

**PLATTEVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL
COURSE HANDBOOK**

Fourth Grade

Fourth grade is an extension of the Platteville elementary schools. The curriculum for all students consists of math, reading and language arts, science, and social studies taught in a self contained classroom. In addition to the curriculum, students participate in keyboard and computer skills, self selected reading, developmental guidance, and media instruction. Co-curricular subjects include physical education, music, and art. In fourth grade, programs are also available for a wide range of special needs students. Remedial as well as gifted and motivated opportunities are provided for students. Students have access to a well-equipped and staffed instructional media Center along with computer labs.

The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) hosts family activities and fund raisers to benefit students. Parent and student involvement is encouraged.

Fourth graders participate in a variety of in-school and out-of-school activities including Wellness Day at UWP, Chamber of Commerce community learning project, UWP Engineering EXPO, cross country ski trip, science fair, track meet, Bevan's Mine tour, and Madison field trip to the State Capitol, Veteran's Museum, and State Historical Museum.

Fourth graders demonstrate civic responsibility by leading the school in the Pledge of Allegiance each morning.

**Schedule - 4th Grade
Schedules Vary by Classroom**

8:10-9:20	Math
9:20-10:10	Alternate Day PE Milk Break/Reading/Language Arts Social Studies
10:10-11:00	Science
11:00-11:30	Alternate Day Music, Art, or PE
11:40-12:50	Lunch and Recess
12:50-1:40	Reading
1:40-2:30	Language Arts
2:30-3:00	Alternate Day Music, Art
3:00-3:20	Reading/Language Arts
or	
2:30-3:20	Social Studies

Subject Areas - Grade 4

Reading and Language Arts 4 - The fourth grade curriculum stresses comprehension, word identification, vocabulary development, and an appreciation of literature. In addition, there is an emphasis on grammar and usage skills, language mechanics, writing, listening and speaking skills, spelling, dictionary skills, and the use of the computer as an integral part of effective communication skills. The Read 180 program is an alternative reading class for students who are not at grade level.

Math 4 - Mathematics in the fourth grade is based on recommendations made by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Curriculum and Evaluation Standards for School Mathematics. The curriculum emphasizes on the latter as a context for learning and applying mathematics. Communication about mathematics and mathematical reasoning is used throughout the curricula. Content stands include Operations and Computation, Numeration, Patterns, Functions, and Algebra, Data and Chance, Measurement and Reference Frames, and Geometry.

Science 4 - The goal of science education in the fourth grade is to guide students toward the construction of meaning in the areas of earth, life, and physical sciences. Research based units centered around the hands-on approach are conducted in the topic areas of Magnetism and Electricity, Earth Materials, Sound, Ideas and Inventions, Matter and Energy, and Simple Machines. The science program is designed to actively engage students in learning activities which help them develop process skills such as observing, inferring, identifying and manipulating variable, predicting, hypothesizing, organizing and interpreting data, and investigating.

Social Studies 4 - Fourth grade social studies is a year long focus on the various aspects of the state of Wisconsin. Units of study include geography, cultural heritage, agriculture, industry, lumbering, economics, Wisconsin Indians, history, explorers, and government. It also includes the study of maps and globes.

Physical Education 4 - is a required course for all fourth grade students that meets for one period every other day for the year. This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to experience a variety of activities which begin to develop manipulative skills. Basic elements of these activities promote health, rhythm, fitness, and spatial awareness. Students wear their regular street clothes, however, gym shoes are required.

Art 4 - is a required course for all fourth grade students that will meet every other day, one period all year. Students participate in an integrated curriculum that includes a variety of different methods and materials to be used both independently and cooperatively. Students will learn art elements and principles through studying, viewing and discussing art history, artists and artwork. We use art as a method of expression, problem solving and creativity.

General Music 4 – is a continuation of the Elementary School Music Curriculum. General Music meets every other day throughout the school year. The students will sing, dance, play recorders and rhythmic instruments, study the lives of famous composers, and improve their melodic and rhythmic reading skills. Students will also study the history of the Star Spangled Banner, and have traditionally sung the National Anthem at a Platteville High School basketball game.

Fifth Grade

The fifth grade curriculum for all students consists of reading, language arts, math, science, social studies, general music, art, and physical education. In addition, all 5th graders spend the first 15 minutes each day in Silent Sustained Reading (SSR). This activity supports the school-wide Accelerated Reader Program. Teachers put an emphasis on quality work and positive reinforcement. Courses include learning opportunities for computer skills, performance skills, and healthy life-style skills.

In fifth grade, course work is integrated when possible. Phone calls, check sheets, and electronic progress reports are used to foster communication with parents. Portfolio collections of student work are used to conference with parents and students.

All students are encouraged to become involved in a wide range of electives, co-curricular, and extra-curricular activities. Strings is an elective for fifth grade students. Plays and student council are two other examples of activities offered.

Note: Special education sections of reading, language arts and math are available for special needs students who require additional support to be successful. Remedial as well as talented and motivated opportunities are provided for students. Students have access to a well-equipped and staffed Instructional Materials Center along with computer labs.

The Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) hosts family activities each year and everyone is welcome to become involved. Every student is encouraged to explore and try new skills. Fifth grade is a time for the middle school student to grow and mature while developing a love for learning.

Schedule – Grade 5

Most fifth grade student schedules resemble the following design:

8:15-8:30	Silent Sustained Reading (SSR)
8:30-11:00	Classroom instruction in three academic subjects
11:00-12:00	Homeroom, lunch and recess
12:00-12:50	PE, Art, General Music, and/or Study Period
12:50-2:30	Classroom instruction in two academic subjects
2:30-3:20	Study Period and/or Strings

Courses - Grade 5

Reading & Language Arts 5 - is a required course for all fifth graders that meets for two periods every day all year. The fifth grade curriculum stresses comprehension, word identification, vocabulary development, library, study and research skills, and an appreciation of literature. In addition, there is an emphasis on grammar skills, writing, listening and speaking skills, spelling, capitalization, dictionary skills, and the use of the computer as an integral part of effective communication skills. The Read 180 program is an alternative reading class for students who are not reading at grade level.

Math 5 - is a required course for all fifth graders that meets for one-two periods every day all year. Mathematics in the fifth grade is based on recommendations made by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Curriculum and Evaluation Standards for School Mathematics. The curriculum emphasizes conceptual understandings, mathematical modeling, and problem solving with an emphasis on the latter as a context for learning and applying mathematics. Communication about mathematics and mathematical reasoning is used throughout the curriculum. Areas of study include geometry, fractions, computation, measurement, probability, statistics, decimals, ratios, and percent.

Science 5 - is a required course for all fifth graders that meets for one period every day all year. The goal of science education in the fifth grade is to guide students toward the construction of meaning in the areas of earth, life, physical, and chemical sciences. Research-based units centered around the inquiry approach are conducted in the topic areas of insects, oceans, astronomy, the human body, models & designs, color and light, micro-worlds, and weather. The science program is designed to actively engage students in learning activities which help them develop process skills such as observing, inferring, identifying and manipulating variables, predicting, hypothesizing, organizing and interpreting data, and investigating.

Social Studies 5 - is a required course for all fifth grade students that meets for one period every other day for the year. The fifth grade social studies class focuses on the study of American history and includes the following units: The First Americans, Explorers, Settling the New World, The American Revolution, Westward Expansion/War of 1812, Slavery/The Civil War. Students use a wide variety of materials, including both primary and secondary sources, internet resources, and independent projects, as they survey the cultural and democratic foundations of our country.

Art 5 - is a required course for all fifth grade students that will meet for one period every other day all year. Students participate in an integrated curriculum that includes a variety of different methods and materials to be used both independently and cooperatively. Students will learn art elements and principles through studying, viewing and discussing art history, artists and artwork. We use art as a method of expression, problem solving and creativity.

General Music 5 - is a required course for all fifth grade students that meets for one period every other day for a semester. Students participate in music through playing instruments, singing, listening to music, and folk dance, as well as studying music history, composers, and music from other cultures. There is an emphasis on becoming music readers and on the elements of music, particularly rhythm and melody.

Physical Education 5 - is a required course for all fifth grade students that meets for one period every other day all year. This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to experience a variety of activities which begin to develop manipulative skills. Basic elements of these activities promote health, rhythm, fitness, and spatial awareness. Students wear their regular street clothes, however, gym shoes are required.

Strings 5 - is an elective class that is available to all fifth grade students that meets for one period every other day for the year. Violin, viola, cello, and bass instrumentation are open to any fifth grade student desiring to study performance. Students will learn basic performance skills on their instrument and basic music reading skills. This class starts the summer before 5th grade with small group lessons.

Sixth Grade

The sixth grade curriculum for all students consists of language arts, math, science, social studies, general music, art, and physical education. In addition, all 6th graders spend the first 15 minutes each day in Silent Sustained Reading (SSR). This activity supports the school-wide Accelerated Reader Program. Teachers put an emphasis on quality work and positive reinforcement. Courses include learning opportunities for computer skills, performance skills, and healthy life-style skills.

In sixth grade, course work is integrated when possible. Phone calls, check sheets, and electronic progress reports are used to enhance communication with parents. Portfolio collections of student work are used to conference with parents and students.

All students are encouraged to become involved in a wide range of electives, co-curricular, and extra-curricular activities. Strings, band, and choir are electives for sixth grade students. Plays and Student Council are two other examples of activities offered.

Note: Special education sections of reading, language arts and math are available for special needs students who require additional support to be successful. Remedial as well as talented and motivated opportunities are provided for students. Students have access to a well-equipped and staffed Instructional Materials Center along with computer labs.

The Parent-Teacher Organization, (PTO), hosts family activities each year and everyone is welcome to become involved.

Students are encouraged to explore and try new skills. Sixth grade is a time for the middle school student to grow and mature while developing a love for learning.

Schedule - Grade 6

Most sixth grade student schedules resemble the following design:

8:15 - 8:30 Silent Sustained Reading (SSR)

8:30 -11:00 Classroom instruction in three academic subjects

11:00 - 11:50 P.E., Art, General Music, Study Period, electives

11:50 - 12:50 Homeroom, lunch, and recess

12:50 -1:40 P.E., Art, General Music, Study Period, electives

1:40 -3:20 Classroom instruction in two academic subject

GRADE 6 - Required Courses

Reading & Language Arts 6 - is a required course for all sixth graders that meets for two periods every day for the year. The sixth grade curriculum stresses comprehension, word identification, vocabulary development, library, study and research skills, and gaining an appreciation of literature. This course teaches grammar, writing, listening, spelling, punctuation, dictionary, speaking, and research skills. It also teaches the use of the computer as an integral part of effective communication skills. The Read 180 program is an alternative reading class for students who are not reading at grade level.

Math 6 - is a required course for all sixth graders that alternates between one or two periods per day (averages to 1½ periods per day) for the year. Mathematics in the sixth grade is based on recommendations made by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Curriculum and Evaluation Standards for School Mathematics. The curriculum emphasizes conceptual understandings, mathematical modeling, and problem solving with an emphasis on the latter as a context for learning and applying mathematics. Communication about mathematics and mathematical reasoning is used throughout the curriculum. Areas of study include measurement, decimals, geometry, fractions, area, ratio, percent, probability, algebra and statistics.

Science 6 - is a required course for all sixth graders that meets for one period every day for the year. Emphasis is placed on the processes of science which are incorporated throughout each unit of study. Major units for Science 6 are motion, geology, chemistry, heredity, and the environment.

Social Studies 6 - is a required course for all sixth grade students that meets for one period every other day for the year. This curriculum emphasizes an understanding and appreciation for early world cultures and their people. Geography, history, political structures, economics, and sociology are integrated into all major units. Areas of emphasis include early man, Egypt, Greece, Rome, Medieval Europe, the Renaissance, and the formation of modern nations.

Art 6 - is a required course for all sixth grade students that will meet every other day, one period for a semester. Students participate in an integrated curriculum that includes a variety of different methods and materials to be used both independently and cooperatively. Students will learn art elements and principles through studying, viewing and discussing art history, artists and artwork. We use art as a method of expression, problem solving and creativity.

General Music 6 - is a required course for all sixth grade students that meets for one period every other day for a semester. Students participate through singing, playing recorder and bell sets, listening to and moving to music, drumming in an African Drumming Circle, as well as studying music history and composers. There is an emphasis on becoming music readers and on the elements of music, particularly form and style.

Physical Education 6 - is a required course for all sixth grade students that meets for one period every other day for the year. Students are expected to change into appropriate dress for most units. This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to experience a variety of activities which emphasize skill development, interpersonal relationships, fitness, rhythms, and healthy life styles.

Elective Courses

Strings 6 - is an elective class that is open to all sixth grade students that meets for one period every other day for the year. Students learn and refine basic performance skills on their instrument and basic music reading skills in both small and large group lessons.

Band 6 - is an elective course open to all sixth graders that meets for one period every other day for the year. Individual and small group lessons are also scheduled. This course is an introduction to wind and percussion instruments through small and large group lessons, rehearsals, and performances.

Choir 6 - is an elective course open to all sixth grade students who like to sing. It meets for one period every other day for the year. Students are introduced to unison, two- and three-part music, as well as music reading skills. Basic foundations of good vocal production, choral technique, listening skills, and performance round out the choir experience. This course meets all year on alternate days.

Seventh Grade

The required curriculum for all seventh grade students consists of Reading, Language Arts, math, science, social studies, computer technologies, and physical education. In addition, all 7th graders spend the first 15 minutes each day in Silent Sustained Reading (SSR). This activity supports the school-wide Accelerated Reader Program. Teachers put an emphasis on quality work and positive reinforcement. Courses include learning opportunities for computer skills, performance skills, and healthy life-style skills.

In seventh grade, required courses are taught by a team of teachers working together to integrate curriculum when possible. Phone calls, check sheets, and electronic progress reports are used to foster communication with parents. Student performance and progress reports are used to conference with parents and students.

All students are encouraged to become involved in a wide range of electives, co-curricular, and extra-curricular activities. Strings, Band, Choir, Art, Explo Spanish, and Spanish A are electives for seventh grade students. Plays, Student Council, Science Olympiad, and Geography Bee are other examples of activities offered.

In seventh grade, programs are also available for a wide range of special needs students. Remedial as well as talented and motivated opportunities are provided for students. Students have access to a well-equipped and staffed Instructional Materials Center along with computer labs.

The Parent-Teacher Organization, (PTO), hosts family activities each year and everyone is welcome to become involved.

Students are encouraged to explore and try new skills. Seventh grade is a time for the middle school student to grow and mature while developing a love for learning.

Curriculum

There are two components of the curriculum: required classes and elective classes. Required classes meet every day (except P.E. which meets every other day). Elective classes meet every other day for either a semester (1/4 credit) or for the entire year (1/2 credit). All seventh graders are encouraged to take a minimum of 1/2 credit of electives for the year. This will allow for a study hall every other day. The middle school curriculum is designed to teach students basic skills as well as to allow them an opportunity to explore new areas.

GRADE 7- Required Courses

Reading 7 – Seventh grade reading class is designed to enable students to improve their reading skills while studying and learning literary techniques, vocabulary, figurative language, and plot elements of novels. Students will analyze, synthesize and evaluate fiction and non-fiction literature to further develop critical thinking skills. In addition, students will be expected to continue building their independent reading level through Accelerated Reading Program. Students will also be writing about literature through such essays as: literature response, comparison/contrast, cause/effect, and book analysis. Students will be given opportunities to present in front of others via: projects, papers and opinions during discussion groups and class presentations.

Language Arts 7 – This class is designed to enable students to develop good communication skills in oral and written formats. Students learn to identify and properly use all parts of speech, study spelling and writing conventions, employ research skills, and then apply all of those language skills in the writing process. Writing instruction is based on the Six Traits of Writing as follows:

1. Ideas-using various ways to develop and expand them.

2. Organization-learning that pieces of writing are organized differently according to the type of writing.
3. Sentence Fluency-techniques for combining sentences while avoiding fragments and run-ons.
4. Voice-techniques to give writing individuality, perspective, and authenticity.
5. Word Choice-selecting appropriate words by using specific nouns, dynamic verbs, and understanding word meanings and connotations.
6. Conventions-using accurate spelling, capitalization, punctuation and grammar to help clarify.

Students compose both narrative and expository pieces throughout the year, including descriptive, compare/contrast, and a persuasive essay/speech. By producing several drafts, peer-revising drafts for specific traits, and conferencing with the teacher, and publishing a final copy, students are expected to steadily improve all aspects of their communication skills.

Mathematics 7 - Seventh grade general mathematics is designed to help students develop basic number sense, computation skills, and conceptual understandings of important mathematical concepts. Students will expand their skills and understandings with rational numbers of all types (fractions, decimals, and percents) and will develop proportional reasoning. Concepts of data analysis and probability will also be included.

Students will encounter a variety of problems, study patterns, and broaden their mathematics vocabulary. Connections between mathematical topics and real-world applications will be stressed. Students will discover properties of algebra in a basic sense (intro.)

Note: Special education sections of reading, language and math are available for special needs students who require additional support to be successful.

Science 7 - The seventh grade science class is designed to cover a wide variety of science topics. The main emphasis is to develop basic skills in using scientific methods to help solve problems. It is also designed to develop knowledge of laboratory skills and use a variety of scientific tools to gain an appreciation and better understanding of science. Units covered are: scientific method, plants, food chemistry, dissection, ecology, chemistry, weather, and pollutions and environmental change.

Social Studies 7 - The seventh grade social studies curriculum is called "Global Connections." Students study the "ever-shrinking" world by learning about various cultures, our own multicultural, diverse society, major religions and holidays of the world, world geography, and current events.

Physical Education 7 - Initial development of a personal, life-long fitness routine is done through "cross-training". Strength and conditioning activities are emphasized in conjunction with continued guided practice in recreational sport and fitness activities. Students need not be the fastest, the strongest, or even the best skilled to do well in physical education. They just need to be appropriately involved and making their best effort.

Gateway to Technology 7 – This is an activity oriented program designed to help students in 7th grade explore math, science and technology. The 7th grade curriculum will include 1st semester a unit called Design and Modeling and 2nd semester will be a unit call Flight and Space.

Elective Courses

Band 7 - The second year of the three-year band program. Students have the opportunity to receive a comprehensive music education through instruction and performance on wind and percussion instruments. The curriculum is presented through ensemble rehearsals and small group lessons. Students have various performance expectations including concerts, music festivals, and parades. Prerequisite for this class is completion of Band 6 or teacher recommendation/approval. This course meets all year on alternate days. (1/2 credit)

Choir 7 - Choir 7 allows for a continuation for students who like to sing. Continued emphasis on music reading, basic foundations of good choral technique, and listening skills are presented as well as opportunities for accompanying, choreography, and two- and three-part music. This course meets all year on alternate days. (1/2 credit)

Strings 7 - Students continue to study their instruments and musical concepts through large group performance, solos, and biweekly small group lessons. This class meets during the lunch hour-every other day. (1/2 credit)

Art 7 – is an elective course for 7th grade students who enjoy art. The class will meet every other day, one period all year. Students participate in an integrated curriculum that includes a variety of different methods and materials to be used both independently and cooperatively. Students will learn art elements and principles through studying, viewing and discussing art history, artists and artwork. We use art as a method of expression, problem solving and creativity. (1/2 credit)

Exploration Spanish (one semester only) - In this class students will learn basic Spanish vocabulary and phrases and be able to carry on simple conversations in the language. Students will also be exposed to the many cultures represented by the Spanish-speaking countries. (1/4 credit) *NOTE:* This class may be taken only once in middle school. Students who take this class in 7th grade may not select it again in 8th grade. Exploration Spanish helps prepare students for high school Spanish.

Spanish A – *Note: Admission to this course is by invitation/recommendation only.* This course is designed for students who plan on taking advanced Spanish in high school. This is the first half of a two-year sequence (Spanish B in 8th grade). Spanish A and Spanish B are equivalent to the first year Spanish course at PHS. Students completing Spanish A and B will be able to enroll in the second year Spanish course (Spanish 2) as freshman. (1/2 credit)

Elective PE 7 – This class will allow students an extra opportunity to develop their cardiovascular endurance, muscular endurance, muscular strength, body composition, and flexibility. Activities may include fitness games, cardio sports, biking, swimming, fitness assessment, strength training, walking, skating, cross-country skiing, and step aerobics. Cooperation, instead of competition, will be emphasized as students work to enhance their mental, physical, and psychological development.

Eighth Grade

The required curriculum for all eighth grade students consists of Reading, Language Arts, math, science, social studies, health, and physical education. In addition, all 8th graders spend the first 15 minutes each day in Silent Sustained Reading (SSR). This activity supports the school-wide Accelerated Reader Program. Teachers put an emphasis on quality work and positive reinforcement. Courses include learning opportunities for computer skills, performance skills, and healthy life-style skills.

In eighth grade, required courses are taught by a team of teachers working together to integrate courses when possible. Phone calls, check sheets, and electronic progress reports are used to enhance communication with parents. Student performance and progress reports are used to conference with parents and students.

All students are encouraged to become involved in a wide range of electives, co-curricular, and extra-curricular activities. Strings, band, choir, art, Fitness for Life, Gateway To Technology, Spanish B, and Explo Spanish are electives for eighth grade students. Plays, Student Council, Geography Bee, and Science Olympiad are just other examples of activities offered.

In eighth grade, programs are also available for a wide range of special needs students. Students have access to a well-equipped and staffed Instructional Materials Center along with computer labs. Remedial as well as talented and motivated opportunities are provided for students.

A Parent-Teacher Organization, (PTO), hosts family activities each year and everyone is welcome to become involved.

Students are encouraged to explore and try new skills. Eighth grade is a time for the middle school student to grow and mature while developing a love for learning.

Curriculum

There are two components of the curriculum: required classes and elective classes. Required classes meet every day (except P.E. which meets every other day). Elective classes generally meet every other day for either a semester or for the entire year. All eighth graders are encouraged to take a minimum of 1/2 credit of electives for the year. This will allow for a study hall every other day. The middle school curriculum is designed to teach students basic skills as well as to allow them an opportunity to explore new areas.

GRADE 8 Required Courses

Reading – Eighth-grade reading class is designed to enable students to improve their reading skills while studying and learning literary techniques, vocabulary, figurative language, and plot elements. Students will analyze, synthesize, and evaluate fiction and non-fiction literature to further develop critical thinking skills. In addition, the Accelerated Reading program continues through eighth grade to help students individually improve reading levels through independent literature choices. Furthermore, technology is used for several writing assignments including: book analysis for each novel read, response to literature essays, cause/effect essay, persuasive essay, power point project, and a research paper. The students have several opportunities to demonstrate and practice oral presentation skills with visual aids and technology (such as, overhead camera, flash drive, smart board, and other learning theater equipment) via speeches, recitations, research project presentations, and memorized recitations.

Language Arts 8 – Eighth-grade language class requires the complex study of not only grammar usage and mechanics but also its application within the writing process: Prewriting, drafting, responding, editing, revising, evaluating and publishing. Writing workshops focus on writing for different purposes, such as personal response, descriptive narrative, fiction, informative/expository, persuasive (problem-solution), and poetry writing. In addition, this class is thematically integrated with reading to further develop comprehension and vocabulary as well as life performance skills of listening, speaking and technology. Instructional materials include language arts textbooks and related media.

Math 8 - Eighth grade math students will complete many activities designed to develop algebraic reasoning. Students approach algebraic ideas through investigations and problems that allow them to search for patterns and relationships in data and to find ways to express these patterns in words and in symbols. Students discover features of a pattern; construct understanding of concepts, processes, and relationships; develop a language to talk about the problems; and learn to integrate and discriminate among patterns and relationships. The curriculum includes a variety of problems ranging from basic to challenging in skill practice and problem solving to give students the practice they need to develop their math skills.

Note: Special education sections of reading, language and math are available for special needs students who require additional support to be successful.

Algebra I - Algebra I is a comprehensive course in first-year algebra. It is offered for gifted and talented students in eighth grade who meet eligibility requirements and elect to enroll. Algebra emphasizes conceptual understandings, multiple representations and connections, mathematical modeling, mathematical problem solving, and is based on the recommendations of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Curriculum and Evaluation Standards and its Core Curriculum Addenda.

Science 8 – Eighth grade science focuses on physical science in the units of Chemistry, Project Lead The Way's Gateway to Technology unit *Science and Technology*, Forces and Machines, and Forces and Energy. Eighth grade science also includes a Cells and Genetics biological unit and an Astronomy earth science unit. The course emphasizes laboratory hands-on activities. All of the curricular units use the processes of science (observing, inferring, organizing, comparing, relating, applying and communicating).

Social Studies 8 - The eighth grade social studies course is a study of United States history from the time of discovery to the present. Students are also exposed to introductory concepts in economics, sociology, anthropology, political science and study current events on a weekly basis. Students are taught mainly through simulations, role-playing, and other hands-on activities.

Physical Education 8 - Initial development of a personal, life-long fitness routine is done through "cross-training". Strength and conditioning activities are emphasized in conjunction with continued guided practice in recreation sport and fitness activities. Students need not be the fastest, the strongest, or even the best skilled to do well in physical education. They just need to be appropriately involved and making their best effort.

Health – Health Education at Platteville Middle School is designed to motivate and assist students to maintain and improve their health, enabling them to develop the skills and attitudes necessary for health-related problem solving and informed decision-making.

The curriculum covers topics related to Values/decision-making, Emotional Health, Mental Health, Alcohol Abuse, Other Drug Abuse, and Human Sexuality issues.

This dynamic, informative course meets the state graduation requirement for health instruction. Eighth graders who successfully complete Health 8 are not required to take any additional health credits in high school.

Elective Courses

Band 8 - Students continue their comprehensive music education through instruction and performance on wind and percussion instruments. Students have various performance expectations including concerts, music festivals, and parades. Prerequisite for this class is completion of Band 7 or teacher recommendation/approval. This course meets all year on alternate days. (1/2 credit)

Choir 8 - This course offers further development of choral technique, music reading, and listening skills while studying two-, three-, and four- part music. Accompanying and choreography opportunities are available. This course meets all year on alternate days. (1/2 credit)

Strings 8 - Students continue to study their instruments and musical concepts through large group performance, solos, and biweekly small group lessons. This class meets during the lunch hour-every other day. (1/2 credit)

Art 8 - is an elective course for 8th grade students who enjoy art, that will meet every other day, one period all year. Students participate in an integrated curriculum that includes a variety of different methods and materials to be used both independently and cooperatively. Students will learn art elements and principles through studying, viewing and discussing art history, artists and artwork. We use art as a method of expression, problem solving and creativity. (1/2 credit)

Exploration Spanish (one semester only) - Students will learn basic Spanish words and phrases and be able to carry on simple conversations in the language. Students will also be exposed to the many cultures represented by the Spanish-speaking countries. (1/4 credit) *NOTE:* This class may be taken only once in middle school. Students who took this class in 7th grade may not select it again in 8th grade.

Spanish B- *Note: Students must successfully complete Spanish A to qualify for Spanish B.* This is the second year course in the sequence (Spanish A-Spanish B). It is designed for students who plan on taking Spanish in high school. Spanish A and Spanish B are equivalent to the first year Spanish course at PHS. Students completing Spanish A and Spanish B will be able to enroll in the second year Spanish course (Spanish 2) as freshman. (1/2 credit)

Elective PE 8 - This class will allow students an extra opportunity to develop their cardiovascular endurance, muscular endurance, muscular strength, body composition, and flexibility. Activities may include fitness games, cardio sports, biking, swimming, fitness assessment, strength training, walking, skating, cross-country skiing, and step aerobics. Cooperation, instead of competition, will be emphasized as students work to enhance their mental, physical, and psychological development.

Gateway To Technology 8 - This is an activity-oriented program designed to help students in 8th grade explore math, science and technology. The 8th grade curriculum will include 1st semester unit called The Magic of Electrons and 2nd semester a unit called Automation and Robotics.