

# Portland Middle School

2016-2017



## Registration Handbook

Portland Middle School  
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\* Not all classes are offered each year. Availability depends on resource and demand.

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## Scheduling Information

### Adding/Dropping Classes:

All requests for schedule changes must be initiated with the counselor.

Students may change their schedule for the following reasons:

- A more appropriate level class is recommended by the teacher
- The student was scheduled into a class already completed
- The program or class is being dropped or added by the administration
- The student has less than six classes printed on their schedule
- The student does not have the prerequisites for a course

Students will not be given the option to change their schedules after the posted add/drop period unless they have the approval of a counselor or administrator.

Students who stop attending without an approved schedule change will be considered unexcused.

Students committing to a year long class are expected to stay for the full year unless it is mutually agreed upon by both the teacher and student that they be allowed to drop the class at the semester time. Parental approval is required to drop a year long or required class.

\* Portland Middle School reserves the right to adjust schedules according to class size needs in an effort to promote the most positive learning environment.

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## English/Language Arts

### **English Language Arts 6 (Required)**

**Year 6**

This course is designed to foster critical thinking, and proficient writing, speaking, and reading. Students will read and write narrative, argumentative, and informational text. They will critically evaluate arguments and evidence while using MLA format for all writings. Specific skills and topics covered include reading strategies, text elements, writing and speaking structures, fictional and informational texts, grammar, using reference materials, typing and technology, poetry, primary and secondary sources, and supporting ideas. A variety of formats and activities are used to fit different learning styles and backgrounds.

### **English Language Arts 7 (Required)**

**Year 7**

**Prerequisite:** ELA 6

In this course, students will investigate a variety of informational and narrative genres including drama, memoir, legends and myths, mystery, and poetry. During this course, reading instruction will develop reading comprehension skills and strategies, while writing instruction will develop organizational skills and clarity. The overall purpose of this class is to build increasingly sophisticated thinking skills and equip students to communicate their ideas with clarity and precision.

### **English Language Arts 8 (Required)**

**Year 8**

**Prerequisite:** ELA 7

This course is designed to develop skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language. Reading selections will include both narrative and informational texts. Writing will focus on narrative, argumentative, and informational. Students will improve critical thinking, text analysis, and writing skills in this course.

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## **Mathematics**

### **Mathematics 6 (Required)**

**Year 6**

In this course students will expand their knowledge by learning about factors and multiples, ratios, fractions, and percents. Students will further learn operations with fractions, two-dimensional area and perimeter, volume and surface area of rectangular prisms, operations with decimals, variables and patterns and be given an introduction to Algebra.

### **Pre-Algebra 7 (Required)**

**Year 7**

**Prerequisite: Mathematics 6**

In this course, students will expand on prior knowledge of problem solving and mathematical reasoning through their study of 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional shapes, operations of integers, similarity, ratios, rates and proportions, linear relationships, and probability.

### **Algebra 8 (Required unless taking HS Algebra I)**

**Year 8**

**Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra 7**

In this course, students will expand on their prior knowledge of problem solving and mathematical reasoning through their study of linear, inverse, exponential and quadratic functions, the Pythagorean Theorem, symmetry and transformations, symbolic manipulation, and linear systems.

### **HS Algebra I (Required if not taking Algebra 8)**

**Year 8**

**Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra 7 & Teacher Recommendation**

Considered the language of mathematics, algebra will allow the student to describe patterns, work with formulas, discuss unknowns in problems and graph ideas. In this course students will be able to manipulate symbols, work with powers, functions, exponents, and roots. They will be able to analyze linear equations and work with basic statistics and probabilities. This course is offered to students who have excelled in 6th and 7th grade math with hard work and whose goal is to take calculus senior year. Students will be challenged as they will be completing both 8th grade and Algebra I standards in one school year instead of two.

### **Math Lab 6**

**Year 6**

**Prerequisite: Teacher/Parent Recommendation**

This course will help students develop skills needed to be successful in their mathematics class. This course will help develop a better understanding of the math concepts and give the students more practice to be successful in their mathematics class. Use of technology will also be a portion of the class, students will get the opportunity to work with applications to help them better understand the math concepts.

### **Math Lab 7**

**Year 7**

**Prerequisite: Teacher/Parent Recommendation**

This course will help students develop the skills they will need to be successful in the 7th grade curriculum. This class focuses on pre teaching of vocabulary and prerequisite skills and then re teaching of skills to help students gain a solid understanding of mathematical concepts. This class will assist students with study skills, organization and communication.

### **Math Lab 8**

**Year 8**

**Prerequisite: Teacher/Parent Recommendation**

This course will be a continuation of 7th grade math lab into the 8th grade algebra curriculum. This class focuses on the teaching of vocabulary, practice of prerequisite skills and then reteaching of skills to help students gain a solid understanding of mathematical concepts. This class will assist students with study skills, organization and communication.

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## Social Studies

### **Social Studies 6 (Required)**

**Year 6**

This course is designed to create awareness of the world around us and what has helped shaped the world we live in. Sixth grade students will begin the year learning about geography and culture. Students will learn about the first four of the Big Eras of history. Students will examine the regions of US & Canada, Latin America, and Europe & Russia. Within each region students will examine the physical geography, ancient civilizations, culture, and other various topics that pertain to that region.

### **Social Studies 7 (Required)**

**Year 7**

**Prerequisite: Social Studies 6**

This course uses an integrated approach to teach world history, geography, economics, and civics. Students will use the same tools and constructs used by historians and geographers. They will develop an understanding of Ancient World History. Students will learn about people in different countries and how their lives are connected to ours. Further, they will learn about the interaction between humans and the Earth's environment. Students will also develop skills (e.g.: public discourse, decision making, citizen involvement) that will be useful both in school and the adult world. Hopefully, this course will help students become active participants in the world community. Units of study include Habits of Mind, Introduction to Economics, Antarctica, Beginnings of Human Society, Africa, Australia/Oceania, and Asia.

### **History 8 (Required)**

**Year 8**

**Prerequisite: Social Studies 7**

In this course students will continue their study of United States history from the writing of the Constitution through Reconstruction. Geography, government, and economics are integrated within the historical context. Students will also develop reasoned arguments and compose a persuasive essay addressing issues from the past within a historical context. Where appropriate, they will make comparisons to relevant contemporary issues. This course will help students understand themselves better by learning about their roots and create a desire to embrace history and current events as lifelong pursuits. Units of study include Historical Habits of Mind, The Constitution, Jeffersonian and Jacksonian Eras, Slavery in the United States, Westward Expansion, Antebellum Reform Movements, The Civil War and Reconstruction, and an Introduction to the Development of Industrial, Urban, and Global United States.

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## Science

### **Science 6 (Required)**

**Year 6**

During the tenure of this course students will be studying Ecology, Earth science, and Physical science. Specific topics that will be covered include; Ecology; What makes up an ecosystem, the flow of energy through ecosystems, biodiversity in ecosystems, human impact on ecosystems and biodiversity. Earth Science; Weathering and soil, erosion and deposition, fossils and geologic time, rocks and rock cycle, plate tectonics. Physical Science; States of matter, energy transfer, and potential and kinetic energy.

### **Science 7 (Required)**

**Year 7**

**Prerequisite: Science 6**

During this course, students will study the scientific method, physical and chemical changes to matter, physical and chemical properties of the elements on the periodic table, weather and climate, waves and energy, cell functions, cell growth and development, cell reproduction, and photosynthesis and respiration.

### **Science 8 (Required)**

**Year 8**

**Prerequisite: Science 7**

During this course, students will have one semester of Earth Science and one semester of Biology. Earth Science topics include: plate tectonics and how the plate movement contributes to volcanoes and earthquakes in specific areas on Earth's surface; mineral properties and how minerals form; and freshwater sources and water quality. Biology topics include: ecology; the flow of energy; cycles of matter; population growth; biodiversity; classification and plant science.

### **Science Olympiad**

**Semester 8**

The class is designed for the student to explore and apply scientific knowledge and concepts for team competition. Projects involve scientific problem solving, real-life applications of science concepts, and research and exploration of science concepts. The class will also help students learn how to problem solve as a scientific team in order to complete tasks efficiently and successfully. Competitions include (but are not limited to): building and launching rockets, constructing an elastic launched glider, identifying fossils, building a lightweight bridge, demonstrating knowledge of meteorology, etc.

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## Life Skills and Health

### **Life Skills 6 (Required if not taking Band 6)**

**Quarter 6**

In this nine week course students will learn about social and emotional health including health and risks in friendships, managing strong feelings and anger, getting help from others, making healthy decisions, resolving problems conflicts and stress. A safety unit teaches students about car safety, safety in public places, personal safety, safety in school, and internet safety. A unit on substances teaches students about the many risks associated with using drugs. There are two lessons which include HIV/AIDS facts and how to avoid contracting HIV/AIDS.

### **Life Skills 7 (Required)**

**Semester 7**

This 7th grade course is a health that includes lessons on social and emotional health and safety including self-awareness and self-respect, stress management, anger management, communication skills, decision making and problem solving, conflict resolution, violence prevention (including bullying), healthy and unhealthy relationships, and getting and giving help. Other health units include nutrition, tobacco, HIV/AIDS, and drug use. There is also a traditional sewing unit taught where students have the opportunity to make pillows.

### **Foods and Clothing 8**

**Semester 8**

This 8th grade course focuses on nutrition, kitchen/food safety, cooking a variety of recipes, and making pajama bottoms for the sewing project.

### **Advisory 6 (Required)**

**Year 6**

This course is an enrichment class that deals with topics not covered in the core curriculum, such as organizational and study skills, interpersonal skills and bullying, character development, study hall, and silent reading for enjoyment, as well as other supplemental activities. This course helps to create a well-rounded student.

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## Fine Arts

### **Band 6**

**Year 6**

In this two semester course students will learn how to perform on a standard concert band instrument: flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, and percussion. Students will learn how to read music, and no prior music experience is necessary. Students will perform in concerts in October, December, the Day of Music (March), and May. These performances are outside of regular school hours. Students are encouraged to own their own instrument, but it is not a requirement for the class. The goal of this course is to give students enough musical knowledge that they are able to play and perform on any instrument later in life.

### **Band 7/8**

**Year 7 & 8**

The middle school concert band is a year long course offered to 7th and 8th grade students who have passed Beginning Band, or auditioned. Students will learn intermediate performance techniques on standard concert band instruments. Topics also include intermediate music theory and basic music history. Performances outside of the school day are required. Students must have their own instrument (with exceptions-see teacher) and supplies. Solo and ensemble Festival and Honors Band opportunities are available through this course.

### **Choir 7/8**

**Semester 7 and/or**

**8**

This one semester course is for students with a desire to become better vocalists. Students will learn to read music and sing in harmony through warm-ups, technique exercises, and repertoire. This course stresses and practices the importance of good vocal technique. The choir performs at the Day of Music in March and a spring concert in May.

### **Art 6 (Required if not taking Band 6)**

**Quarter 6**

In this nine week course students will learn to appreciate, critique and create artwork. Exploration in drawing, mixed media, and ceramics is the focus. Students will create a realistic landscape and self-portrait, abstract paper sculpture, paper mache mask, and coil pot.

### **Art 7/8 Part A**

**Semester 7 and/or 8**

In this course students will learn to appreciate, critique and create artwork. The curriculum focuses on exploring the Art Elements and Principles of Design. A project will be completed stressing each of the following: line, shape, space, form, texture, value, contrast, movement, rhythm, emphasis, pattern and balance. In addition, students will create two ceramic projects including thrown pottery and ceramics from a mold.

### **Art 7/8 Part B**

**Semester 7 and/or 8**

#### **Prerequisite: Art 7/8 Part A**

In this course students will learn to appreciate, critique and create artwork. The curriculum focuses on exploring art from the beginning of time to present day. Students will create projects emphasizing major art movements, including: Stone Age, Egyptian, Greek & Hellenistic, Renaissance, Impressionism, Fauvism, Cubism, Surrealism, Abstract Expressionism and Contemporary. In addition, students will create two ceramic projects including thrown pottery and ceramics from a mold.

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## Career & Technical Education Electives

### **Computers 6 (Required if not taking Band 6)**

In this nine week course students will learn how to use many different aspects of technology. Students will work closely with the components of Google Drive throughout the quarter. This will include Google Documents, Google Slides, and Google Drawings. Students will apply what they have learned about these programs to create a variety of projects. There will also be units about Internet Safety, Cyberbullying, Creating a Strong Password and increasing their Words per Minute. This course is designed for students to gain a better understanding about the many uses of technology.

### **Career Exploration 8 (Required)**

**Semester 8**

This course has been developed to lead students through a career exploration and development process to learn to make informed decisions when choosing their future career. Students apply technology to learn about themselves and to explore careers suitable to them. Units include: Internet Safety, Globalization, Self-Awareness, Budgeting, College Prep, Researching/Writing skills, Educational Development Plan, and Job Shadowing.

### **Technical Education 7**

**Semester 7**

This course is designed to give students the skills that they will use throughout life and introduce them to different areas of the engineering fields. Students will learn about shop safety, woodworking, designing and engineering of balsa bridges, energy sources and the mechanics of simple machines. Students will be able to build a woodworking project of their choice (teacher approved) and will also be introduced to "destructive testing" to determine the strength of their bridge.

### **Technical Education 8**

**Semester 8**

This course is designed to enhance prior learning and introduce additional areas of the engineering fields. Students will review shop safety, build a woodworking project, design and engineer a balsa tower, learn about solid fuel rockets and study the aerodynamics of a CO<sub>2</sub> dragster. The students will be using "destructive testing:" to determine the strength of the tower, building and launching their solid fuel rockets and designing, building, testing for aerodynamics in a wind tunnel, and racing their CO<sub>2</sub> dragsters.

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## Physical Education Electives

### **PE 6 (Required if not taking Band 6)**

**Quarter 6**

In this nine week course students will participate in a variety of physical activities and sports through which they will develop positive attitudes toward group interaction, sportsmanship, the joy of effort, fair play, cooperation, and an appreciation for the abilities and limitations of self and others. Activities emphasized include: fitness testing, lead-up games, traditional team sports, individual sports, and distance running (one mile). The physical education program is designed to continue development of physical fitness, motor, perception, rhythm, and movement skills.

### **PE 7/8**

**Semester 7 and/or 8**

The seventh and eighth grade Physical Education Program emphasizes refinement of skills learned in the previous grade. A greater understanding of game strategies is developed. Continued emphasis is placed on good sportsmanship, personal responsibility, and attaining a higher level of personal fitness. A variety of activities are offered in hopes of developing lifelong physical activity. This course is a semester course but can be repeated by 7th and 8th graders.

### **Lifetime Fitness 7/8**

**Semester 7 and/or 8**

This course is a self-paced aerobic and weight training program designed to improve the cardiovascular system and improve muscular endurance utilizing circuit training. Emphasis is placed on the individual's overall well being through exercise and noncompetitive sports. Students will learn the components of health-related fitness and benefits. Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge in the area of fitness, focusing on the components: strength, flexibility, muscular strength, muscular endurance, and cardio-respiratory endurance. Students will design a personalized fitness program based on their current fitness status, age, personal fitness goals, and choice of activity. Students will learn how to apply various strategies for managing stress, understand the value and elements of proper nutrition and weight management, and develop self-confidence and self-responsibility.

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## World Culture

### **Introduction to French Culture**

**Semester 8**

Introduction to French Language and Culture is a semester class where students will explore basic French vocabulary (greetings, food, numbers, etc.) and culture aspects (customs, traditions, similarities and differences between American and French cultures, etc.). This is a great introductory level course for students who think they may be interested in continuing French studies at the high school level.

### **Introduction to Spanish Culture**

**Semester 8**

Introduction to Spanish Language and Culture is a semester class where students will explore basic Spanish vocabulary (greetings, food, numbers, etc.) and culture aspects (customs, traditions, similarities and differences between American and Spanish cultures, etc.). This is a great introductory level course for students who think they may be interested in continuing Spanish studies at the high school level.

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## Counselor Assigned Options

### **Peer2Peer Mentoring Program**

**Semester 8**

In this course mentors are paired with a special needs student and attend a class with them - either a general education core class, an elective or in the categorical special needs classroom. Mentors assist the peer in class by helping them stay on task, take notes, complete assignments, encourage participation, and keep them involved with the class. Mentors have weekly assignments and reflections designed to help them develop skills and strategies to best help these students.

### **Career Exploration: Independent Study**

**Semester 8**

This course is available to Peer2Peer Mentors that would choose to assist a peer in place of the Career Exploration class. Students will enroll in a Career Exploration Google Classroom that will include assignments that they will be responsible for during their personal time. Assignments include identifying a career pathway and development of their EDP.