**8th Grade Educational Development Plan & Course Description**

**2016-2017 Surline Middle School**

**8th Grade Classes**

1. All 8th graders will have one class period all year long of the following **required classes**:

* ELA (English/Language Arts)

Throughout the year, students will explore characters, plots, and settings through reading a variety of novels and short stories. Perspective and author’s purpose will be examined in works of fiction and nonfiction. Writing will focus on developing strong arguments, research skills, creative narratives, and citing textual evidence.

* Social Studies

In 8th grade social studies, we study the history of our nation.  We start with a short review of 5th-grade studies about the original 13 colonies and look at ideas and experiences that influenced the colonists to declare independence from Great Britain.  We then study the challenges during the birth of our country, which led to the adoption of our current U.S. Constitution.  We learn about regional and economic growth, as well as reforms that led to the Civil War.  We end our year with the Reconstruction Period of America in the last half of the 19th Century.  Throughout the school year, we use our own set of chrome books to enhance our exploration and analysis of America's past, present, and possible future .

* Science

This course is designed to provide a hands-on approach to learning using collaboration and the scientific process. Major topics covered include waves and energy, physical and chemical properties, changes in matter, Earth's systems and human activities.

* Math---either 8th grade Pre-algebra or 8th grade Algebra (which students qualify for based on factors such as: state standardized tests scores, report card grades and teacher input)
  + 8th grade Pre-algebra

The focus is 8th grade Common Core Standards: exponents, scientific notation, real number system, transformations, similarity, dilations, linear functions and geometry formulas.

* + 8th grade Algebra

This is a high school level class that focuses on solving equations, linear functions, quadratic functions and trig functions. This class counts as a high school course and will count towards high school GPA.

* Special Education---If students require special education support, they will receive extra help from special education teacher and parapros within the regular education classrooms as indicated on the IEP’s.

1. All 8th graders will have a required “**rotation class**” (which rotates every 12 weeks).

In some order, 8th graders will have 12 weeks each of:

* PE

This class includes both games and goals. Letter grades (A,B,C,D,E) are given for the jump rope unit and the half miles run. Other activities include: President’s Council of Physical Fitness testing, circuit training, basketball, indoor soccer, lacrosse, flag & sideline football, broomball, field hockey, floor hockey, volleyball and dodgeball.

* IT-8 (Instructional Technology/Computers)

IT 8  will focus on reviewing some of the mid-level Word features and be introduced to some more advanced features that will help them particularly in typing research papers.  We will spend time in Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint and continue the careers unit.  Students will continue working on improving their typing skills.

* Spanish (which if successfully completed between 7th & 8th grades fulfills the foreign language requirement of the MI Merit Curriculum for high school graduation)

This course will reinforce skills learned in 7th Grade Spanish: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. They will also continue to understand grammar concepts, vocabulary, and Hispanic culture. Students who pass 8th Grade Spanish and demonstrate proficiency on World Language Standards in their 7th grade Social Studies class will receive credit for completing the Michigan State Board of Education’s World Language Requirement of proficiency fulfilling the world language requirement for graduation at Surline Middle School.

1. All 8th graders will have a 30 minute **intervention class**—designed to improve ELA and math skills.
2. All 8th graders will have one hour each school day all year long of an **enrichment class**.

Below is a list of the enrichment classes available to 8th grade students at this time for the next school year. These classes are called enrichments because we believe that any class you are assigned will “enrich” your education. We try to offer a wide variety of enrichment classes.

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**(LAST NAME) (FIRST NAME)**

**\*\*\*Please check from the following for your enrichment class for 8th grade:**

\_\_\_\_\_**I am currently a band student and I would like to continue with band**. I understand that it is a FULL YEAR class and that I will be in band class all year long. There are outside of school performances and uniforms required for performances.

8th grade band students perform two concerts each year, one being in December and the other in the Spring.  8th grade band gets to perform at District 9 Band Festival every year.  Also, in addition we have added a Middle School Jazz Band which rehearses once a week during the winter and is open to 7th and 8th grade students.

---------------------------------------------------------OR--------------------------------------------------------------------------------

\_\_\_\_\_**I would like to participate in choir class**. I understand that it is a FULL YEAR class and that I will be in choir class all year long. There are outside of school performances and uniforms required for performances.

Choir class offers students a chance to develop their singing voices, to learn about how music is put together and to perform with a fantastic group of students. We sing a variety of music in concerts, in school and community events and have a great time making music together.

---------------------------------------------------------OR--------------------------------------------------------------------------------

\_\_\_\_\_**I would like to participate in LINKS class**. I understand that it is a FULL YEAR class and that I will be in LINKS class all year long. As a LINK I will be guiding and working with a student with an Individual Educational Plan and will be expected to lead as well as take direction from the supervising staff. Students who mark this choice will need to get a form to participate from the counselor. Teacher recommendation is required.

The purpose of the LINKS/Peer to Peer support class is to provide opportunities for general education students to learn to relate to people with different needs and develop an increased understanding of individual differences. LINKS are matched with a student with an IEP and asked to model and reinforce socialization and independence skills.

---------------------------------------------------------OR--------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Students who have not selected from the above class choices will have 2 semester Exploration classes (half-year). Students will rank those following classes from #1 (most wanted) to #4 (least wanted) for themselves.

The choices are listed below with a brief overview.

As we schedule, our goal is to schedule students to their most desired classes as room allows.

PLEASE ALSO NOTE THAT TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS MAY CHANGE FROM YEAR TO YEAR; A TEACHER INSTRUCTING A CLASS THIS YEAR MIGHT NOT TEACH THE SAME CLASS NEXT YEAR. Do not base course preferences on the teacher.

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**(LAST NAME) (FIRST NAME)**

**[Rank from #1 (most desired class) to #4 (least desired class).]**

\_\_\_\_\_EXPLORE: Art

Students will be exploring many types of media with focus on different artists styles.  Elements and Principles of design will be discussed with projects with design related problems to solve.  Various media for these projects include ink washing, pen and ink sketches, pen work with a haiku poem, colored pencils, watercolors, cardboard for a relief, pastels, painting, continuing work on throwing clay on the wheel and a 3-D sculpting project.

\_\_\_\_\_EXPLORE: Music and Dance

Students will learn some dance styles (for instance: line-dancing) and have fun moving to music.

\_\_\_\_\_EXPLORE: Multi-Cultural Drumming

Students will identify the parts of the drum, the history and usage of African drums, master 6 basic drumming patterns, read and notate drumming patterns, perform his part in an ensemble and participate in a drumming performance.

\_\_\_\_\_EXPLORE: Communications

Students will work on the art of communication. Students will have opportunities to work with partners, small groups and the whole group. Students give presentations on projects that have been completed, do activities where they need to communicate to succeed, and focus on skills within all aspects of communication that will makes them better communicators, be it listening, writing, or speaking.

**Academic Strategies**---A student may be assigned this year long class based on their IEP.

We have read and understand the 8th grade classes at Surline Middle School. We have discussed these classes together and agree with what has been marked on this paper.

STUDENT SIGNATURE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

DATE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please:**

* **Tear off** the back page on which you have written. **Keep** the first page if you have any questions about your classes when you get your schedule.
* **Return** the back page to your **1st hour teacher** by **Friday,** **May 13, 2016**.