



**Fremont Middle School  
Course Catalog**



**Mission:**

Fremont Middle School strives to nurture in all students a sense of responsibility and love of learning due to an enhanced self-esteem and commitment to productive, life-long learning.

**Table of Contents**

**Sixth Grade**..... 2

**Core Curricular Classes** ..... 2

**Co-Curricular Classes**..... 3

**Support Classes** ..... 4

**Seventh Grade** ..... 6

**Core Curricular Classes** ..... 6

**Co-Curricular Classes**..... 7

**Support Classes** ..... 8

**Eighth Grade** ..... 10

**Core Curricular Classes** ..... 10

**Co-Curricular Classes**..... 11

**Support Classes** ..... 13

**Extra-Curricular Activities**.....14

## Sixth Grade

### Core Curricular Classes

#### English Language Arts:

This class will help lay the foundation for students' middle-level writing skills. Students will read short stories, novels, and the class novel *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*. Through these stories, students will learn basic literature elements and reading strategies. Students will also explore information text through text structures as well as highlighting and annotating. Also, students will conduct research to create a technology-based argumentative essay as well as a research project on an influential person. The basic elements of complete sentences as well as basic grammar and mechanics will be covered throughout the year. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to do narrative writing through a personal narrative.

#### Geography:

World Geography will start by covering the five themes of geography: Location, Place, Human-Environment Interaction, Movement, and Region. Every theme will be in a separate unit with each theme building on the previous one. There will also be a separate unit covering basic civic understanding in which students will address different government types, philosophies, and cultural makeups of multiple governments in both the past and present. Economics will be addressed after the Civics unit to understand how world markets reflect the social structures of their countries as well as how change is driven by a need in a market economy.

#### Math:

Instructional time will focus on four critical areas: The students will connect ratios and rates to whole number multiplication and division and use concepts of ratios and rates to solve problems. The students will complete their understanding of division of fractions and extend their understanding of numbers to include the system of rational numbers, including negative numbers. The students will write and interpret expressions and begin solving equations with one variable. The students will begin to develop an understanding of statistical variability and learn how to describe data distributions. Throughout the course, students will continue to develop number sense and have numerous opportunities to use math to solve real-world problems.

#### Advanced Math:

6th grade advanced students cover all the 6th grade standards and a portion of the 7th grade standards while in 6th grade. Students will still develop the procedural fluency, conceptual understanding, and application of the standards through focus, coherence, and rigor, but at a pace that will allow them to take advanced math courses in high school.

#### Science:

Students will be using the Mi-STAR curriculum that supports both the NGSS and the Michigan State Standards, while empowering students to use science and engineering practices to address real-world issues. This curriculum supports students' ability to think critically, ask questions, use and interpret data, develop conclusions and provide reasoning using evidence. Topics include the water cycle, chemical reactions, body systems and digestion, energy, ecosystems and biological energy, and the cycling of matter.

### **Co-Curricular Classes**

#### Art:

This is a nine-week exploratory class designed to help improve students' basic art skills; drawing, painting and ceramics, design artwork using a variety of media and techniques, develop students' creativity and self-expression, and recognize and use the art elements (line, shape, color, value, form, texture and space), and design principles (rhythm, balance, proportion, variety, emphasis, harmony and unity).

#### Band:

This course is designed to teach students interested in playing a percussion, brass, or woodwind instrument. Developing basic musicianship skills is the priority at the 6th-grade level. Students will learn how to read music, make characteristic sounds on the instruments, and perform beginning level music.

#### Computers:

Students in the computer class will expand their knowledge of various types of computer application and software while improving problem solving skills. Students will practice using the applications and software through project-based learning. Students will use several of the following applications: applications from Google Workspace, Microsoft Office 365, Scratch, Code.org, and SketchUp.

#### Health:

All sixth graders will take health for one nine-week marking period. The class gives an overview of the three dimensions of health (physical, social, & mental/emotional). Covered are a variety of topics including, but not limited to: nutrition, exercise, drugs, alcohol, and tobacco use, communication skills, safety, relationships, emotions, hygiene, stress, disease prevention, and growth and development/puberty.

#### Orchestra:

6th Grade orchestra is a beginner level course designed to teach students how to play string instruments and read music. Students will choose to play the violin, viola, cello, or bass. Among the many skills we learn the first year in orchestra are how to care for the instrument, how to play notes, hold the bow, read, and perform music. The school year

culminates in a year end concert where we discover the joy of performing together and share our skills with relatives, friends, and the community.

#### Physical Education (Boys):

The focus of physical education will be to teach students the importance of and how to exercise. There will be a daily exercise portion at the beginning of class, as well as a variety of games and activities that teach sportsmanship and teamwork. The five main areas of focus throughout each marking period will be Best Effort, Sportsmanship, Teamwork, Kindness, and Personal Responsibility.

#### Physical Education (Girls):

Physical Education focuses on the development of basic skills for use in cooperative and competitive small-group modified games/activities as well as the improvement of physical fitness levels. Emphasis is on participation, sportsmanship and getting along with peers, and skill development. Each class starts with a 10-minute warm-up to get the heartrate up. The warm-up focuses on cardio fitness and core strength. Every week a different game/activity is played, such as basketball, ultimate football, kickball, soccer, tennis, volleyball, hockey, pickleball and more.

#### Science Olympiad:

Students will engage in hands-on experience learning topics in the field of science and engineering that are not a part of the regular science curriculum. This course is project and participation based and works to help develop team building and collaboration skills. In addition, students will gain skills to think critically and creatively. Topics may include forensics, energy transfer (roller coaster building), environmental studies and disease detective.

### **Support Classes**

#### Math Enrichment:

This class is designed to help students improve their computation skills, mathematical reasoning, and number sense. Students get more repetitions with the standards being taught in class through math games, the use of technology tools, and textbook resources. This class is designed for those students who need extra time and assistance on homework completion, more repetitions to solidify their learning, and to help build their confidence.

#### Reading Enrichment:

This class is designed to help students improve their reading skills and comprehension. Students work independently several times a week, using a program called Fast ForWord. Fast ForWord is an evidence-based, adaptive reading and language program for struggling learners. It was chosen by our district because of its unique brain-based approach that targets the root causes of reading difficulties and delivers lasting results that make better readers and lifelong learners. Time is also spent enjoying fiction and

nonfiction text in a small group setting. Students work on setting goals, completing assignments from core classes, and becoming more aware of time management and organizational skills.

#### Workshop:

**Full-Time:** This program is designed for students with documented disabilities who receive services for special education. Students meet for one class period daily. They receive assistance with their assignments and work to improve their reading skills through the Fast ForWord program, if necessary. A student may be moved to the pull-out program if deemed necessary.

**Pull-Out:** This program is designed for students with documented disabilities who receive services for special education. Students will be pulled from a co-curricular class if there is a need for the student to receive assistance on their assignments and/or tests. A student may be moved into the full-time program if deemed necessary.

#### Resource Room:

This program is for students who need more intensive instruction in a smaller group setting. Classes will be for the four core academic areas: math, science, ELA, and social studies. A student may be in all four classes or just one based upon their needs. Students will still take co-curriculars. Students in this program generally do not receive a high school diploma.

## Seventh Grade

### Core Curricular Classes

#### English Language Arts:

This class will continue to develop reading and writing skills. Students will read a variety of genres through literature circles, short stories, and reading *Fever 1793* while responding to literature, exploring literature elements, and making connections to real life. Students will also explore information text through research, structure, and annotation. Focus will be given to studying and applying conventions of good writing through a health-related argumentative essay, fictional narrative writing, poetry, and a ‘how it works’ research project. Complex sentences are also a writing focus.

#### Math:

Instructional time will focus on four critical areas: The students will develop an understanding of and apply proportional relationships. The students will develop an understanding of operations with rational numbers and will work with expressions and linear equations. The students will solve problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and work with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume. The students will draw inferences about populations based on samples. Throughout the course, students will continue to develop number sense and have numerous opportunities to use math to solve real-world problems.

#### Advanced Math:

7th grade advanced math is a continuation of 6th grade advanced math. The remaining 7th grade standards and all the 8th grade standards will be covered, preparing the students to take algebra in 8th grade. Students will still develop the procedural fluency, conceptual understanding, and application of the standards through focus, coherence, and rigor, but at a pace that will allow them to take advanced math courses in high school.

#### Science:

Students will actively engage in hands-on learning combined with video, lecture, modeling and scientific argument. The main goal is to help students to develop the ability to think and communicate using evidence and reason. The Mi-STAR science curriculum is used to help students strengthen these skills. Topics of study include: generating electrical energy, motion, volcanos, plate tectonics, thermal energy, matter, chemistry, weathering/erosion, rocks, and inheritance of traits.

#### World History:

In 7th grade world history students will be focusing on the time period of about 25,000 BCE until about 1500 CE. This will include Peopling the Earth and Paleolithic/Neolithic Revolution. It will also include River Valley Civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Indus, and Huang He civilizations. Classic civilizations of Ancient Greece, Rome, and

Mesoamerica are also covered. Additionally, students will learn the history of major world religions.

### **Co-Curricular Classes**

#### **Art:**

This is a nine week exploratory class designed to help improve students' basic art skills; drawing, painting and ceramics, design artwork using a variety of media and techniques, develop students' creativity and self-expression, and recognize and use the art elements (line, shape, color, value, form, texture and space), and design principles (rhythm, balance, proportion, variety, emphasis, harmony and unity).

#### **Band:**

Developing basic musicianship skills continues to be a priority at the 7th-grade level. Students will begin to use more articulations, perform scales and music in different key signatures, practice increasingly new rhythms, and perform music at a higher level of difficulty. Ensemble skills will become more developed as students participate in full band settings.

#### **Computers:**

Students in the computer class will expand their knowledge of various types of computer applications and software while improving problem solving skills. Students will practice using the applications and software through project-based learning. Students will use several of the following applications: applications from Google Workspace, Microsoft Office 365, Scratch, Code.org, and SketchUp.

#### **FFA:**

This class is an introduction to the National FFA organization including the history, functions, and the opportunities offered through this program. The National FFA organization ties both agriculture and leadership together. Some of the major units we cover are what FFA is and the basics behind it, public speaking, parliamentary procedure, and agricultural interest projects. Students will learn real life skills that will help them both in high school and when they become adults. There will also be opportunities to experience FFA outside of the classroom with a visit to the FFA barn and the opportunity to compete in events against other middle school FFA chapters.

#### **Life Skills:**

The goals for Life Skills Class in 7th Grade are to help create more independent kids. The class teaches students skills that prepare them for adulthood. Topics of study include reading and making recipes, cleaning, household/personal finance, kitchen skills, team/group dynamics, and other household skills.



#### Orchestra:

Both 7th and 8th grade orchestras are continuing education courses. Students will build on prior knowledge of proper technique, note reading, and performance. The student is taught a broader range of musical note reading such as dynamic range, more advanced rhythms, key signatures, and playing techniques. Students in this class perform throughout the entire school year at events such as Solo & Ensemble contest, Honors Orchestra, District Festival, and community concerts.

#### Physical Education (Boys):

The focus of physical education will be to teach students the importance of and how to exercise. There will be a daily exercise portion at the beginning of class, as well as a variety of games and activities that teach sportsmanship and teamwork. The five main areas of focus throughout each marking period will be Best Effort, Sportsmanship, Teamwork, Kindness, and Personal Responsibility.

#### Physical Education (Girls):

Physical Education focuses on the development of basic skills for use in cooperative and competitive small-group modified games/activities as well as the improvement of physical fitness levels. Emphasis is on participation, sportsmanship and getting along with peers, and skill development. Each class starts with a 10-minute warm-up to get the heartrate up. The warm-up focuses on cardio fitness and core strength. Every week a different game/activity is played, such as basketball, ultimate football, kickball, soccer, tennis, volleyball, hockey, pickleball and more.

### **Support Classes**

#### Math Enrichment:

This class is designed to help students improve their computation skills, mathematical reasoning, and number sense. Students get more repetitions with the standards being taught in class through math games, the use of technology tools, and textbook resources. This class is designed for those students who need extra time and assistance on homework completion, more repetitions to solidify their learning, and to help build their confidence.

#### Reading Enrichment:

This class is designed to help students improve their reading skills and comprehension. Students work independently several times a week, using a program called Fast ForWord. Fast ForWord is an evidence-based, adaptive reading and language program for struggling learners. It was chosen by our district because of its unique brain-based approach that targets the root causes of reading difficulties and delivers lasting results that make better readers and lifelong learners. Time is also spent enjoying fiction and nonfiction text in a small group setting. Students work on setting goals, completing

assignments from core classes, and becoming more aware of time management and organizational skills.

**Workshop:**

**Full-Time:** This program is designed for students with documented disabilities who receive services for special education. Students meet for one class period daily. They receive assistance with their assignments and work to improve their reading skills through the Fast ForWord program, if necessary. A student may be moved to the pull-out program if deemed necessary.

**Pull-Out:** This program is designed for students with documented disabilities who receive services for special education. Students will be pulled from a co-curricular class if there is a need for the student to receive assistance on their assignments and/or tests. A student may be moved into the full-time program if deemed necessary.

**Resource Room:**

This program is for students who need more intensive instruction in a smaller group setting. Classes will be for the four core academic areas: math, science, ELA, and social studies. A student may be in all four classes or just one based upon their needs. Students will still take co-curriculars. Students in this program generally do not receive a high school diploma.

## **Eighth Grade**

### **Core Curricular Classes**

#### **Algebra:**

Algebra is a full year course and is the beginning of the Algebra-Geometry-Advanced Algebra class sequence. As a formal algebra course, Algebra includes the study of linear equations, systems of equations and inequalities, as well as quadratic and exponential equations. You must be in the advanced math track to take this class.

#### **American History:**

Students will learn about the early history of the United States. We will begin with a review of Early Colonization, and then the lead up to The Revolutionary War. The class then progresses chronologically through the formation of the United States Constitution, early presidents, expansion and finally the Civil War. The class will end on the topic of Reconstruction. Geography, civics, and economics content is integrated within the study of U.S. History. Students will gain practice in reading for information, research skills and inquiry practices throughout the year

#### **English Language Arts:**

This class prepares students with the reading and writing skills they need to be successful at the high school level. Students will actively engage with both fiction and nonfiction text in literature circles, articles, and the reading of “Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglas” and *The Giver*. Additionally, students will be required to support their claims in well-organized essays, research papers, and oral presentations. Students will also focus on comparing and contrasting through writing as well as mystery/suspense narrative. Writing skills will also focus on phrases and clauses as well as complex sentences.

#### **Math:**

Instructional time will focus on three critical areas. The students will formulate and reason about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations. The students will grasp the concept of a function and use functions to describe quantitative relationships. The students will analyze two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem. Throughout the course, students will continue to develop number sense and have numerous opportunities to use math to solve real-world problems.

#### **Science:**

Eighth grade science in an integrated program of instruction. Physical, Life, and Earth Science are integrated into each of the eight units of study. Fremont Middle School has adopted the MiStar middle school science curriculum which presents science content as students use their understanding to solve a challenge scenario for each unit. The units taught are: adaptation and natural selection, fossils, rocks and change, sound and light,

force of gravity in solar system motions, regional climate & weather, reducing the impact of natural hazards, and global climate change.

### **Co-Curricular Classes**

#### **Band:**

Advancing musicianship skills is top priority at the 8th-grade level. Students will begin to use more articulations, perform scales and music in different key signatures, practice increasingly new rhythms, and perform music at a higher level of difficulty. Ensemble skills will become more developed as students participate in full band settings.

#### **Computers:**

Students in the computer class will expand their knowledge of various types of computer applications and software while improving problem solving skills. Students will practice using the applications and software through project-based learning. Students will use several of the following applications: applications from Google Workspace, Microsoft Office 365, Scratch, Code.org, and SketchUp.

#### **Drawing:**

This course focuses on the development of observational skills and drawing techniques, employing a wide range of drawing media. Students in this course will develop both technical abilities and creative responses to material and subject matter.

#### **Orchestra:**

Both 7th and 8th grade orchestras are continuing education courses. Students will build on prior knowledge of proper technique, note reading, and performance. The student is taught a broader range of musical note reading such as dynamic range, more advanced rhythms, key signatures, and playing techniques. Students in this class perform throughout the entire school year at events such as Solo & Ensemble contest, Honors Orchestra, District Festival, and community concerts.

#### **Ecology:**

In this class, students will be learning about the diverse habitats found in Michigan. We will examine the plants and animals that are unique to the aquatic, wetland, forests and open area habitats.

#### **Environmental Studies:**

In this class, students will be learning about issues facing our global environment. We will examine issues facing the Amazon rainforest, world water sources, wildfires, and other issues facing our planet. Students will complete a passion project, where they will research and present on an environmental topic.

### Painting:

Students will be guided through a series of weekly and bi-weekly projects concerning visual expression. These projects will further advance understanding of the formal elements of drawing through acrylic and watercolor paints. Students will learn the basics of color theory, color mixing and paint applications. There will be a focus on creative approaches to observational work through reference photos, still-life and tutorials with an emphasis on representational art making with subjects stemming from objects, landscapes, and spaces physically seen.

### Photography:

This class is designed for students with little to no experience with photography. The following will be covered: the 35mm camera and its workings, film, film exposure and development, the darkroom, chemistry and safety in the darkroom, the enlarger, printing and finishing, mounting and displaying, print response and judgment. This information will be introduced in a series of exploratory exercises that increase in difficulty.

### Physical Education (Boys):

The focus of physical education will be to teach students the importance of and how to exercise. There will be a daily exercise portion at the beginning of class, as well as a variety of games and activities that teach sportsmanship and teamwork. The five main areas of focus throughout each marking period will be Best Effort, Sportsmanship, Teamwork, Kindness, and Personal Responsibility.

### Physical Education (Girls):

Physical Education focuses on the development of basic skills for use in cooperative and competitive small-group modified games/activities as well as the improvement of physical fitness levels. Emphasis is on participation, sportsmanship and getting along with peers, and skill development. Each class starts with a 10-minute warm-up to get the heartrate up. The warm-up focuses on cardio fitness and core strength. Every week a different game/activity is played, such as basketball, ultimate football, kickball, soccer, tennis, volleyball, hockey, pickleball and more.

### Pottery & Sculpture:

This is a ceramics-pottery class designed for acquiring knowledge and skills in clay. Students will be introduced to all basic aspects of sculptural and functional pottery and be able to produce it. Students will learn the coil pot and slab build construction methods. Students will practice using ceramic tools properly. Students will learn several glazing techniques, basics of bisque, and glaze firing. Students will learn and understand vocabulary pertaining to ceramics media.

### Robotics:

In this class, students will learn basic robotics programming and construction with Vex Robotics kits. Students will build and program several robots to solve various problems. Along with solving problems, students will rethink mechanical concepts and programming to improve processes to increase efficiency.

### Social Survival Skills:

In this class, we will discuss what it means to become a good human being. You will become aware of how the teenage brain works, what to do if you encounter various social situations, and hopefully develop empathy for your fellow humans. Topics of study include brain development, sleep patterns, technology use, communication skills, stress, social/emotional intelligence, friendships, bullying, mental health, substance abuse, empathy, and disability awareness.

## Support Classes

### Math Enrichment:

This class is designed to provide support for students following the 8th grade math curriculum. There is a daily focus on pre-requisite math skills, homework completion, problem-solving strategies and test-taking skills. Pre-teaching and re-teaching of skills and concepts is also used to help reinforce the successful completion of grade level outcomes.

### Reading Enrichment:

This class is designed to help students improve their reading skills and comprehension. Students work independently several times a week, using a program called Fast ForWord. Fast ForWord is an evidence-based, adaptive reading and language program for struggling learners. It was chosen by our district because of its unique brain-based approach that targets the root causes of reading difficulties and delivers lasting results that make better readers and lifelong learners. Time is also spent enjoying fiction and nonfiction text in a small group setting. Students work on setting goals, completing assignments from core classes, and becoming more aware of time management and organizational skills.

### Workshop:

**Full-Time:** This program is designed for students with documented disabilities who receive services for special education. Students meet for one class period daily. They receive assistance with their assignments and work to improve their reading skills through the Fast ForWord program, if necessary. A student may be moved to the pull-out program if deemed necessary.

**Pull-Out:** This program is designed for students with documented disabilities who receive services for special education. Students will be pulled from a co-curricular class

if there is a need for the student to receive assistance on their assignments and/or tests. A student may be moved into the full-time program if deemed necessary.

#### Resource Room:

This program is for students who need more intensive instruction in a smaller group setting. Classes will be for the four core academic areas: math, science, ELA, and social studies. A student may be in all four classes or just one based upon their needs. Students will still take co-curriculars. Students in this program generally do not receive a high school diploma.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

#### **Athletics**

Cross Country (6,7,8)  
Football (7,8)  
Volleyball (7,8)  
Girls Basketball (7,8)  
Boys Basketball (7,8)  
Wrestling (6,7,8)  
Swimming (6,7,8)  
Track and Field (6,7,8)

#### **Other Extra-Curricular Opportunities**

Student Council  
Theater  
Talent Show  
Quiz Bowl  
Art Club  
Beaver Island Group  
Friendship City Exchange  
Fremont Rainforest Program  
Speak Up  
Science Olympiad Team