students to the fundamentals of weight training appropriate for their age. An emphasis will be placed on correct technique and safety. The class will promote a lifetime of physical fitness through learning how to build speed, strength, and power.

Other classroom coursework will also incorporate various aspects of physical education, health, and athletic topics.

Health is intended to help young people develop positive attitudes, values, goals, and behaviors. Health is a course which meets the following objectives:

1. To provide individuals with adequate and accurate knowledge of family life in its physical, psychological, social, and moral dimensions.
2. To help clarify and strengthen values and attitudes related to family and to sexuality.
3. To enhance feelings of self-worth and self-esteem.
4. To increase skills in decision-making and communication.

Health concepts:

1. Sexuality and abstinence (physical, psychological, social, and emotional)
W.A.I.T. Program is implemented (Why Am I Tempted?)
 2. Alcohol and substance abuse
 3. Sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS.
 4. L.R.E. – Law Related Education
 5. Human Growth and Development
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(Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)

FEE: There is a \$10.00 lab fee which will cover the cost of projects that will become the possession of the student.

Students will be introduced to the Engineering Design Process. The Engineering Design Process teaches open-minded problem-solving skills and engineering concepts, which emphasizes learning through trial and error. Students will understand how creative and innovative design has impacted our lives. Students get to research, design, build, and test a variety of projects. To understand and apply the Engineering Design Process students will be working in partnership on all projects using a variety of resources: Internet, 3-D CAD programs, and an array of power and hand tools.

ELECTIVE COURSES

MONARCH FLEX TIME 8

Course Title: Flex Time

Course Number: 7280

Monarch Flex Time is a directed learning time for students. Students will have the opportunity to receive homework assistance and prepare for tests.

SPANISH I

Course Title: Spanish I

Course Number: FL40

Spanish I in the MS is an opportunity for students to complete the first level of a high school world language class. Spanish I emphasizes oral mastery of the basic skills of the language, including pronunciation and the application of vocabulary and grammar to elementary conversations. Reading and writing skills are introduced as well as aspects of different cultures and histories of the countries where Spanish is spoken. Students can expect a daily interactive classroom experience along with regular homework consisting of review and class preparation. All students who successfully complete this class will be eligible for Spanish II upon entry into high school. This will put students onto the pathway to a 5th year of Spanish (Advanced Placement) if desired. Like all other middle school courses, students should expect to stay in for its two-semester duration.

Note: By BOE policy, only students in grades 9-12 may earn high school credits.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Course Title: Concert Band 8

Course Number: 6810

Requirements:

Any 8th grader with at least two years of instrumental training. Beginners must confer with the band director and take lessons until they have attained an appropriate skill level. Instrumental music is offered to students who have the enthusiasm and discipline to pursue the playing of a wind or percussion instrument. At the middle school level our emphasis is not on performance but on music fundamentals. Those fundamentals especially stressed will include counting, reading music, understanding musical terminology, the acquisition of major, minor, and chromatic scales, and rehearsing in a large group. Each band performs at least two concerts a year. Participation in band consists of daily band rehearsals, weekly lessons, and quarterly scales. Opportunities to play in small groups (ensembles), to perform solos, and to participate in honor bands and concerts are all part of the program. Students also have the opportunity to attend various special sessions such as Master Classes and recitals. Additional groups – Jazz Band, Percussion, Woodwind, and Brass Ensembles.

VOCAL MUSIC

Course Title: Chorus 8 **Course Number:** 6811

Requirements: A Monarch Music Polo Shirt is required for performances and will be purchased by the student.

Chorus 8, aligned to the most current Nebraska Standards for Visual Arts and NAFME (National Association for Music Education) standards, is a course developed to expand musical knowledge and skills for all students. Topics studied will include the following: score navigation, basic composition, singing in parts, listening and evaluating, musical vocabulary, expressive elements, sight reading and rhythm reading. Students will learn through direct instruction, authentic practice and implementation through the performance of newly-acquired knowledge and skill. The singers' participation in four performances (generally in October, January, March, and May) are a major part of the learning targets and so participation at all performances is mandatory.

Course Title: Drama 8 **Course Number:** 6809

Drama is for any student who enjoys the performing arts and is interested in advancing their acting abilities. Throughout the course, students will perform a wide variety of activities including writing and performing monologues, playing improvisation games, completing musical theatre research projects, etc. This class meets every day throughout the year.

Reading 8 – F.A.M.E

Course Title: Reading 8 (by teacher recommendation only)

Reading 8 is a course for students identified as benefitting from further instruction and practice in reading. Phonics review, vocabulary study, and reading comprehension skill – literal, inferential and critical thinking - will be the focus of instruction. Both fiction and nonfiction material will be used in both a guided reading and whole group setting. It will also incorporate the F.A.M.E. program concepts of reading.

Enrichment Block II

(7 week long courses)

Course Title: Exploring Business 8

Course Number: 6845

This is a class with intent to provide the students with an introduction to the business skills needed in the 21st Century. It will introduce students to the world of personal business and prepare them for their economic roles of consumer, worker and citizen. This course will also serve as a background for other business courses they may elect to take in high school and beyond. Introduction to Business will assist the student with consumer decision making, prepare them for future employment and help them develop an awareness of the relationship of their income to skills and education attained as they grow.

Course Title: Robotics 8

Course Number: 6862

FEE: There is a \$10.00 lab fee, which will cover the cost of take-home projects and materials.

From the invention of the wheel to telephones to space travel, humans have continuously created new inventions to solve problems and make life easier. In this course students will experience hands-on designing, building, and programming various types of robots. Students will be examining the history of robotics then exploring the future of robotics usage throughout the world and universe. Students will learn brainstorming strategies and then put into action principles of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics involving the Engineering Design Process. Students will have the opportunity to advance their STEM/Skilled and Technical Sciences education next year at the high school in the STEM Academy, the Intro to Skilled and Technical Science Trades, or the Robotics 1 course.

Course Title: Art 8

Course Number: 6800

FEE: There is a \$10.00 lab fee, which will cover the cost of take-home projects and materials.

Aligned to the most current Nebraska Fine Arts Standards and the National Art Education (NAEF) Standards, Art 8 is an exploratory course designed to expand students' artistic knowledge and skill. Students will engage in units of study around a variety of art mediums and processes: ceramics, tempera, watercolors, and mixed media. Students will learn through direct instruction and hands-on application.

Course Title: FCS 8 (Family and Consumer Science) Course Number: 6820

Family and Consumer Sciences provide opportunities for students to acquire the knowledge, attitude, and skills essential to balance home, family, and workplace roles and responsibilities.

FEE: There is a \$10.00 lab fee, which will cover the cost of take-home projects and materials.

Topics may include the following:

1. Foods and Nutrition
 - a. Healthy Food Choices
 - b. Basic Food Preparation Skills
 - c. Safety and Sanitation in the kitchen
 - d. Consumer Issues and Careers in the area of Foods and Nutrition
 2. Teen Issues
 - a. Self Esteem
 - b. Goal Setting
 - c. Communication and Conflict Resolution
 3. Design
 - a. Textile Construction and Care
 - b. Sewing Projects
 - c. Choices in Housing
 - d. Consumer Issues and Careers Exploration
 4. Family Living
 - a. Relationship Skills within the family
 - b. Child Development
 - c. Careers in Family Life and Child Development
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Course Title: Computer Science 8 Course Number: 6830

'Computer Science for Innovators and Makers' teaches students programming skills that have real life applications. By using different tools, students will creatively develop systems that are programmed to interact with the physical environment. This course will expand students' knowledge of computer science by giving them experience in computer coding, designing algorithms, and other computational thinking aspects. Teams will select and solve a personally relevant problem related to wearable technology, interactive art, or mechanical devices.

Enrichment Block III

(7 week long courses)

The following Enrichment courses will consist of 7 week long classes which will enhance the curricular areas in either Elective or Core classes. Students not taking Spanish, Band or Chorus will take Enrichment Block III. These courses differ in curriculum than the courses offered in Enrichment Block II and may include the following:

Business – 6835
Music - 6812
FCS – 6825
S.T.E.M. - 6865
Art – 6805

Miscellaneous

Course Title: Student Aide

Course Number: 6902

Any student who wishes to become a student aide must be willing to work with staff members, secretaries, counselors, and administrators to carry out designated responsibilities. The student must be reliable, responsible, and punctual. He/she must have good attendance at school, maintain good grades, keep information confidential, and be willing to give up a 7 week block of flextime. **(By application only)**

Course Title: Show Choir

Recommendation: Selection via audition

Rehearsals: Before school and occasional weekends, September through April

Performances: Multiple throughout the season; they may include competitions

Activity Fee (One-time fee for athletics and show choir): \$50.00

Costume Fee: Up to \$150.00

Expectation: Students pay for their own show choir costume if they are selected for Show Choir participation.

Show choir is an extra-curricular auditioned group that combines choral singing and dance. Through costumes, songs, and choreography, students perform in a show which may be entered into various competitions.

\$50 Activity Fee

Any middle school student who participates in show choir or a sport will be required to pay a \$50.00 activity fee. This is a ONE-TIME fee (not per activity or sport) that covers the entire school year.

CO-TAUGHT CLASSES

At each grade level there are classes that are co-taught. Two teachers, a general education teacher and a special education teacher, share responsibilities for presenting information in co-taught classes. Some students are assigned to co-taught classes by a multi-disciplinary team. Some students are in co-taught classes by the random assignment of the computer program. Co-taught classes are the same as other classes in the department, except that they are taught by two teachers.

SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT BELIEFS

The Papillion La Vista Community Schools believes that:

1. The School District has the legal responsibility and moral obligation to provide a quality education program for all students.
 2. Students must be provided with services in an environment which maximizes students' opportunities to interact with the total school population.
 3. Coordination and communication between general and special educators is vital in providing education for all students.
 4. All students should be educated with age appropriate peers in their home district and, if possible, in their neighborhood school building.
 5. Shared responsibility of services between general and special educators forms a unified system for all students.
 6. Parents are integral partners with the school in providing appropriate education for their child.
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NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Papillion La Vista Community Schools Non-Discrimination Policies & Procedures

The Papillion La Vista Community Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age or other protected status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Students: Dr. Trent Steele, Director of Secondary Human Resources and Student Services, 420 South Washington Street, Papillion, NE 68046 (402) 537-6214 (trent.steele@plcschools.org).

Employees and Others: Dr. Kati Settles, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources, 420 South Washington Street, Papillion, NE 68046 (402) 537-6206 (kati.settles@plcschools.org).

Complaints or concerns involving discrimination or needs for accommodation or access should be addressed to the appropriate Coordinator.

For further information about anti-discrimination laws and regulations, or to file a complaint of discrimination with the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education (OCR), please contact OCR at One Petticoat Lane, 1010 Walnut Street #320, Kansas City, Missouri 64106, (816) 268-0550 (voice), or (877) 521-2172 (telecommunications device for the deaf), or ocr.kansascity@ed.gov.

School Lunch Program

Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion or disability.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call 800-795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provided and employer.