



Nature Hill & Silver Lake Intermediate Schools

Program Planning Guide

Grades 5-8

2025-2026



NATURE HILL
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL



SILVER LAKE
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL



Welcome Families,

On behalf of our faculty at Nature Hill and Silver Lake Intermediate schools, where our students *Connect, Explore & Soar*, we are excited to have the opportunity to support your student(s) through the academic, athletic and extra-curricular program options. At the intermediate level, students **Connect** with each other, their community, and themselves; they **Explore** their interests, strengths, and opportunities; & **SOAR** toward personal & academic growth and excellence.

This transition time is an exciting time for your family, but we understand that you may also have many questions as students are introduced to new curriculum, grade-level structures or choice in the course selections.

The intermediate program planning guide is intended to support you and your child, as you understand more clearly the intermediate programming options, as well as how to best prepare for the steps that lie ahead. Included in our program planning guide are grade level course descriptions as well as information about the process in selecting courses.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to our administrative team if you have any questions. Again, we would like to welcome you to our learning communities. We are confident our academic programming, dynamic faculty and high-quality facilities are among the best in Waukesha County. We look forward to serving your student(s) and family.

Your partners in education,

Krista Werchowski, Principal
Michelle Ware, Associate Principal
Nature Hill Intermediate School

Jill Marr, Principal
Jason Bruns, Associate Principal
Silver Lake Intermediate School

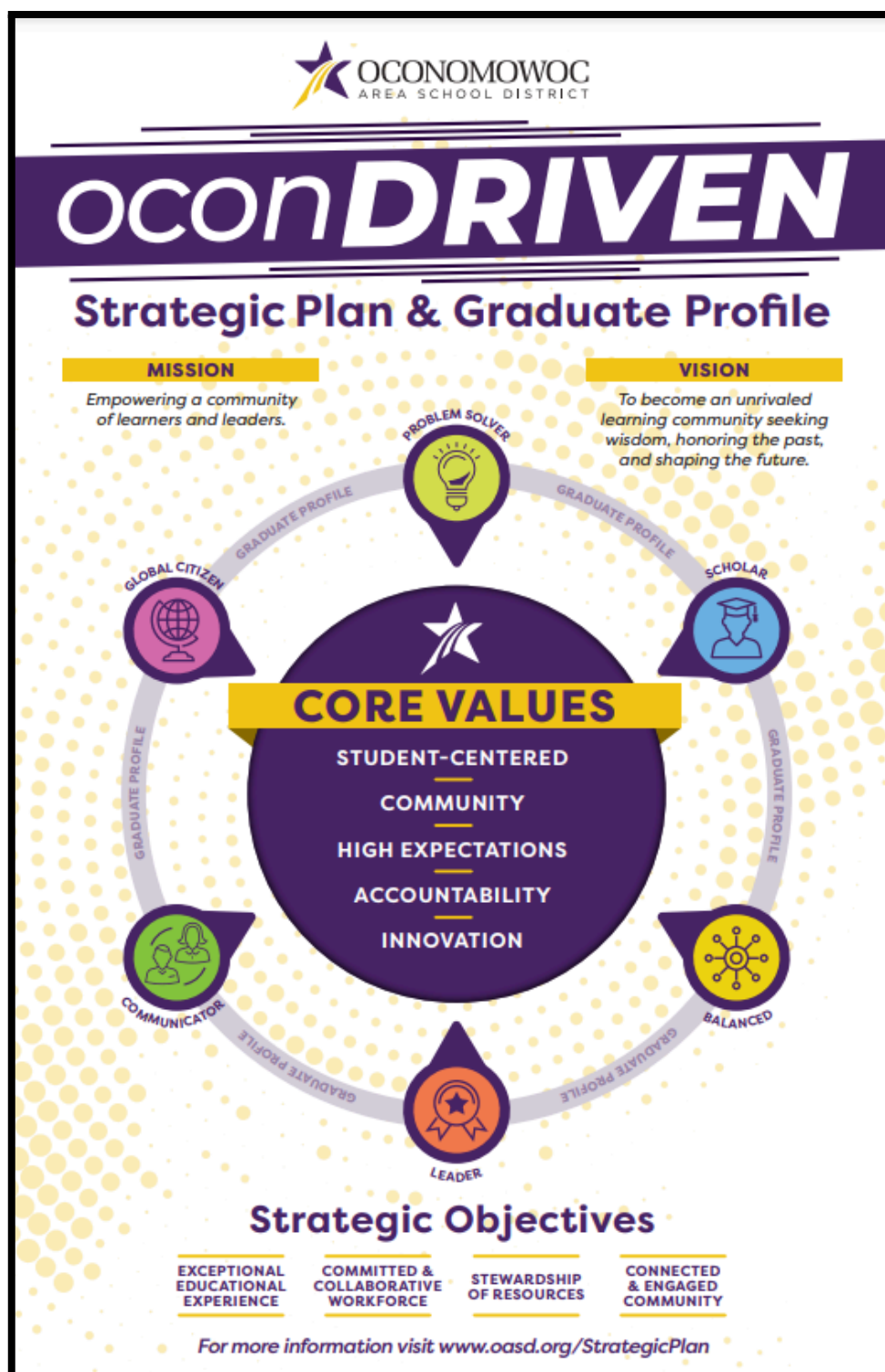
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Nondiscrimination: The Oconomowoc Area School District provides assurance that no student is discriminated against because of the student's sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability.

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***Please note that we will do our best to honor your family’s requests for courses, but our course enrollment is dependent on the number of course sections we can offer within the schedule, the total number of requests, and appropriate staffing.**



Overview of Intermediate School Instructional Programming [Table of Contents](#)

The Intermediate Schools are structured to respond to the unique and changing needs of adolescents. Our staff have a daily planning period within their grade level and/or content area ensuring students are making necessary progress, clarity of tasks and continuity in expectations. Middle school students complete a required core academic program of mathematics, literacy (reading and writing), social studies, and science. At the fifth and sixth grade level, a “base” of teachers will be responsible for your child’s core academic experience. At the seventh and eighth grade level, students will receive an individual schedule of classes that will be taught by content-area specialists. Students in need of additional focused academic support may qualify for an intervention in the areas of reading and math.

Students also participate in Explores Programming that is a mix of required courses and student selected courses that meet every other day. This rotation is referred to as “A & B” day rotation. For fifth and sixth grade Explores Programming students rotate classes within the structure of an Explore Wheel. They do have an option for their music course selection: performance-based band, choir, orchestra or participate in a general music course similar in structure to the elementary level.

As seventh & eighth graders have previously participated in the required Explore Wheel, they now have an opportunity to choose more Explore course options. Physical Education and Wellness and a World Language course remain required for all students.

During the homeroom period of our school day, students will engage in a range of activities to ...

Connect ...

with each other, our community and ourselves

- Community building activities
- Character Strong/Purposeful People Curriculum

Explore ...

interests, strengths, and opportunities

- Academic & Career Planning Lessons

SOAR ...

toward personal & academic growth and excellence

- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Lessons
- Digital Citizenship Lessons

Academic and Career Plan (ACP)

Academic and Career Planning (ACP) is a process that helps students explore their interests, learn about different career paths, and make informed decisions about their future. Through various experiences and resources, students create personalized plans and goals for high school and beyond. For more information regarding ACP, please visit our school website.

Key Components of Our ACP Program:

- Xello: An online platform that allows students to explore careers and document their goals and experiences.
- Classroom Activities
- Clubs and Extracurriculars
- Field Trips and Community Experiences

Intermediate Academic Planning Process Timeline

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Mid-January: Family Information

Families receive information

- Program Planning Guide
- Parent Letter detailing the process (via Skyward)
- 5th Grade Performance Music Information

Explore staff share relevant programming information and answer family/student questions.

Mid-January to early February: Family Request Courses Online (via Skyward)

Families utilize Skyward Family Access to request their Explore courses

Mid-August finalized student schedules are shared via Skyward Family Access

5th Grade:

Core Academic Courses are required for all students:

- Math, English Language Arts, Science and Social Studies

Explore Courses are required for all students: Physical Education and Wellness, Music Choice, World Languages (Chinese, German, Spanish) Art, Career and Technical Education (Spark! and Digital Communications)

*A music choice of performance-based band, choir, orchestra, or general music is required.

Performance-based courses are year-long courses that meet every other day.

The general music course is a semester course. If a child chooses general music, the student will also be enrolled in Exploring Computer Science (which meets the semester the student does not have general music).

**Music is the only choice 5th grade families will select in Skyward Family Access.*

5TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CORE COURSES (Required for all 5th grade students)

Core Courses meet every day all year long. Rotation between science and social studies.

MATH

The fifth grade math program develops children's mathematical thinking and reasoning abilities through age appropriate problems and investigations in the areas of number, operations, algebraic thinking, measurement, data, and geometry. Some of these problems and investigations grow out of ventures into everyday life, while others delve more deeply into the world of mathematics itself. Students are encouraged to explore, develop, test, discuss, and apply ideas: to see mathematics as something that is fluid, vibrant, creative, and relevant. Students focus intensively on the three critical areas: (1) developing fluency with addition and subtraction of fractions, and developing an understanding of the multiplication of fractions and of division of fractions in limited cases (unit fractions divided by whole numbers and whole numbers divided by unit fractions); (2) extending division to 2-digit divisors, integrating decimal fractions into the place value system and developing understanding of operations with decimals to hundredths, and developing fluency with whole number and decimal operations; and (3) developing understanding of volume.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (Reading & Writing)

Fifth graders learn and apply reading skills and strategies to support reading fluency and comprehension. Units provide instruction using large group, small group, and one-on-one conferences that support grade level goals, as well as individual next steps for students. Throughout the year, students read and write in multiple genres. In reading, students study the key ideas and details authors include while using text evidence to support claims when speaking or writing about reading. Fifth graders examine the craft and

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (Reading & Writing) (continued)

structure of text to support inferential and critical comprehension. Through discussion and written opportunities, students connect and integrate knowledge and ideas across their experiences and other texts. Fifth grade students also have opportunities throughout the week to compose writing for various purposes that support communication and comprehension. Students engage in the writing process of drafting, revising, editing, and publishing, while attending to the organization, craft, coherence, and grammar of their pieces.

SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES

Science and Social Studies curricula have recently been revised to align with the updated Wisconsin Model Academic Standards. Teachers focus on inquiry practices that allow students to explore and engage content areas, while applying foundational skills such as supporting claims with evidence, developing models, and asking questions and designing solutions. Students will apply these skills through the following content areas:

Social Studies Units of Emphasis:

- European Exploration of North America
- Colonization of North America
- Revolutionary Times

Science Units of Emphasis:

- Matter and Ecosystems
- Earth and Space Systems
- Structures and Properties of Matter

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND WELLNESS (Required for all 5th grade students)

This year-long course meets every other day and offers a wide variety of sport, fitness, and wellness experiences. Each quarter has a mixture of individual and team activities that foster skill development and fitness to support Wisconsin state standards. Students will participate in health seminars, which meet the WI Academic Standards for Health Education throughout this course. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in Human Growth and Development lessons as part of this class.

Weather permitting, units are taught outdoors first and fourth quarters and taught indoors second and third quarters.

WORLD LANGUAGE (Required for all 5th grade students)

World Language classes meet for 9 weeks/every other day.

CHINESE

This course is designed to provide an introduction to basic Chinese and culture through immersion. Students will focus on exploring vocabulary related to personal interests. The class will be more conversational in nature with the expectation of some written and reading skills.

GERMAN

This course is designed to provide an introduction to basic German language and culture. Students will study the names, locations, and flags of the German speaking countries, practice and perform an introductory dialogue, and be able to talk about their favorite color, animal, and sport in German!

SPANISH

This course is designed to provide an introduction to basic Spanish language and culture through immersion. Students will focus on exploring foundational vocabulary, such as the alphabet, conversational greetings, numbers, and colors. The class will be more conversational in nature with the expectation of some written and reading skills.

MUSIC EXPLORE COURSES (Required: Select 1 Course from Options)

Fifth grade students are required to have an experience in music. Students can choose either Band, Choir, or Orchestra as a performance-focused course. General Music is a course that allows students to study music by: Connecting, Creating, Responding, and Performing.

Performance music classes meet every other day for the entire school year. General Music meets for a semester every other day.

BAND

Students will explore the fundamentals of playing an instrument. A wide variety of music will be explored while developing technique on the chosen instrument. Large group band will meet every other day. Home practice is required. Band students will have multiple performances throughout the year.

CHOIR

Students will explore the fundamentals of large group vocal performance, with an emphasis on developing music reading skills within a choral score, vocal technique, and 2 and 3 part singing. A wide variety of choral literature suitable for young voices will be studied and performed in class and in formal concerts held throughout the year. Choir will meet every other day all year long.

ORCHESTRA

Students will explore the fundamentals of string playing by beginning instruction on the violin, viola, cello, or bass. A wide variety of music will be explored while developing technique on the chosen instrument. Students with previous experience should meet with the instructor.

GENERAL MUSIC

Students will examine the functions of music as a tool for communication. They will explore rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic notation through songs, listening sessions, composition, and playing percussion instruments (African drums), and melodic instruments such as bells and keyboard. Students will also explore the history of music with an emphasis on different periods and styles of music.

BAND/CHOIR or CHOIR/ORCHESTRA

Students can take a band/choir or choir/orchestra course combination. Students rotate between the two classes every other day. For example, a student taking band/choir combination would go to band one day, the next day he/she would go to another Explore class, and then the following day after that the student would go to choir.

ADDITIONAL EXPLORE COURSES

Additional Explore Courses meet every other day for a semester except for Digital Communications which meets every other day for nine weeks.

ART (Required for all students)

This required course offers students the opportunity to explore a variety of art materials and techniques. Through hands-on, project-based learning, students will expand their understanding of art and design by creating both 2D and 3D works of art. Students also keep a sketchbook to experiment with a variety of foundational skills. Fifth Grade Art Class explores art making with a focus on the Elements of Art and the National and State Standards for Art Education.

SPARK! Introduction to Design Thinking (Required for all students)

In this foundational course students will learn and use a deliberate design process for generating ideas, testing theories, creating innovative artifacts or solving authentic problems. Activities may include: design thinking challenges, maker projects, applying various coding/programming languages, and development of digital skills.

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS (Required for all students)

This course focuses on students as digital consumers and creators. Students will critically analyze a variety of resources and use digital tools to create, share, and make meaningful learning experiences for themselves and others. Students will have opportunities to strengthen digital and computer literacy skills by creating presentations, spreadsheets, documents, and using various Web 2.0 tools.

EXPLORING COMPUTER SCIENCE (Offered for students taking General Music.)

In this course students will use technology and computational thinking skills to explore the world of Computer Science. Through a choice of projects related to coding, game design, and more, students will be able to develop and use strategies for understanding and solving problems.

6th Grade:

Core Academic Courses are required for all students:

- Math, English Language Arts, Science and Social Studies

Explore Courses are required for all students: Physical Education and Wellness, Music Choice, World Languages (Chinese, German, Spanish), Art, Career and Technical Education (Automation & Robotics and Career Connections 6)

*A music choice of performance-based band, choir, orchestra, or general music is required. Performance-based courses are year-long courses that meet every other day. The general music course is a semester course. If a child chooses general music, the student will also be enrolled in Exploring Technology & Design (which meets the semester the student does not have general music).

**Music is the only choice 6th grade families will select in Skyward Family Access.*

CORE COURSES (Required for all 6th grade students)

Core classes meet every day all year long. Rotation between science and social studies.

MATH

Students use problem-solving strategies, questioning, investigating, analyzing critically, gathering and constructing evidence, and communicating rigorous arguments justifying their thinking. Students learn in collaboration with others while sharing information, expertise, and ideas. The course helps students to develop multiple strategies to solve problems and to recognize the connections between concepts. Topics include: Arithmetic Strategies and Area, Portions and Integers, Variables and Ratios, Multiplying Fractions and Area, Dividing and Building Expressions, Rates and Operations, Statistics and Multiplication Equations and Volume and Percents.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (Reading & Writing)

Sixth graders learn and apply reading skills and strategies to support critical thinking, building knowledge, and reading comprehension. Units provide instruction using large group, small group, and one-on-one conferences that support grade level goals, as well as individual next steps for students. Throughout the year, students read and write in multiple genres. In reading, students study the key ideas and details authors include while using text evidence to support claims when speaking or writing about reading. Sixth graders examine the craft and structure of text to support inferential and critical comprehension. Through discussion and written opportunities, students connect and integrate knowledge and ideas across their experiences and other texts. Sixth grade students also have opportunities throughout the week to compose writing for various purposes that support communication and comprehension. Students engage in the writing process of drafting, revising, editing, and publishing, while attending to the organization, craft, coherence, and grammar of their pieces.

SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES

Science and Social Studies curricula have recently been revised to align with the updated Wisconsin Model Academic Standards. Teachers focus on inquiry practices that allow students to explore and engage content areas, while applying foundational skills such as supporting claims with evidence, developing models, and asking questions and designing solutions. Students will apply these skills through the following content areas:

Social Studies Units of Emphasis:

- Ancient Civilizations
- Current Events

Science Units of Emphasis:

- Microbiome
- Metabolism
- Metabolism Engineering Internship
- Traits and Reproduction
- Earth's Changing Climate
- Earth's Changing Climate Engineering Internship

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND WELLNESS (Required for all 6th grade students) [Table of Contents](#)

This year-long course meets every other day and offers a wide variety of sport, fitness, and wellness experiences. Each quarter has a mixture of individual and team activities that foster skill development and fitness to support Wisconsin state standards. Students will participate in health seminars, which meet the WI Academic Standards for Health Education throughout this course. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in Human Growth and Development lessons as part of this class. Weather permitting, units are taught outdoors first and fourth quarters and taught indoors second and third quarters.

WORLD LANGUAGE/PE and Wellness (Required for all 6th grade students)

World Language classes meet for 9 weeks/every other day.

CHINESE

This course is designed to provide an introduction to basic Chinese and culture through immersion. Students will focus on exploring vocabulary related to personal interests. The class will be more conversational in nature with the expectation of some written and reading skills.

GERMAN

This course is designed to continue an introduction to basic German language and culture. Students will learn an introductory dialogue, expanding on the vocabulary and skills acquired in 5th grade. Students will also immerse themselves in the language through the study of two short stories and review reasons for continued study of the language.

SPANISH

This course is designed to expand students' introductory knowledge of basic Spanish language and culture through immersion. Students will focus on further exploring foundational vocabulary, such as using the alphabet to spell, describing the calendar and weather, exchanging conversational greetings, and identifying larger numbers. The class will be more conversational in nature with the expectation of some written and reading skills.

MUSIC EXPLORE COURSES (Required: Select 1 Course from Options)

Sixth grade students are required to have an experience in music. Students can choose either Band, Choir, or Orchestra as a performance-focused course. General Music is a course that allows students to study music by: Connecting, Creating, Responding, and Performing.

Performance music classes meet every other day for the entire school year. General Music meets for a semester every other day

BAND

This course is designed for students to focus on developing stronger tone and technique. A wide variety of music will be explored while developing technique on the chosen instrument. Large group band will meet every other day. Home practice is required. Band students will have multiple performances throughout the year.

CHOIR

This course is designed for students to study more challenging two-part music and work towards singing some three-part music while continuing to develop music reading skills and vocal technique within a choral setting. Music of various styles and cultures will be studied and performed in class and formal concerts held throughout the year.

ORCHESTRA

This course allows students to have the opportunity to rehearse and perform while expanding on the fundamentals learned in string ensemble. Students will also be exposed to a wide variety of music from classical to contemporary styles.

GENERAL MUSIC

This course allows students to examine the functions of music as a tool for communication. They will explore rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic notation through songs, composition and improvisation, listening sessions, and playing drums and other percussion instruments, along with melodic instruments such as bells and keyboards. Students will have opportunities to write, improvise, and perform their own music. Students will also explore the history of music from the past to the present with an emphasis on jazz and blues and the genres of music that have shaped the music of the present day.

BAND/CHOIR or CHOIR/ORCHESTRA

Students can take a band/choir or choir/orchestra course combination. Students rotate between the two classes every other day. For example, a student taking band/choir combination would go to band one day, the next day he/she would go to another Explore class, and then the following day after that the student would go to choir.

ADDITIONAL EXPLORE CLASSES

Additional Explore Courses meet every other day for a semester with the exception of Automation and Robotics which meets every other day for nine weeks.

ART (Required for all students)

This required course is an exploratory class designed to expand on foundational skills and provide students a well-rounded survey of art and design. Students are exposed to a wide array of materials as they investigate art and its place within visual communication and visual culture. Students each keep a sketchbook to document their creative process, record written and visual information, and practice various techniques. Sixth Grade Art Class continues building knowledge on the Elements of Art and uses the National and State Standards for Art Education as a baseline for assessing student work.

AUTOMATION AND ROBOTICS (Required for all students)

This course allows students to expand their understanding of robotics as they explore mechanical design and computer programming. The focus for this course centers on developing programming skills and problem-solving skills as students build and program a robot to solve a real-world design problem.

CAREER CONNECTIONS 6 (Required for all students)

The objective of this course is to investigate and explore careers and personal finance. Students then use their experiences to make informed future decisions. Topics will include real life career exploration, interview process, money management including budgeting, insurance, loans, taxes, savings, banking and credit cards.

EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY & DESIGN (Offered for students taking General Music)

In this course, students are challenged to create a design or solve a task by using technology. Through a series of units students will investigate, design, create, and evaluate different technology-related projects.

The Oconomowoc Area School District's strategic plan centers on continuous improvement in mathematics achievement. While we believe many students will benefit from a full year of learning grade-level content to prepare for the rigors of high school mathematics, we also will provide the flexibility for students to take accelerated courses if academically and developmentally ready. In order to best support appropriate student placement within our intermediate math pathways, teachers and administrators will use multiple forms of data, in order to gauge student readiness. Our staff will use the following indicators:

- MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) Assessment (NWEA)
- Teacher Rubric based on dispositions and classroom achievement

We believe pathways will afford more students the opportunity to gain the necessary depth in learning that they need to experience greater success through our OHS curriculum.

7th Grade:

Core Academic Courses are required for all students:

- Math, English Language Arts, Science and Social Studies

Required Explore Courses (year-long): Physical Education and Wellness and choice of one World Language (Chinese, German, Spanish) taken during both 7th & 8th grade

*Explore Course Options:

- Career and Technology Education Courses (semester):
 - Career Connections 7
 - Digital Design 7
 - Technology & Engineering 7
- Art (semester)
- Music Course Options (year long):
 - Band
 - Choir
 - Orchestra
 - Encore Band, Choir, or Orchestra (semester or year long option)

**7th grade families will choose one of the following combination of courses in Skyward Family Access:*

- Three Career and Technology Education Courses & Art
- One Music course option (year-long) and any combination of two courses (semester): Career and Technology Education courses *or* Art
- Two Music courses (year-long)
 - Each of these combinations counts as the 2 Music classes.
 - *Band & Encore Band
 - *Choir & Encore Choir
 - *Orchestra & Encore Orchestra
 - *Band & Choir
 - *Choir & Orchestra
- One Music course (year-long) & Encore Music course (semester) & One of any of the Career and Technology Education courses *or* Art

CORE COURSES (Required for all 7th grade students)

Core classes meet every day all year long. Rotation between science and social studies.

MATH Accelerated courses are determined by a review of 6th grade student district & classroom assessments and other evidence observed by the classroom teacher. See Pathways description on page 14.

MATH 7

Students use problem-solving strategies, questioning, investigating, analyzing critically, gathering and constructing evidence, and communicating rigorous arguments justifying their thinking. Students learn in collaboration with others while sharing information, expertise, and ideas. The course helps students to develop multiple strategies to solve problems and to recognize the connections between concepts. Topics include: Ratios and Proportions, Fractions and Integer operations, Arithmetic Properties, Statistics and Probability, Expressions, Solving Inequalities and Equations, Percents, Angle Relationships, Circles, and Volume.

OR

ACCELERATED MATH 7

Students complete one full course and half of another during the academic year. The Instructor teaches a condensed curriculum for both courses, which emphasizes problem-solving strategies, questioning, investigating, analyzing critically, gathering and constructing evidence, and communicating rigorous arguments justifying their thinking. Students learn in collaboration with others while sharing information, expertise, and ideas. The course helps students to develop multiple strategies to solve problems and to recognize the connections between concepts. Students in this course will experience a faster paced curriculum. Upon completion of this course students should be able to complete the topics from all of Math 7 and half of Math 8.

OR

ACCELERATED MATH 7/8

Students complete two courses during the academic year. The Instructor teaches a condensed curriculum for both courses, which emphasizes problem-solving strategies, questioning, investigating, analyzing critically, gathering and constructing evidence, and communicating rigorous arguments justifying their thinking. Students learn in collaboration with others while sharing information, expertise, and ideas. The course helps students to develop multiple strategies to solve problems and to recognize the connections between concepts. Students in this course will experience a faster paced curriculum. Upon completion of this course students should be able to complete the topics from Math 7 and Math 8.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (Reading & Writing)

7th grade English Language Arts will combine core reading, writing, word study, and speaking/listening skills. Specifically, our 7th grade ELA units will deepen students' ability to read analytically through the use of close reading skills and strategies. Units will also focus on the analysis of the structure of texts, author's point of view, and the content/style of text. 7th grade ELA writing units will ask students to explore a variety of genres including argumentative, informational, and narrative texts as they sharpen their writing. Finally, our units will integrate language skills by asking students to focus on denotative, connotative, and figurative language used in texts, as well as the impact on meaning and tone. Those language units will also continue to develop academic vocabulary in our 7th graders in order to strengthen their comprehension, written, and oral language skills.

SCIENCE

Students will have an understanding of scientific methods and procedures. They will explore the building blocks of the world around them through an integrated approach emphasizing biological, physical, and earth science. This course emphasizes a lab/hands-on approach to understanding concepts.

Units of Emphasis:

- Plate Motion
- Plate Motion, Engineering Internship
- Phase Change
- Engineering Internship Phase Change
- Chemical Reactions
- Population and Resources
- Matter and Energy in Ecosystems
- Geology on Mars
- Rock Transformation

SOCIAL STUDIES – World Geography

Students will encounter many unique and assorted cultures on their journey through the World's Eastern Hemisphere. The five themes of Geography and the eight Cultural Universals will be their vehicles as they set off to uncover the vast wonders of Asia, Africa, Middle East, Europe and Russia. Map skills, technology and current events will also be integrated into the curriculum.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND WELLNESS (Required for all 7th grade students)

This year-long course meets every other day and offers a wide variety of sport, fitness, and wellness experiences. Each quarter has a mixture of individual and team activities that foster skill development and fitness to support Wisconsin state standards. Students will participate in health seminars, which meet the WI Academic Standards for Health Education throughout this course. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in Human Growth and Development lessons as part of this class. Weather permitting, units are taught outdoors first and fourth quarters and taught indoors second and third quarters.

WORLD LANGUAGE (Required for all 7th grade students)

Students select either German, Chinese or Spanish for a two-year commitment. World Language meets every other day all year long. Successful completion of 7th and 8th grade World Language will allow students to enter Level 2 of that language at OHS.

CHINESE

This course is based on the first half of the OASD Chinese 1 curriculum. It provides basic instruction of Chinese language and culture through immersion. Students will focus on exploring thematic units of beginning Chinese language acquisition. The focus is on four major areas of interaction (reading, writing, speaking, and listening).

GERMAN

This course is based on the first half of the OASD German 1 curriculum. Students in 7th grade German will be able to communicate about themselves and their daily life. Topics of study include introductory conversation, school, and free time. Students will also immerse themselves in the language by studying a short novel. Students will advance their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills daily, as well as make cultural comparisons and connections.

SPANISH

This course is based on the first half of the OASD Spanish 1 curriculum. Students in 7th grade Spanish will be able to communicate about themselves and their daily life as a student. Topics of study include getting to know one another through introductory conversations and describing a typical day at school. Students will learn through immersion and will advance their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills daily, as well as make cultural comparisons and connections.

MUSIC EXPLORE COURSES (See page 14 for explanation of Music Class Options.)

7th grade students are not required to have an experience in music. Music classes meet every other day all year long with the exception of Encore music that can be taken for a semester or for a year.

BAND

This course focuses on large group ensemble performance while continuing individual skill development. Home practice is required. Band and jazz band (an intermediate school club activity) will have multiple performances throughout the school year.

ENCORE BAND

This course provides an enhanced instrumental experience for those who want to take their playing to the next level. As an extension of band, this class will continue to focus on instrumental technique, additional performance music including chamber ensembles, and preparation for the WSMA solo & ensemble festival in March. This class may also incorporate music technology. Students must be enrolled in **BAND** in order to be able to enroll in **ENCORE BAND**. This course meets every other day all year **or** students can choose a semester.

CHOIR

This course will be on large group performance with an emphasis on age-appropriate study of choral performance according to the State Standards. Students will also study the history and context of the wide variety of music literature presented. Performance in concerts throughout the year is required. Concerts may be performed at the Intermediate Schools Oconomowoc High School, or the greater Oconomowoc community.

ENCORE CHOIR

This course will serve students seeking additional challenges in choral music. The curriculum may combine choral singing while playing instruments, movement, the use of solos and small groups, self-rehearsal techniques, and will use literature from a wide variety of musical genres. Participation in concerts throughout the year is required. Concerts may be performed at the Intermediate Schools, Oconomowoc High School or the greater Oconomowoc Community. Encore students may be eligible to participate in the annual Wisconsin State Music Association

ENCORE CHOIR (cont.) Solo and Ensemble Contest. Students must be enrolled in **CHOIR** in order to be able to enroll in **ENCORE CHOIR**. This course meets every other day all year **or** students can choose a semester.

ORCHESTRA

This course will develop advanced skills on their instruments, as well as explore string and full orchestra repertoire. Technical skills and musicianship will be emphasized.

ENCORE ORCHESTRA

This course provides an enhanced instrumental experience for those who want to take their playing to the next level. As an extension of Orchestra, this class will continue to focus on instrumental technique, additional performance music including chamber ensembles, and preparation for the WSMA solo & ensemble festival in March. Students must be enrolled in **ORCHESTRA** in order to be able to enroll in This course meets every other day all year **or** students can choose a semester of Encore.

BAND/CHOIR OR CHOIR/ORCHESTRA

Students taking a band/choir or choir/orchestra combination will rotate between the two classes every other day all year long.

ADDITIONAL EXPLORE COURSES (See page 15 for explanation of Explore Course Options.)

Students are not able to take additional Explore Courses if enrolled in all music courses. Explore classes meet for a semester every other day.

ART

This elective course allows students to further develop foundational artistic skills and understanding through more in-depth exploration of art materials and techniques. Students strategically employ the Elements of Art and Principles of Design to communicate meaning through their own artwork. Additionally, students use sketchbooks to document their progress as they utilize the steps of the Design Process and work toward a set of objectives and success criteria that align with the National and State Standards for Art Education.

DIGITAL DESIGN 7

During this semester course students will be given the opportunity to explore many different areas of technology that include: Software Engineering, Computer Graphics, Digital Communications and Career-Based Simulations. Students will work through a series of self-directed projects to learn and apply advanced technology concepts.

TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING 7

During this semester course students will improve their problem-solving skills by exploring many different areas of technology, which include: automation and robotics, building trades, design and problem solving, energy and electronics, manufacturing and industrial design, and transportation. Students will work through a series of self-directed projects to learn and apply advanced engineering concepts.

CAREER CONNECTIONS 7

The objective of this course is to investigate and explore careers and personal finance. Students then use their experiences to make informed future decisions. Topics will include real life career exploration, interview process, money management including budgeting, insurance, loans, taxes, savings, banking and credit cards.

8th Grade:

Core Academic Courses are required for all students:

- Math, English Language Arts, Science and Social Studies

Required Explore Courses (year long): Physical Education and Wellness and choice of one World Language (Chinese, German, Spanish) taken during both 7th & 8th grade

*Explore Course Options:

- Career and Technology Education Courses (semester):
 - Digital Design 8
 - Technology & Engineering 8
 - Learners and Leaders 8
- Art (semester)
- Music Course Options (year long):
 - Band
 - Choir
 - Orchestra
 - Encore Band, Choir or Orchestra (semester or year long option)

**8th grade families will choose one the following combination of courses in Skyward Family Access:*

- Three Career and Technology Education Courses, Art
- One Music course option (year-long) and any combination of two courses (semester): Career and Technology Education courses *or* Art
- Two Music courses (year-long)
 - Each of these combinations counts as the 2 Music classes.
 - *Band & Encore Band
 - *Choir & Encore Choir
 - *Orchestra & Encore Orchestra
 - *Band & Choir
 - *Choir & Orchestra
- One Music course (year-long) & Encore Music course (semester) & One of any of the Career and Technology Education courses *or* Art

8TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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CORE COURSES (Required for all 8th grade students)

Core Courses meet every day all year long. Rotation between science and social studies.

MATH Accelerated courses are determined by a review of 7th grade student district & classroom assessments and other evidence observed by the classroom teacher. See Pathways description on page 14.

MATH 8

Students use problem-solving strategies, questioning, investigating, analyzing critically, gathering and constructing evidence, and communicating rigorous arguments justifying their thinking. Students learn in collaboration with others while sharing information, expertise, and ideas. The course helps students to develop multiple strategies to solve problems and to recognize the connections between concepts. Topics include: Problem Solving, Simplifying with Variables, Graphs and Equations, Multiple Representations, Systems of Equations, Transformations and Similarity, Slope and Association, Exponents and Functions, Angles and the Pythagorean Theorem, and Surface Area and Volume.

OR

ACCELERATED MATH 8

Students complete the second half of Math 8 and transition into completing a full course of Algebra during the academic year. The Instructor teaches a condensed curriculum which emphasizes problem-solving strategies, questioning, investigating, analyzing critically, gathering and constructing evidence, and communicating rigorous arguments justifying their thinking. Students learn in collaboration with others while sharing information, expertise, and ideas. The course helps students to develop multiple strategies to solve problems and to recognize the connections between concepts. Students in this course will experience a faster paced curriculum. Upon completion of this course students should be able to complete the topics from all of Math 8 and Algebra.

OR

ALGEBRA/GEOMETRY

Students in Algebra and Geometry will complete both courses during the 8th grade year. Both are preparatory mathematics courses that start with Algebra and continue through Calculus.

Algebra aims to deepen and extend student understanding built in previous courses by focusing on developing fluency with solving linear equations, inequalities, and systems. These skills are extended to solving quadratic equations, exploring linear, quadratic, and exponential functions graphically, numerically, symbolically, and as sequences, and by using regression techniques to analyze the fit of models to distributions of data. On a daily basis, students in Algebra use problem-solving strategies, questioning, investigating, analyzing critically, gathering and constructing evidence, and communicating rigorous arguments justifying their thinking. Students learn in collaboration with others while sharing information, expertise, and ideas. The course is well balanced among procedural fluency (algorithms and basic skills), deep conceptual understanding, strategic competence (problem solving), and adaptive reasoning (extension and application). Units of study include: Functions, Linear Relationships, Simplifying and Solving, Systems and Equations, Sequences, Modeling Two-Variable Data, Exponential Functions, Quadratic Functions, Solving Quadratic and Inequalities, Solving Complex Equations, Functions and Data, and Representing Expressions.

ALGEBRA/GEOMETRY (cont.) Students in Geometry will work in teams to explore with greater depth basic geometric principles, logical thinking, and probability. Students begin with the study of transformations and symmetry. Students then use this similarity to explore trigonometry and congruence principles for triangles with an emphasis on the ability to justify their conclusions. In the second half of the course, students explore shapes other than triangles. This includes the study of polygons with more than three sides, circles, and three-dimensional solids. Students are required to have a ruler, compass, protractor, and calculator.

Students will be placed in Advanced Algebra following the successful completion of Algebra/Geometry as eighth grade students. Students receive 1.0 general OHS elective credits for successful completion of this course in eighth grade. Students are encouraged to register for a minimum of 3.0 credits of math while a student at OHS.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (Reading & Writing)

8th grade English Language Arts will combine core reading, writing, word study, and speaking/listening skills. Specifically, our 8th grade reading units will focus on the development of core skills such as theme and character development, interpreting the author's point of view, and establishing central ideas and evidence to support those claims. 8th grade ELA writing units will ask students to write a strong claim using evidence to support their thinking, as well as conducting research for the purpose of supporting an argument or position. Finally, our units will integrate language skills by asking students to extend their 7th grade learning by continuing to focus on denotative, connotative, and figurative language used in texts, as well as focusing on word choice and the impact on meaning and tone. Those language units will also continue to develop academic vocabulary in our 8th graders in order to strengthen their comprehension, written, and oral language skills.

SCIENCE

This course is designed to build a student's understanding of scientific methods and procedures. They will explore the building blocks of the world around them through an integrated approach emphasizing physical science. This course emphasizes a lab/hands-on approach to understanding concepts.

Units of Emphasis:

- Harnessing Human Energy
- Force and Motion, Force and Motion Engineering Internship
- Earth, Moon and Sun,
- Natural Selection, Natural Selection Engineering Internship
- Evolutionary History
- Magnetic Fields
- Light Waves

SOCIAL STUDIES – U.S. History

This course will study American History from post-Revolutionary War America through 1900 with emphasis on the evolution of economic, political, social, and cultural values and institutions.

Units of Emphasis:

- American Government/Constitution
- Westward Expansion
- Slavery/Civil War/Reconstruction
- Industrialization

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND WELLNESS (Required for all 8th grade students)

This year-long course meets every other day and offers a wide variety of sport, fitness and wellness experiences. Each quarter has a mixture of individual and team activities that foster skill development and fitness to support Wisconsin State standards. Students will participate in health seminars, which meet the WI Academic Standards for Health Education throughout this course. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in Human Growth and Development lessons as part of this class. Weather permitting, units are taught outdoors first and fourth quarters and taught indoors second and third quarters.

WORLD LANGUAGE (Required for all 8th grade students)

Students select the same World Language as in seventh grade. It meets every other day all year-long. Successful completion of 7th and 8th grade World Language will allow students to enter Level 2 of that language at OHS.

CHINESE

This course is based on the second half of the OASD Chinese 1 curriculum. It provides instruction of Chinese language and culture through immersion. Students will focus on exploring thematic units of beginning Chinese language acquisition. The focus is on four major areas of interaction (reading, writing, speaking, and listening).

GERMAN

This course is based on the second half of the OASD German 1 curriculum. Students in 8th grade German will be able to communicate about themselves and others. Topics of study include introductory conversation, family, free time, and food. Students will also immerse themselves in the language by studying a short novel. Students will advance their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills daily, as well as make cultural comparisons and connections.

SPANISH

This course is based on the second half of the OASD Spanish 1 curriculum. Students in 8th grade Spanish will be able to communicate about themselves and others. Topics of study include family, free time, and food. Students will learn through immersion and will advance their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills daily, as well as make cultural comparisons and connections.

MUSIC EXPLORE COURSES (See page 19 for explanation of Music Class Options.)

Eighth grade students are not required to have an experience in music. Music classes meet every other day all year long.

BAND

This course focuses on large group ensemble performance while continuing individual skill development. Students will also receive small group lessons as part of this course. Home practice is required. Band and jazz band (an intermediate school club activity) will have multiple performances throughout the school year.

ENCORE BAND

This course provides an enhanced instrumental experience for those who want to take their playing to the next level. As an extension of band, this class will continue to focus on instrumental technique, additional performance music including chamber ensembles, and preparation for the WSMA solo & ensemble festival in March. This class may also incorporate music technology.

ENCORE BAND (cont.) Students must be enrolled in **BAND** in order to be able to enroll in **ENCORE BAND**. This course meets every other day all year **or** students can choose a semester of Encore.

CHOIR

This course will be on large group performance with an emphasis on age-appropriate study of choral performance according to the State Standards. Students will also study the history and context of the wide variety of music literature presented. Performance in concerts throughout the year is required. Concerts may be performed at the Intermediate Schools Oconomowoc High School, or the greater Oconomowoc community.

ENCORE CHOIR

This course will serve children seeking additional challenges in choral music. The curriculum may combine choral singing while playing instruments, movement, the use of solos and small groups, self-rehearsal techniques, and will use literature from a wide variety of musical genres. Participation in concerts throughout the year is required. Encore students may be eligible to participate in the annual Wisconsin State Music Association Solo and Ensemble Contest. Students must be enrolled in **CHOIR** in order to be able to enroll in **ENCORE CHOIR**. This course meets every other day all year **or** for a semester.

ORCHESTRA

This course will develop advanced skills on their instruments, as well as explore string and full orchestra repertoire. Technical skills and musicianship will be emphasized.

ENCORE ORCHESTRA

This course provides an enhanced instrumental experience for those who want to take their playing to the next level. As an extension of Orchestra, this class will continue to focus on instrumental technique, additional performance music including chamber ensembles, and preparation for the WSMA solo & ensemble festival in March. Students must be enrolled in **ORCHESTRA** in order to be able to enroll in **ENCORE ORCHESTRA**. This course meets every other day all year **or** students can choose a semester.

BAND/CHOIR OR CHOIR/ORCHESTRA

Students taking a band/choir or choir/orchestra combination will rotate between the two classes every other day all year long.

ADDITIONAL EXPLORE COURSES (See page 19 explanation of Explore Class Options.)

Students are not able to take additional Explore Courses if enrolled in the All Music Courses Option. Explore classes meet for a semester every other day.

ART: EXPLORING VISUAL COMMUNICATION

This course allows students the opportunity to expand their artistic skills and explore advanced art techniques used within our world today. For each project, students will be asked to find visual design solutions to challenges that simulate the creative process of professional artists and designers. We will utilize the design process and group collaboration to fulfill the requirements of projects. In addition to brainstorming and problem solving, students will learn to evaluate and reflect on their own artwork based on a set of objectives and success criteria that align with the National and State Standards for Art Education. This course provides students the freedom to survey several types of art media and work with materials to further investigate uses of art and design in the 21st Century.

DIGITAL DESIGN 8

During this semester course students will be given the opportunity to explore many different areas of technology that include: Software Engineering, Computer Graphics, Digital Communications and Career-Based Simulations. Students will work through a series of self-directed projects to learn and apply advanced technology concepts.

TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING 8

During this semester course students will improve their problem-solving skills by exploring many different areas of technology, which include: automation and robotics, building trades, design and problem solving, energy and electronics, manufacturing and industrial design, and transportation. Students will work through a series of self-directed projects to learn and apply advanced engineering concepts.

LEARNERS AND LEADERS 8

During this semester-long course, students are introduced to leadership and character development by utilizing Character Strong's Leadership curriculum. This course focuses on enhancing students' academic, social, and intrapersonal skills through foundational leadership experiences while empowering them to become life-ready. Topics covered in this course include community building, advocating, personal assets, social media, leadership as influence, and character development.

Course Selection Process via Skyward Family Access

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If you have any questions regarding the course selection process or your child's schedule contact:

NHI Administrative Assistant: Rhonda Fink finkr@oasd.org 262-569-4945

SLI Administrative Assistant: Julie Stewart stewartj@oasd.org 262-560- 4308

Please refer to grade level course selection options:

[Fifth Grade](#) (pg. 7) [Sixth Grade](#) (pg. 11) [Seventh Grade](#) (pg. 15) [Eighth Grade](#) (pg. 20)

Directions to Enter Course Requests:

1. Go to Skyward Family Access, open, and click on the student you are scheduling.
2. Click on the schedule tab.
3. In the upper right corner, click on View Requests for 2025-2026.
4. Depending upon the grade level select your Explore courses by clicking on the course and click Add Course.
5th & 6th grade - only choose a music course option
7th & 8th grade - choose a World Language, and then other Explore courses

Where do I find my child's schedule?

Your child's schedule is found in your Family Access/Schedule tab on the left. Schedules will be available Mid-August.

What if my child would like to change a scheduled Explore class?

A lot of factors go into scheduling including making sure we have staffing and adequate class sections which is why we ask families to make decisions in January/February for the following school year. Schedule changes are very limited after August 1 as the master schedule with when specific classes are offered as well as appropriate class sizes are finalized. Please note requests for changes should be emergency-based only and are subject to availability in our classes after August 1 - to the start of the school year. These requests are made to the administrative assistant in consultation with the building principal.

After the school year is started, changes for second semester Explore classes for 7th & 8th grade only will need to be requested **prior** to the start of second semester utilizing the following process:

- request a schedule change form from the school office
- complete the form including the rationale for requesting a schedule change
- family signature **and** staff signatures by those impacted by the change
- schedule change form is returned to office for consideration
- administrator approval and communication to family

Declaración de Traducción: Estamos trabajando diligentemente para traducir nuestros documentos al español. Por favor comuníquese con la escuela de su hijo para aclaración. Si todavía necesitas aclaración, por favor comuníquese con Translate@oasd.org.

Nondiscrimination: The Oconomowoc Area School District provides assurance that no student is discriminated against because of the student's sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability.
