

2020-21 Shelby Middle School Course Catalog

Approved by the Shelby Board of Education on September 21, 2020

ARTADV ADVANCED ART 78 This class is for the serious artist who wants to gain more art skills. Students must have passed ART 7/8 previously.

MTHADV6A/B/C ADVANCED MATH 6A/B/C Instruction will focus on four areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division; (2) completing the understanding of the four basic operations in fractions and decimals; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing and justifying formulas for areas of triangles and special quadrilaterals. In addition, students will extend their previous understanding of numbers to include negative integers.

MTHADV7A/B/C ADVANCED MATH 7A/B/C Students will focus time in four areas: developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships, developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations, solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and drawing inferences about populations based on samples. In addition, students will be developing understanding of complex linear equations and grasping the concept of a function.

8ALGEBRA1/2/3 ALGEBRA 8A/B/C The high school standards cover all the mathematics that all students should study in order to be college and career ready. This includes content that students should learn in order to take advanced courses such as calculus, advanced statistics, or discrete mathematics. These standards that focus our learning are as follows and are grouped in conceptual categories: Number and Quantity, Algebra, Functions, Modeling, Geometry, Statistics and Probability. These conceptual categories portray a coherent view of high school mathematics.

8SS1/ 8SS2/ 8SS3 AMERICAN HISTORY 8A/ 8B/ 8C The focus of eighth grade social studies is American history from the foundation through Reconstruction. Significant people, events, and ideas are explored as students investigate, analyze, and interpret evidence about the past. While this is a history course, other social studies disciplines will be incorporated throughout the course such as civics, political science, economics, and geography. Similarly, we will be focusing on developing transferable skills such as evaluating evidence, constructing academic arguments, map reading, and content literacy skills.

BAND60 BAND 6 The 6th grade beginning band is an introductory course to ensemble playing and owning an instrument. Students start on Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, or Trombone and can eventually advance to other various instruments in the ensemble. If the students stay in this ensemble they will advance to the Cadet Band the next school year.

BAND70 BAND 7 Students move into the next level of band to practice and perform with other 7th grade musicians. Open to all 6th grade band students and by audition.

BAND80 BAND 8 Students move into the next level of band to practice and perform with other 8th grade musicians.

CHOIR61 CHOIR 6 This entry level choir gives interested students a well rounded vocal music experience. We will sing a wide variety of vocal music, including choral, pop, jazz, world music,

Broadway, and more. We will study the basics of music literacy and music theory so students can read, compose, and evaluate written music. Vocal music is meant to be shared with an audience, so we have two concerts each year as part of our required curriculum. This is a great class for anyone interested in singing, and will develop students as musicians.

CHOIR70 CHOIR 7 This group is designed to build and develop each student's singing voice, as well as increase choral music understanding and musical literacy. We will perform a virtual concerts this year. No previous choral experience needed.

CHOIR80 CHOIR 8 This group is designed to build and develop each student's singing voice, as well as increase choral music understanding and musical literacy. We will perform a virtual concerts this year. No previous choral experience needed.

COM200 COMPUTER SCIENCE DISCOVERIES A Computer Science Discoveries is an introductory course that empowers students to engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, programming, user centered design, physical computing and data. Students will build their own websites, apps, animations, games and physical computing systems. Code.org Units 1&2

COM205 COMPUTER SCIENCE DISCOVERIES B Computer Science Discoveries is an introductory course that empowers students to engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, programming, user centered design, physical computing and data. Students will build their own websites, apps, animations, games and physical computing systems. Code.org Units 3&4

CUREV CURRENT EVENTS 8 The focus of eighth grade current events is keeping up with the happenings around us. We will look at local, state, national and international events. Similarly, we will be focusing on developing transferable skills such as evaluating evidence, constructing academic arguments, map reading, and content literacy skills

ART060 DRAWING Drawing focus on drawing two-dimensional work, students typically work with several media (such as pen-and-ink, pencil, chalk, and so on), but some courses may focus on only one medium.

ENG080 FOLK TALES Explore the history of stories passed down through the generations.

ELE090 FRESHMAN ACADEMY Freshman Academy will go over important high school changes that middle schoolers need to know coming in the following year. We will cover student responsibilities, high school handbook rules and policies, academic resources as well as courses required for graduation.

HLTH HEALTH The lessons in Middle School Health are designed to promote awareness of physical, mental, emotional and social developmental needs for optimal health throughout life. This course is designed to assist each student in developing and maintaining a lifestyle that promotes wellness by providing accurate and up-to-date health related information as the foundation for making educated, responsible, and healthy personal health decisions.

SST080 HISTORICAL FICTION AND CINEMA This is a fun class where you look at History through the lens of a movie camera. We rocket back to prehistoric times and then cruise forward to modern day times looking at important events by reading captions from great books and watching fascinating parts of fictional accounts of History on the big screen.

HSBAND HS BAND C In Term 3, 8th grade Cadet Bands students will join the High School Band to begin working on Marching Band techniques.

LA6S LANGUAGE ARTS 6 TEXT is one marking period class required for every 6th grade student (this is in addition to the core language arts class.) It is modeled after the program **AARI**. The Adolescent Accelerated Reading Initiative intensive intervention that accelerates expository reading comprehension and critical thinking in informational text. In this class we only use nonfiction text while learning/using different text structures. We work on improving nonfiction comprehension and vocabulary.

6LA/6LA2/6LA3 LANGUAGE ARTS 6A/B/C the integrated study of reading, writing, speaking and listening. Classic and contemporary short stories, poems and novels, as well as nonfiction selections will be used to reach the reading and writing processes. Heavy emphasis is placed on close textual analysis and critical thinking skills. Units of study include narrative writing/reading, research-based essays, argument, literary analysis, and literature circles. Technology will be used for collaboration and publication. Finally, independent reading is a major expectation of this course. All students need to read daily.

7LA/7LA2/7LA3 LANGUAGE ARTS 7A/B/C Students will: 1. Read text to determine Key Ideas and Details; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions. 2. Determine and analyze central ideas of a text, summarize the key supporting details and ideas. 3. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text. Craft and Structure 4. Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone. 5. Analyze the structure of texts for point of view and purpose. Integration of Knowledge and Ideas 7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse formats and media. 8. Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text. 9. Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics. 10. Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

7SCIENCE/7SCIENCE2/7SCIENCE3 LIFE SCIENCE 7A/B/C In this course students will examine the essential molecules for life, discover the inner-working of cells, explain heredity through the lens of adaptation and evolving, and the impacts of weather and climate. They will have the opportunity to participate in labs, establish understanding and critical thinking in project scenarios, and find real-world application in the world around them. Students will leave this course with a better understanding of the living world and community that they are a part of.

SCI080 LIVING THINGS AND THEIR INTERACTIONS This course is an overview-look at living things. It will focus on characteristics of groups of living things. It will emphasize the crazy diversity of the animal kingdom and a basic look at plants. This is not a lab emphasis science course

6MTH6/7/8 MATH 6A/B/C In Grade 6, instruction will focus on four areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division; (2) completing the understanding

of the four basic operations in fractions and decimals; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing and justifying formulas for areas of triangles and special quadrilaterals.

7MATHEXT MATH 7 EXTENSION Students will deepen their understanding and application of area and perimeter of polygons, circumference of circles, and surface area and volume of three dimensional figures.

7MATH6/7/8 MATH 7A/B/C Students will focus time in three areas: developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships, developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations, and solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions. All the while, students will be reviewing basic skills necessary to be successful this year as well as moving forward.

8MATHEXT MATH 8 EXTENSION This class focuses on the transformations of geometric figures and the use of geometric formulas to find totals such as volume, surface area, etc. We also look at angles and angle relationships both as angles formed by parallel lines cut by a transversal and angles within a triangle.

MTH050 MATH IS CRAFTY Informal mathematics course using crafts and other projects to highlight the connections among mathematical concepts.

MTH057 MATH LAB Students will work on mathematical basic skills while strengthening understanding of 7th grade content. Students will be given individual instruction based on their mathematical needs.

MTH6S MATHEMATICS 6 DATA Students will develop an understanding of statistical thinking. They will discover the different ways to measure center which include the mean, median and the mode. Students learn to describe data sets identifying clusters, peaks and gaps.

PE78 PE 78 In physical education, our goal is to provide students with the opportunity to participate in grade specific activities that will allow them to improve their muscular strength, cardiovascular endurance, flexibility, and coordination. Daily activities will include a variety of individual work-outs, team sports, and games. In order to achieve our goals, it is important that students change and be ready to participate every day.

PE06 PHYSICAL EDUCATION In physical education, our goal is to provide students with the opportunity to participate in grade specific activities that will allow them to improve their muscular strength, cardiovascular endurance, flexibility, and coordination. Daily activities will include a variety of individual work-outs, team sports, and games. In order to achieve our goals, it is important that students change and be ready to participate every day.

SCI070 PLANTS Get the community garden going! In this class you will learn about invasive species, how to choose a variety of plants for home gardening, and the process of cultivating and the care of plants.

8PREALGE/2/3 PREALGEBRA 8A/B/C 8th Grade Pre-Algebra focuses on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an

association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

PED080 RECREATION SPORTS/LEISURE GAMES Recreation sports courses provide to students the knowledge, experience, and opportunity to develop skills in more than one recreational sport or outdoor pursuit (such as adventure activities, croquet, Frisbee, wall climbing, bocce ball, fishing, hiking, cycling, and so on). In this class you will learn informal "backyard" games such as: Ladder Golf, Corn Hole, Washers, Frisbee Golf, Bowling, Golf, Horseshoes, and Bocce Ball.

20/21 /22 RESOURCE LA 6/7/8 A/B/C This course is designed to strengthen and improve vocabulary, spelling, grammar, writing, reading, and oral communication skills. Students will work on their reading comprehension and on social skills. In addition, they work on their IEP goals.

10/11/12 RESOURCE MATH 6/7/8 A/B/C instructional time will focus on three critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers; and (3) explore writing and using expressions and equations.

6SCI11/2/3 SCIENCE 6A/B/C Sixth graders deepen their understanding of energy in its multiple forms through investigations into kinetic and potential energy and explorations changes in states of matter. Sixth graders also explore the rock cycle, weathering and glacier movement, and study soil. Students study the Earth's history and future through the study of plate tectonics and major geological events. Sixth graders also explore ecosystems with relation to the energy flow in a balanced ecosystem and the roles organisms play to maintain the balance.

8SCIENCE1/2/3 SCIENCE 8A/B/C Science 8 is an integrated approach that emphasizes the physical sciences. This course weaves the theme of scientific inquiry and modeling throughout an examination of energy, waves, forces, properties of matter, and astronomy.

SCI085 SUSTAINABLE LIVING This class integrates composting, gardening, recycling, and sustainable living practices into your everyday life that helps minimize your ecological footprint.

VL060/ VL065 VL ENGLISH 6 A/B This course provides a strong foundation in grammar and the writing process. It emphasizes simple but useful composition and language mechanics strategies with multiple opportunities for modeling practical, real-world writing situations that will enable students to improve their written communication skills quickly. Through a variety of grade-appropriate reading selections, students develop a clear understanding of key literary genres and their distinguishing characteristics

VLE071/ VLE 075 VL ENGLISH 7 A/B English 7 Integrates the study of writing and literature through the examination of a variety of genres. Students identify the elements of composition in the reading selections to understand their function and effect on the reader. Practice is provided in narrative and expository writing. Topics include comparison and contrast, persuasion, and cause and effect essays, as well as descriptive and figurative language. Lessons are supplemented with

vocabulary development, grammar, and syntax exercises, along with an introduction to verbal phrases and research tools.

VLE080/ VLE085 **VL ENGLISH 8 A/B** English is the study of the creation and analysis of literature written in the English language. In English 8A, you will explore the features of different forms of literary writing such as diaries, memoirs, informative essays, and fictional narratives. You will also improve your writing by learning about persuasive writing techniques. You will compare and contrast a literary piece across different mediums, including drama. You will engage in a dramatic reading of poetry and learn how to give multimedia presentations. In the latter part of the course, you will analyze informational texts to understand the history of the Civil War. You will also analyze various types of literary works to better understand literary elements such as point of view, conflict, theme, structure, and setting.

VLE085 **VL ENGLISH 8 B** English is the study of the creation and analysis of literature written in the English language. In English 8B, you will analyze nonfiction texts to explore what they reveal about the process of growing up. You will also analyze elements of poetry such as theme, structure, meter, language, and sound to help you read poems and compose a poem of your own. You will read novels and analyze their literary elements and their use of literary devices. In the final unit, you will reflect upon and evaluate certain aspects of your past, present, and future while reading Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol.

VLEL50/ VLE74/ VLE 75 **VL MS ACADEMIC SUCCESS 6/7/8** As in other areas of life, success in academics results from learning and practicing positive habits. This one-semester elective provides practical, hands-on guidance on developing and improving study habits and skills, regardless of a student's level of accomplishment. Academic Success includes five lessons and two course activities in a flexible structure that is adaptable to the needs and circumstances of individual students. The course can also be used for college-level developmental education.

VLEL51 **VL MS CAREER EXPLORATIONS** The 21 lessons and additional activities in this one-semester course are fundamental to ensuring career readiness on the part of your students. Covering such essentials as developing and practicing a strong work ethic, time management, communication, teamwork, and the fundamentals of workplace organizations, Career Explorations develops not just essential skills, but the confidence in themselves and their abilities to present themselves that your students need as they prepare to embark on their chosen careers.

VLE53 **VL HEALTH 7** The lessons in Middle School Health are designed to promote awareness of physical, mental, emotional and social developmental needs for optimal health throughout life. This course is designed to assist each student in developing and maintaining a lifestyle that promotes wellness by providing accurate and up-to-date health related information as the foundation for making educated, responsible, and healthy personal health decisions.

VLEL76 **VIRTUAL BAND 6** The 6th grade virtual band class is an introductory course to ensemble playing and owning an instrument. Students start on Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, or Trombone and can eventually advance to other various instruments in the ensemble. If the students stay in this ensemble they will advance to the Cadet Band the next school year.

VLEL77 VIRTUAL BAND 7 Students move into the next level of band to practice and perform with other 7th grade musicians via electronic communication. Open to all 6th grade band students and by audition.

VLEL78 VIRTUAL BAND 8 Students move into the next level of band to practice and perform with other 8th grade musicians via electronic communication. Open to all 7th grade band students and by audition.

VLEL79 VIRTUAL CHOIR 6 This entry level choir gives interested students a well rounded vocal music experience. We will sing a wide variety of vocal music, including choral, pop, jazz, world music, Broadway, and more. We will study the basics of music literacy and music theory so students can read, compose, and evaluate written music. Vocal music is meant to be shared with an audience, so we have two concerts each year as part of our required curriculum. This is a great class for anyone interested in singing, and will develop students as musicians.

VLEL80 VIRTUAL CHOIR 7 This group is designed to build and develop each student's singing voice, as well as increase choral music understanding and musical literacy. We will perform a virtual concerts this year. No previous choral experience needed.

VLEL81 VIRTUAL CHOIR 8 This group is designed to build and develop each student's singing voice, as well as increase choral music understanding and musical literacy. We will perform a virtual concerts this year. No previous choral experience needed.

VLH001/ VLH 002 VL U.S. HISTORY 8A/B In Middle School U.S. History, learners will explore historical American events with the help of innovative videos, timelines, and interactive maps and images. The course covers colonial America through the Reconstruction period. Learners will develop historical thinking and geography skills, which they will use throughout the course to heighten their understanding of the material. Specific topics of study include the U.S. Constitution, the administrations of George Washington and John Adams, the War of 1812, and the Civil War.

VLH003 VL MS CIVICS A A citizen is a person who is legally recognized by a state and entitled to the state's rights and privileges. Civics is the study of the rights and duties of such a person. One of the best ways to understand your rights and duties as a citizen is to study the government that defines and upholds them. In Civics A, you will learn about politics and government, and you'll analyze democracy which is the system of government used in the United States. Finally, you will examine the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the U.S. Government. A course in Civics teaches you how to actively participate in governance and how you can help improve the quality of governance at all levels.

VLH004/ VLH005 VL WORLD HISTORY 7A/B In Middle School World History, learners will study major historical world events from early human societies through to the present day. Multimedia tools including custom videos as well as videos from the BBC, custom maps, and interactive timelines will help engage learners as they complete this year-long course. They will explore the development of early humans and early civilizations. They will be introduced to the origins of major world religions, such as Hinduism and Buddhism. Also, learners will study the medieval period. Historical thinking and geography skills will be taught and utilized throughout the course.

VLH006/ VLH007 VIRTUAL WORLD GEOGRAPHY 6 A/B In an increasingly interconnected world, equipping students to develop a better understanding of our global neighbors is critical to

ensuring that they are college and career ready. These semester-long courses empower students to increase their knowledge of the world in which they live and how its diverse geographies shape the international community. Semester A units begin with an overview of the physical world and the tools necessary to exploring it effectively. Subsequent units survey each continent and its physical characteristics and engage students and encourage them to develop a global perspective.

VLM001/ VLM003 VL MATH 8A/B This course is designed to enable all students at the middle school level to develop a deep understanding of math objectives and leaves students ready for algebra. The first semester covers objectives in transformations, linear equations, systems of equations, and functions. The second semester focuses on scientific notation, roots, the Pythagorean Theorem and volume, and statistics and probability. The course is based on the Common Core State Standards Initiative and on a modern understanding of student learning in mathematics.

VLM002/ VLM004 VL MATH 6A/B Each of these semester-long middle school courses will provide students with a deep understanding and mastery of the objectives that will prepare them for algebra. It is aligned to Common Core State Standards, and is based on best practices in the teaching of mathematics and the disciplines of STEM learning. Students will develop 21st century skills as they master ratios and proportional relationships; the number system; and number visualization.

VLM005/ VLM006 VL MATH 7A/B Math 7 builds on material learned in earlier grades, including fractions, decimals, and percentages and introduces students to concepts they will continue to use throughout their study of mathematics. Among these are surface area, volume, and probability. Real-world applications facilitate understanding, and students are provided multiple opportunities to master these skills through practice problems within lessons, homework drills, and graded assignments.

VLS001/ VLS002 VL SCIENCE 8A/B This inquiry- and lab-based course is designed to support modern science curriculum and teaching practices. It robustly meets NGSS learning standards associated with an eighth-grade integrated science course. Content topics include genes and adaptations, evolution, energy and the Earth, the Earth's changing climate, waves, and technology and human impacts on the Earth.

VLS003/ VLS004 VL SCIENCE 6A/B This inquiry- and lab-based course is designed to support modern science curriculum and teaching practices. It robustly meets NGSS learning standards associated with a sixth-grade integrated science course, focusing on basic physical science, Earth and space science, and ecosystems. Content topics include structure and properties of matter, forces and motion, the Earth and space, the history of the Earth, the interdependence of ecosystems, and weather and climate.

VLS005/ VLS006 VL Science 7A/B This inquiry- and lab-based course is designed to support modern science curriculum and teaching practices. It robustly meets NGSS learning standards associated with a seventh-grade integrated science course, focusing on cells, the life cycle, nutrition, chemical reactions, force fields, and energy. Content topics include cells and human body systems, the life cycle, nutrition and energy, chemical reactions, force fields, and energy.

SED500/SED504/SED506 WORK BASED EDUCATION A/B/C This course is offered on an invite-only basis to students with disabilities. Students will learn career skills by working in real-life work situations according to their individual needs and goals.

6WH1/6WH2/6WH3 WORLD HISTORY 6A/ 6B/6C Sixth-grade students will explore the tools and mental constructs used by geographers as they study contemporary world geography. Contemporary civics/government and economics content is integrated throughout the year.

7SS1/ 7SS2/7SS3 WORLD HISTORY 7A/ 7B/ 7C In this course, students examine the history and geography of the ancient world from the beginning of time until about 300 A.D. Students will focus mainly on the eastern hemisphere, and study the patterns, causes and effects, and the rise and fall of empires, religions, and governments. They will have an opportunity to build on their geographical knowledge through maps, charts, and political diagrams. As a result, students will learn the importance of World History on our own lives here in America, with the goal in mind to create civically active participants.

SST090 WORLD TRADITIONS World Area Studies World Area Studies courses examine the culture (Dance, food, holidays, art, etc.) of regions of the world.

NY YEARBOOK Students will learn photography, interview skills and digital graphic design so they can take pictures, design pages and complete layouts which will create the SMS yearbook.