

**Washington  
MIDDLE  
SCHOOL**

**Registration  
Handbook  
2016-2017**

## WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION HANDBOOK

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### **PURPOSE OF THE HANDBOOK**

The purpose of this handbook is to inform our current and potential families of the educational opportunities at Washington Middle School and give a quick overview with the Middle School Profile. This handbook contains contact information, school profile, registration procedures, course offerings, course descriptions and other general information.

**WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL PROFILE**

The Washington Middle School is a 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade building located at: 313 S 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Washington, Iowa, 52353.

We operate on a 14 period day with each period being 29 minutes. Core courses and several other required courses are 2 periods long. Classes begin at 8:10am and end at 3:25pm.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Enrollment: 124  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade Enrollment: 119  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Enrollment: 120  
Total Enrollment: 363

Number of Certified Teaching Staff: 36  
Number of Non-Certified Staff: 18

Student Race/Ethnicity distribution:  
American Indian, Alaskan Native: 0.12%  
Asian or Pacific Islander: 0.05%  
African American, not Hispanic Origin: 2.2%  
Hispanic: 15%  
White, not of Hispanic Origin: 81.4%  
Other: 1.2%

Low Socio-Economic (free/reduced lunch): 45%

E.L.L (English Language Learners): 17  
IEP (Special Education) Students: 52  
504 Plans: 21

Marking System  
A 4.0 C- 1.67  
A- 3.67 D+ 1.33  
B+ 3.33 D 1.0  
B 3.0 D- .67  
B- 2.67 F 0  
C+ 2.33  
C 2.0

Method of computing GPA and Class Rank: No classes are weighted. Numerical grades are averaged to determine GPA. Class Rank is determined by highest cumulative GPA.

## DAILY SCHEDULE

Our building operates on a 14 period day. Our 14 period day allows an opportunity for students to experience the Middle School philosophy of exposure to many different content areas. Every student has an Advisory or Tutorial class at the end of each day to get assistance from a teacher or to get organized. The Advisory class also provides relationship building between that teacher and the group of students that teacher will have in advisory for 3 years.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL BELL SCHEDULE

<b>Period</b>	<b>Start Time</b>	<b>End Time</b>	<b>Duration/Minutes</b>	
0	7:40	8:05	25	
1	8:10	8:39	29	
2	8:39	9:08	29	
Passing	9:08	9:12	4	
3	9:12	9:41	29	
4	9:41	10:10	29	
Passing	10:10	10:14	4	
5	10:14	10:43	29	
6	10:43	11:12	29	
Passing	11:12	11:16	4	
7	11:16	11:46	30	Lunch
Passing	11:46	11:50	4	
8	11:50	12:20	30	Lunch
Passing	12:20	12:24	4	
9	12:24	12:54	30	Lunch
Passing	12:54	12:58	4	
10	12:58	1:27	29	
11	1:27	1:56	29	
Passing	1:56	2:00	4	
12	2:00	2:29	29	
13	2:29	2:58	29	
Passing	2:58	3:02	4	
14	3:02	3:25	23	Advisory/Tutorials

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL MAIN OFFICE**

**Office Hours: 7:50am-4:15pm**

District Attendance Hotline (319) 653-1101 (call this number day or night)

Main Office Phone (319) 653-5414 Fax (319) 653-7350

Curt Mayer, Principal

[cmayer@washington.k12.ia.us](mailto:cmayer@washington.k12.ia.us)

Aaron Six, Dean of Students

[asix@washington.k12.ia.us](mailto:asix@washington.k12.ia.us)

Cathy Kleese, Principal Secretary

[ckleese@washington.k12.ia.us](mailto:ckleese@washington.k12.ia.us)

Amy Greiner, Assistant Secretary

[agreiner2@washington.k12.ia.us](mailto:agreiner2@washington.k12.ia.us)

Tish Johnson, School Nurse

[tjohnson@washington.k12.ia.us](mailto:tjohnson@washington.k12.ia.us)

Jessica Nafziger, School Nurse

[jnafziger@washington.k12.ia.us](mailto:jnafziger@washington.k12.ia.us)

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPT. Office Hours: 7:45 am – 3:45 pm**

Counseling Office Phone (319) 653-5416 Fax(319) 653-1122

Belinda Robinson, School Counselor

[brobinso@washington.k12.ia.us](mailto:brobinso@washington.k12.ia.us)

Jill Doughty, Counseling Secretary

[jdoughty@washington.k12.ia.us](mailto:jdoughty@washington.k12.ia.us)

## **WASHINGTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT**

Is it the mission of the Washington Community School District, in partnership with family and community, to prepare people for lifelong learning and productive membership in a global society by continually providing educational opportunities appropriate for the individual's total development.

## **WASHINGTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT EQUITY STATEMENT**

It is the policy of the Washington Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, creed, marital status, national origin, religion, disability or sexual orientation in its educational programs, activities or employment practices. If you believe you have been discriminated against or treated unjustly at school, please contact Veta Thode at (319) 653-6543.

## **REGISTRATION PROCEDURES**

Students will meet in groups with administration or counseling staff to review registration information and procedures. Registration forms are sent home with students and must be completed with parents and signed by parents.

## **SCHEDULE CHANGES**

Students may request to drop or add a course within the first 2 days of each term. Request forms to change a course are online. You can go to the district website: [www.washington.k12.ia.us](http://www.washington.k12.ia.us), click on Schools, click on Washington Middle School, click on Student Schedule Request Form. Complete the form and submit. It will go directly to the scheduler. We do our best to honor requests, although please understand it is not always possible to make the changes.

## 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE COURSE OFFERINGS

<b>Course</b>	<b>Required</b>	<b>Description on Page</b>
Advisory	Yes	13
Art 6	Yes	7
Book Club	No	10
Computer 6	Yes	8
Current Events	No	20
English 6	Yes	9-10
Explore Social Studies 6	Yes	19-20
Explore Spanish	No	11-12
Family and Consumer Science 6	Yes	11
Health 6	Yes	16-17
Hunter Safety	No	19
Math	Yes	12-13
Performing Arts/Music	Yes	14-16
PE 6	Yes	16
Science 6	Yes	17-18
Social Studies 6	Yes	19-20
Team (Study hall)	No	13

## 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE COURSE OFFERINGS

<b>Course</b>	<b>Required</b>	<b>Description on Page</b>
Advisory	Yes	13
Art 7	Yes	7
Book Club	No	10
Computer 7	Yes	8
Current Events	No	20
English 7	Yes	9-10
Family and Consumer Science 7	Yes	11
GTT- Design and Model	Yes	8
Health 7	Yes	16-17
History through Movies	No	21
Hunter Safety	No	19
Intro to Spanish	Yes	11-12
Math	Yes	12-13
Peer Helpers (by application)	No	13
Performing Arts/Music	Yes	14-16
PE 7	Yes	16
Science 7	Yes	17-18
Team (Study hall)	No	13
VREP	No	9
Geography 7	Yes	21

## 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE COURSE OFFERINGS

<b>Course</b>	<b>Required</b>	<b>Description on Page</b>
Advisory	Yes	13
Art 8	No	7
Book Club	No	10
Digital Literacy	Yes	8
Earth History	No	19
English 8	Yes	9-10
Family and Consumer Science 8	Yes	11
GTT- Animation and Robotics	Yes	8
Health 8	Yes	16-17
Hunter Safety	No	19
Intro to Woods	No	7
Math	Yes	12-13
Peer Helpers (by application)	No	15
Performing Arts/Music	No	15-17
PE 8	Yes	18
Science 8	Yes	19
Social Problems	No	21
Spanish I	No	13
Team (Study Hall)	No	15
United States History	Yes	21
VREP	No	10

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## ARCHITECTURE AND CONSTRUCTION COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **Intro to Woods 8 (elective 1 term course)**

This course will offer students the opportunity to work in four areas of industrial technology. They will learn fundamental machine safety and operation. They will also learn drafting techniques and terminology. Students will work on computer drafting programs, learning Chief Architect, and Autodesk Inventor. Students will also learn MasterCam which will then be used to produce a CNC program to run a part on our CNC mill. This course is designed to allow students the opportunity to explore these areas which will be offered in the high school curriculum.

## (VISUAL) ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **Art 6 (required 1 term course)**

Students will explore different media while working on projects. There will be an emphasis on studying artists and different cultures while exploring the specific media.

### **Art 7 (required 1 term course)**

7th grade art is a foundation course for 8th grade art which will prepare students for elective courses. Projects include drawing, painting, printmaking, and ceramics. Students will also study artists and have a portfolio to hold sketches, notes, and ideas.

### **Art 8 (elective 1 term course)**

Students will gain an opportunity to work with new and different media on projects. Students learn how to draw in two point perspective, work with colored chalk pastels, sculpt and personalize a clay vase, create pointillism paintings and learn printmaking.



## **COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Digital Literacy 6 (required 2 term course meets every other day)**

6th grade students will expand their keyboarding skills by working to improve on speed and accuracy when typing. Formatting documents, researching on the internet more productively, creating and inserting images into documents, and basic PowerPoint and Podcasting skills will be introduced.

### **Digital Literacy 7 (required 2 term course meets every other day)**

Students will continue to expand their touch typing skills, the ability to type without looking at a keyboard. Boolean internet search techniques, working with tables and basic spreadsheets, and collaborating on a document with others will be explored. Projects will include an introduction to iMovie, creating a web site, and researching STEM careers.

### **Digital Literacy 8 (required 2 term course meets every other day)**

8th grade computer students will continue to expand their touch typing, internet research, spreadsheet, and document formatting skills. Projects will involve the use of various applications and internet resources. Web site design, photo editing, and other multi-media projects will be experienced. STEM careers will be explored and students will work collaboratively on some projects using their Google accounts.

## **ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Gateway to Technology (GTT)- Design and Modeling 7th (required 1 term course)**

In this unit, students begin to recognize the value of an engineering notebook to document and capture their ideas. They are introduced to and use the design process to solve problems and understand the influence that creative and innovative design has on our lives. Students use industry standard 3D modeling software to create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their creative solutions. This course is required unless it interferes with other academic supports.

### **Gateway to Technology (GTT)- Animation and Robots 8th (required 1 term course)**

Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics. They learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation and computer control systems. Students use a robust robotics platform to design, build and program a solution to solve an existing problem. This course is required unless it interferes with other academic supports.

**VREP 7/8 (elective 1-4 term course)**

In this course students will gain valuable 21st Century skills such as: study, computer, and technical reading skills as well as the ability to research, communicate, problem solve, work in teams, collaborate, manage their time, and access resources to accomplish important goals and objectives. Students in VREP will create virtual reality and 3D models, simulations and projects which serve several purposes around accelerating student learning. Projects are connected to curriculum areas and grade level expectations providing the opportunity for other students to understand key concepts and ideas through the use of VR and 3D. The program is demanding and students are expected to be able to provide presentations and clearly articulate what they have learned on short notice. Students must show a willingness and desire to be independent learners and be willing to work in an environment where self-discipline and maturity are expected. Students must apply to take this course. Students will be required to complete 2 projects per term, one required project and one topic of the student's choice.

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS****English 6 (4 term course)**

English 6 is a two-semester (four-term) class that combines reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Throughout the year, students will participate in lessons grounded in the Iowa Core Curriculum and will strive to meet the priority standards as set by the English Department. Students will read from a wide variety of genres; analyze texts; write narrative, informative/explanatory, and argumentative essays; and verbally present information in both individual and group settings.

**English 7 (4 term course)**

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**Book Club (elective 1-2 term course)**

This course is available to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Students will be required to read books and review them with others in the class and complete book projects.

**Read 180 (based on testing 1-4 terms)** *READ 180* is a comprehensive system of curriculum, instruction, assessment, and professional development proven to raise reading achievement for struggling readers in grades 6 - 8. Designed for any student reading two or more years below grade-level, *READ 180* leverages adaptive technology to individualize instruction for students and provide powerful data for differentiation to teachers. Read 180 may take the place of the required Reading course for a 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade student. Once a student graduates from this course, he/she will move to the grade level Reading course.

**System 44 (based on testing 1-4 terms)**

*System 44* is the breakthrough foundational reading and phonics intervention technology program for our most challenged readers in Grades 6 - 8. *System 44*'s state-of-the-art adaptive technology delivers direct, explicit foundational reading and phonics instruction as well as engaging, high-interest print materials for student practice in reading, writing, and spelling. System 44 may take the place of the required Reading course for a 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade student. Once a student graduates from this course, he/she will typically move into Read 180.

**English Learners (EL) (based on testing 1-4 term course)**

This course provides direct English instruction to students whose first language is not English.

**EL APRENDER EL IDIOMA INGLES (ELL) (1-4 clase termino)**

La clase para aprender el idioma inglés les da instrucción directa en inglés a los estudiantes cuya primera lengua no es el inglés.

## **FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Family Consumer Science 6 (required 2 term course meets every other day)**

The focus of this course will be Personal and Social development. Throughout the year, students will go over setting goals and decision making, problem solving and conflict resolution, communication, relationships, and personal well-being. These skills will allow students to be more successful in all aspects of life: school, home, and the community.

### **Family Consumer Science 7 (required 2 term course meets every other day)**

7<sup>th</sup> grade Family and Consumer Sciences will focus on Foods and Nutrition. Students will learn nutrition concepts including MyPlate, nutrients, food labels, balanced diets, proportions, and eating disorders. We will also focus on basic kitchen skills such as safety, sanitation, food borne illness, measuring, and cooking terms. Students will be able to put these skills to use by completing a number of cooking labs in the classroom kitchens. All topics covered will also be reinforced by a variety of hands on activities, projects, and presentations.

### **Family Consumer Science 8 (required 2 term course meets every other day)**

In preparation for high school and independent living, this course focuses on Careers and Financial Literacy. Students will complete I Have a Plan Iowa to give them an idea of what they might enjoy for high school courses and career paths. Other topics covered include being a wise consumer, budgeting, and employability skills for in the schools, community, and workplace. Students will have the opportunity to research current career goals and what it is going to take to achieve that goal. Towards the end of the year, the class will attend a financial literacy fair.

### **Introduction to Foods (elective 1 term course)**

This course will focus on basic food principles including safety and sanitation, terminology and measuring skills, and food preparation skills. Students will have the opportunity to apply food preparation skills and knowledge of nutrition and safety to more complex experiences. Students will also learn about careers in the food service industry. Prerequisite: Passed 7<sup>th</sup> Grade FCS with C- or higher  
Limit: 16 students

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **Explore Spanish 6th (elective 1 term)**

This course is an introduction to the Spanish Language for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students.

### **Introduction to Spanish 7th (required 1 term)**

This course is an introduction to the Spanish language and the Spanish -speaking world. You will be learning basic Spanish vocabulary with the help of songs and games. You will also be exploring the different cultures of the Spanish- speaking world. This course will build your confidence and prepare you for taking higher level Spanish classes. This course is a prerequisite for Spanish I, and must be taken in addition to Spanish I in order to proceed to Spanish II at WHS.

### **Spanish 1 8th (elective 2 term course)**

This course begins the study of the language. Students will acquire beginning skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing Spanish. Classroom activities include oral and written practice, audio and video activities, projects, and learning games that emphasize communication, along with cultures, communities, comparisons, and connections to Spanish-speaking countries and people. Students must earn a C- or above to advance to Spanish II at WHS. If a student earns below a C-, he or she will be expected to retake Spanish I in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Intro to Spanish in 7<sup>th</sup> grade together with Spanish I in 8<sup>th</sup> grade does earn high school credit toward graduation. Spanish I is a prerequisite for Spanish II.

## MATHEMATICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

*The following data is used to place students appropriately in math courses: Iowa Assessments, the Scholastic Math Inventory (SMI), grades and teacher recommendation. If a parent chooses a math course that is not recommended, parents must sign a waiver stating they waive the school's recommendation for their child.*

### **Math Core 1 (4 term course)**

Math Core 1 is the first core course in our math pathways in middle school math. It will include these basic concepts in the Common Core: Operations of whole numbers, decimals, fractions, as well as an introduction to Algebra. Measurement, geometry, integers and proportions will round out the year.

### **Math Core 2 (4 term course)**

The Core 2 curriculum is a continuation of many units introduced in Core 1. Content for this course includes algebraic reasoning (expressions, equations, inequalities), integers, rational numbers, proportions, graphs, percentages, geometric figures and measurement, probability, and collecting, displaying, and analyzing data.

**Pre-Algebra (4 term course)**

The Pre--Algebra course is designed to prepare students for Algebra. The curriculum will cover concepts presented in Core 2 plus the algebraic concepts of variables, solving equations, factors, fractions, exponents, and linear functions.

**Algebra I (4 term course)**

This is a formal study of algebraic expressions, equations, functions, polynomials and inequalities. Algebra I is the background of all higher mathematics courses and will meet all four terms of the school year. This course does earn high school credit toward graduation. \*7th grade students taking Algebra will be required to take Geometry at the HS as 8th graders.

**Geometry (2 term course)**

Geometry meets at the High School. Geometry works with the measurement properties and relationships of points, lines, angles, polygons, circles, surfaces and solids. In addition, this course will develop inductive and deductive reasoning. After a student successfully completes Geometry in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, he or she may be recommended by teachers to take Algebra II the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Transportation will be provided to the high school for this course.

**MISCELLANEOUS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS****Advisory (required 4 terms)**

Advisories are divided by grade level. Every student will be assigned to an Advisory teacher in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and have that Advisory for three years. The purpose of Advisory is so every student has that time at the end of each day to get homework organized, get help from teachers, get announcements, work on skills development lessons and build relationships.

**Peer Helper (elective, by application, 1-4 term course)**

Applications can be picked up in the counseling office. Once you are accepted you do not have to reapply the next year. A Peer Helper is someone who wants to help other students in the Middle School with academics or other goal areas. IT is also someone who is respectful to all students. The Washington Middle School Peer Helper program is separate from the High School Peer Helper program.

**Team (elective 1-4 term course)**

Team class is used as a learning support where students work together with the Team teacher on organization, motivation and assignment completion.

## PERFORMING ARTS/MUSIC COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**Beginning Band (1st term only) (grades 6,7,8)** It is designed as an accelerated course for students new to band and students who need help meeting the basic requirements for Intermediate band. Students work alone, with the instructor, and with the entire group. Students work out of the Essential Elements 2000 book 1. Students will have to have a band instrument for this course. There are a few school owned instruments available. Please contact the instructor prior to the school year to discuss this option.

**Intermediate Band (elective 4 term course) (grades 6,7,8)** Students joining Intermediate Band will have experience in 5th grade band or Intermediate Band. A majority of the students in this band are in 6th grade. They will meet in smaller lesson groups for 30 minutes a day. Some students will have 2 lesson groups during a term. Student will learn the basics of scales, reading rhythms, music expressions, balance/blend, articulations, tone quality, and play a varied repertoire. Annual activities and performances include a fall concert, solo/ensemble contest, Mt. Pleasant Honor Bands, winter concert, All-City Concert and a spring concert.

**Advanced band (elective 4 term course) (grades 6,7,8)** meets 2-3 days a week for 30 minutes for large group band in the morning starting at 7:35am-8:05am. A majority of the students in this band are in 7th & 8th grade. In addition to large group band rehearsals, they will meet in smaller lesson groups 30 minutes a day. Student will learn the basics of scales, reading rhythms, music expressions, balance/blend, articulations, tone quality, and play a varied repertoire. Annual activities and performances include a fall concert, solo/ensemble contest, SEIBA honor band, Mt. Pleasant Honor Bands, winter concert, large group contest, and marching band at the Pella Tulip Time Parade in May.

**Jazz Band (elective 3rd term only) (Adv Band students only)** Students in Advanced Band have an opportunity to be a part of 1 or 2 jazz bands that will take the place of an Advanced Lesson group during the day. In Jazz Band, students learn the basics of playing different styles of jazz, soloing, improvising, and take part in the SEIBA Jazz Festival at the beginning of March. 3 of the 5 days per week will be dedicated to Jazz Band rehearsals. Performances will include The SEIBA Jazz Festival, The Spring Night of Jazz and the All-City Concert in March/April.

**Marching Band (elective Terms 1 and 2)**

The marching band travels to competitions throughout the season and also performs at football games. Students try out and are selected to this band.

**Beginning Choir (elective 4 term course)**

Beginning choir is designed primarily for 6th grade students. It is an introduction to choral singing. Provides practice in learning correct rehearsal technique, part singing, and correct singing technique. Basic music literacy and other related topics will also be addressed. These topics will be approached using whole class activities, as well as some note taking, tests, and limited private individual singing. There will be 2-3 concerts throughout the year.

**Advanced Choir (elective 4 term course)**

Advanced choir is designed primarily for 7th and 8th graders, though 6th graders may be allowed to join in exceptional circumstances. Advanced choir only meets before school from 7:40-8:10. An auditioned group, the advanced choir will work on more challenging music in a longer, more focused rehearsal. This group will have 3-4 concerts per year, as well as opportunities for local and longer tours.

**Concert Choir (elective 4 term course)**

Concert Choir is open to all 7th and 8th grade students. 6th grade students may be accepted into the choir in exceptional circumstances. Concert choir continues development of correct rehearsal technique, part singing, and vocal technique. Music literacy skills will be expanded upon and other related topics will be explored. These topics will be approached using whole class activities and limited individual singing, as well as some note taking and tests. There will be 2-3 concerts throughout the year.

**General Music 6 (2 term course)**

Provides an overview of many areas of music, including basic music theory, the science of music, music through the ages, listening to music, and making music. This course is required if the student is not in band or choir.

**Music Technology 7 (1 term course)**

A look at today's world in music and how technology plays an important role no matter what time period your music comes from, whether you are a musician or just have music your daily life. Students will experience running a PA system, working with microphones, EQ balancing and how to run sound for different events. There are five different projects using the software Garageband and students will also create their own CD of other student projects. Students may also be involved in helping record or run sound at a school concert. There will be study of electronic instruments from the Theremin to the Moog and modern synthesizers along with hands on experiences with many of the instruments



studied. Care and use of cords, plugs, adapters, and connectors is ongoing throughout the course. This course is required if the student is not in band or choir.

**Music Appreciation 8 (1 term course)**

Music Appreciation I will focus on several projects including a contemporary musician report, Garageband multi-track recording project, learning the basics of guitar on first two strings, a Broadway musical, music history (listening, composers and terminology), electronic music, guitarists, the history of sound recording, world music, opera, and parody in music.

**PHYSICAL, HEALTH and SAFETY EDUCATION COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

**Physical Education 6 (required 2 term course meets every other day)**

6th grade PE students will be participating in team building activities and playing both team and individual games that promote life long fitness skills

**Physical Education 7 (required 2 term course meets every other day)**

7th grade PE students will be participating in team building activities and playing both team and individual games that promote life long fitness skills.

**Physical Education 8 (required 2 term course meets every other day)**

8th grade PE students will be participating in team building activities and playing both team and individual games that promote life long fitness skills.

**Health 6 (required 2 term course meets every other day)**

This class will allow students to be introduced and participate in a broad range of health related activities. Students will learn about the human body systems, the importance of health & wellness and having an active lifestyle. This class will also include topics such as substance abuse, beginning stages of adolescence and social health including discussions on bullying and harassment and improving positive personal leadership skills and character building

**Health 7 (required 2 term course meets every other day)**

Students will study and participate in a range of health related topics. These topics would include our Facts of Life Program, Fitness components such as aerobic and anaerobic exercise, the 5 parts of Fitness, setting personal fitness goals. Other topics would include substance abuse, introduction to first aid and personal safety. Students will be learn through labs, lectures, class discussions, guest speakers and participation in exercise programs designed for hands on learning.

**Personal Fitness & Health 8 (required 2 term course meets every other day)**

Students will learn about their personal fitness levels, set goals about where they want their personal fitness to go and why improved personal fitness practices are an important part of life. Students will then be introduced to a variety of activities that can teach them ways to maintain and improve personal fitness throughout life. In cooperation with the teacher, each student will progress monitor their individual fitness levels and continue to raise the bar in their personal fitness. Some of the activities will include weight training, core training, yoga, plyometrics and more. All activities will focus on improving personal fitness but also proper techniques to ensure safety and decrease the chances of personal injury during training.

**SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS****Science 6 (required 4 term course)**

In the unit Weather and Water, students will develop a good understanding of meteorology and grapple with ideas about atoms and molecules, changes of state, and heat transfer then apply their understanding to air masses and fronts, convection cells and winds, and the development of severe weather. They will learn that the Earth's atmosphere and the importance of water on Earth is a major element in all forms.

In the unit Diversity of Life, students will explore the common characteristics of all living things to define life. They will also use microscopes to study the structure and functions of cells, and comparatively study examples of single celled and multicellular organisms.

Students will explore the importance of energy, including innovative ways to reduce, conserve and produce it using solar, thermal and wind power. Students investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the environment. They design and model alternative energy sources and participate presentations to demonstrate energy concepts and innovative ideas. Students evaluate ways to reduce energy consumption through energy efficiency and sustainability.

Throughout GTT, students acquire knowledge and skills in problem solving, teamwork and innovation, research and presentation as they explore STEM careers and engineering procedures. The knowledge that students' gain and the skills they build from GTT create a strong foundation for further STEM learning in high school and beyond. This course is required unless it interferes with other academic supports.

**Science 7 (required 4 term course)**

7th grade science is an overview of some Earth and Life Science concepts. Students will explore the common characteristics of all living things, use microscopes to study the structure and functions of cells, and comparatively study examples of single celled and multicellular organisms. Additionally,

students will investigate the relationship between the sun and Earth, as well as how the Earth's atmospheric conditions (air pressure, humidity, and temperature) interact to cause weather. We will investigate, sort and classify objects based on their properties. We will observe, describe and compare the properties and behaviors of solids and liquids at different temperatures and in different mixtures. We will find out how different forms of energy are important to every day life. This course will also include a unit on agriculture.

### **Science 8 (required 2 term course)**

*Unit 1:* The Force & Motion course investigates linear motion, including position and several aspects of change of position, distance, displacement, speed, velocity, and acceleration. They investigate fundamental forces (gravity and electromagnetism) in familiar environments, such as pushes, pulls, impacts, and falls. Interaction and outcomes are represented graphically to help students think mathematically about their observations. Investigations of opposing forces and additive forces help students develop the idea that a net force on an object produces motion. An object in motion has momentum, which is conserved. Students acquire the most fundamental and important understanding about the interplay between force and motion." *Unit 2:* During the winter months we will be investigating what it takes for an ecosystem to thrive. We will investigate aspects of a population, genetics, and natural selection. The Populations and Ecosystems course explores ecosystems as the largest organizational unit of life on Earth, defined by its physical environment and the organisms that live in the physical environment. Students learn that every organism has a role to play in its ecosystem and has structures and behaviors that allow it to survive. Students raise populations of organisms to discover population dynamics and interactions over a range of conditions. They learn that food is the source of energy used by all life forms in all ecosystems to conduct life processes. Reproduction, including limiting factors, heredity and natural selection are explored as ways to understand both the similarity and the variation within and between species.

### **Planetary Science 7 (elective 1 term course)**

Astronomy is the study of everything we can observe and imagine beyond Earth, the Moon, the Sun, the solar system with all its planets, the Milky Way and the vastness of the cosmos. Astronomers ask fundamental questions. When and where did the universe start? Why is it expanding? What is the destiny of the universe? Astronomers endeavor to answer these questions by determining the kinds and numbers of objects in the cosmos, the composition of these objects, their motions, and their interactions with one another. Because Earth is part of this ultimate system, the science of astronomy includes the study of our own planet.

**Earth History 8 (elective 1 term course)**

The Earth History course emphasizes the use of knowledge and evidence to construct explanations about the processes and systems that have operated over geological time. Students investigate sedimentary rocks and fossils from the Grand Canyon to discover clues that reveal Earth's history. They study the processes that create sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks and organize their observations and inferences into the Rock Cycle. Students use the knowledge and data gained from observing rocks to make inferences about organisms, environments, and events that occurred over Earth's history.

**Hunter Safety (elective 1 term course grades 6,7,8)**

The Department of Natural Resources is offering an opportunity to take a Hunter Education course. Anyone born after 1972, who is required to have a regular hunting license, must have in their possession and be able to exhibit a hunter education certificate when purchasing a license. This certificate can be obtained by successfully completing this course. Iowa law requires that each student receive a minimum of 10 hours of instruction and pass both a written and gun handling test to successfully obtain a hunter education certificate. Participants must be at least 11 years old to enroll in the class.

**SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS****Social Studies 6 (required 2 term course)**

Explore how the ancient Polynesians got to the many different islands. Learn why the ancient Egyptians want to be mummified. Did you know that the Olympics were started in ancient Greece. The ancient Romans were brutal with gladiator fights. Find out how an American woman is blamed for starting the Civil War. Learn about knights, castles, and coats of arms. End the year with the human sacrifices of the Maya, Aztec, and Inca.

**Geography 7 (required 2 term course)**

Geography is an overview of the geography, and culture of the countries in North and South America. Students will work with maps and complete projects on the different areas in the Western Hemisphere.

**US History 8 (required 2 term course)**

US History is a course that begins with colonization; the class traces the formation of the US from the Revolutionary War, through the formation of a new government, up to the beginning of the Civil War. Topics covered include the US Constitution, War of 1812, Texas Revolution, Westward Expansion, and Slavery.

**Explore Social Studies 6 (required 1 term course)**

We will explore geography. We will also learn about landforms, map reading skills, do some fun trip planning, geography games and more.

**Current Events (elective 1 term course 6,7,8)**

This class focuses on events happening in the world, in the United States and in our community. Students will engage in class discussions over events occurring in the world as well as read the paper and watch local and national news programs.

**History through Movies (elective 1-2 term course)**

The films chosen for this course are presentations of history not documentaries, or documentations of history. The true history of America contains stories of innovation, triumph, leadership and courage; it also contains stories about slavery, war, tragedy and distrust. Some films that will be shown may contain violent scenes in order to portray an accurate picture of an historical event. This course will include: Observing movies, class discussion, essay writing, small group activities, answering questions, tests and projects. Grading is based on total points. You will receive a participation grade during each video; putting your head down or falling asleep during any portion of a film may result in a grade of zero for the day. Terms 1 and 3 are the same curriculum. Terms 2 and 4 are the same. There is a permission slip students are required to return in order to take this course.

**Social Problems 8 (elective 1 term course)**

The units of study could include family and family issues, aging, social media, crime and the legal system, and poverty. Also included in the course will be Economics for Success. This is a Junior Achievement program focusing on financial literacy, taught by community volunteers. Discussion is an important part of the class. Grades are based on participation, assignments, class projects, and quizzes. Field trips and guest speakers will be used whenever possible.

# APPENDIX

## WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL CLUBS, ACTIVITIES, ATHLETICS

Middle School Athletic Director: Aaron Six 319-653-5414

Athletic Director Secretary: Amy Greiner 319-653-5414

Builder's Club	6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup>
First Tech Challenge	6,7,8
Marching Band	(8 <sup>th</sup> grade, by sign up and recommendation)
Honor Band	(tryouts)
Honor Choir	(tryouts)
Drama	6,7,8
Student Council	(elected positions)
Peer Helpers	(by application)
Football	7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade
Volleyball	7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade
Cross Country	7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade
Cheerleading	by tryout, 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade
Dance Team	by tryout, 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade
Basketball	7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade
Wrestling	7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade
Track	7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade
Softball	8 <sup>th</sup> grade
Baseball	8 <sup>th</sup> grade
Archery	6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> grades
Softball	7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup>
Baseball	7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup>
Archery	6,7,8

*(Most 6<sup>th</sup> grade athletics are through the Washington Community Y. Their number is 319-653-2141.)*

## WASHINGTON DEMON FIGHT SONG

Demons, Demons fight for Victory,  
Demons we're the ones  
Washington will fight for Victory,  
strive 'til we have won,  
FIGHT, FIGHT, FIGHT!  
On to victory our team will go,  
Pride and power our team will show.  
Hail, hail the gang's all here give a cheer for the orange and black!  
WASHINGTON FIGHT, DEMONS FIGHT,  
WASHINGTON DEMONS FIGHT, FIGHT, FIGHT!!