

LITTLE MIAMI MIDDLE SCHOOL

“HOME OF THE PANTHERS”

www.littlemiamischools.com



COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE

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Dear Students and Parents,

This booklet is to introduce and describe the educational programming available at Little Miami Middle School. Our course offerings provide both academic challenge and the opportunity for success for all students. These middle school years are important years of transition for students and their parents.

You will see from the enclosed descriptions of requirements and electives that students have decisions to make about their school experience at Little Miami Middle School. We have designed this booklet to help you make these decisions. Of course, there are basic requirements, but students have some choices to make concerning their schedule of classes. Courses reflect increased levels of critical thinking, problem solving, and teamwork required of the student on his/her journey toward the 21st century workplace.

We encourage each student and parent to study the information contained in this course guide. The best schedule is developed through careful consideration of present interests, future plans, and teacher recommendations. Feel free to contact your child's current teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

The faculty and administration of Little Miami Middle School look forward to working with you to develop a schedule that appropriately challenges your child's interests and abilities and prepares them on their journey toward high school, college, and career.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Cherry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ryan Cherry
Principal

GENERAL INFORMATION

The staff and I would like to welcome you to Little Miami Middle School. This is a very exciting time in any child's life and we here at Little Miami Middle School love to be a part of that excitement. The staff and I have very high expectations for every student that enters our building. We are dedicated to helping every child reach his/her fullest potential.

The activities we planned for the school year will ensure that every child receives the highest level of education we can provide. With that being said we understand that we are only a part of your child's education and recognize that we can accomplish more for your student as a team. We encourage parents to contact anyone on our staff with any questions or concerns that you may have. Remember, the doors at Little Miami Middle School are always open.

LITTLE MIAMI MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

As the students transition through their middle school experience, Little Miami provides students the opportunity to become better tomorrow than they are today through excellence in education. Students and staff collaborate to maintain strong relationships within the school and the community through departmental and cohort groups.

Our rigorous programs provide a smooth transition from elementary school to middle school and on to high school; in addition, we assist students in developing individual career plans. The staff is committed to ensuring a nurturing and safe learning environment where parents continue to be active participants in their child's education.

FEES

Each spring the Board of Education establishes student fee schedules for the next school year. Fee levels are determined in June and take effect next school year. Students and parents are therefore advised that the fees referred to in the Middle School Course Description Guide are approximate amounts and subject to minor changes based on supply prices as they are purchased. School fees are collected for each student at the beginning of the school year. The general fee is \$65.00 per student in Grade 6, \$75.00 per student in Grade 7, and \$58.50 per student, plus a math fee of \$16.50 or \$4.00 based on placement in Grade 8. Each student in Grades 6, 7, and 8 will be charged a tech fee of \$55.00 and a lock fee of \$1.00. There will also be additional fees for any student who is taking Band, Choir, Spanish, French and AJROTC. Please refer to the Electives/Descriptions section for fee amounts. These fees are required of all students regardless of when they enroll during the school year and non-refundable.

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

Here at the middle school, we can kick start your student's high school career by offering credit in Algebra I, Honors Geometry*, Honors Algebra I*, French, Spanish, 8th Grade Band, and 8th Grade Choirs and AFJROTC. Students can gain high school credit in these courses, enabling them to advance further into these subjects during their high school career.

***HIGH SCHOOL WEIGHTED CLASSES:** Honors Geometry and Honors Algebra courses are weighted courses. Students earning credit for a weighted system will receive a .05 "add-on" added to the cumulative grade point average upon successfully completing each weighted course.

ELECTIVE COURSES

As you will see in the course descriptions that follow, we offer a few choices to students during a particular part of the academic day. The type of elective will vary from student to student depending on their interest.

SCHEDULE CHANGE PROCEDURE

Counselors and teachers offer help selecting courses for each school year. The scheduling process for the following school year will begin in the current school year's second semester. Parents and students, please recognize the number of school-wide decisions that rest upon your subject choices: the number and size of classes are determined, teachers are hired, and budget allocations are made. This ensures the district is economically responsible and all resources are utilized appropriately. **Therefore, class selections will be final before the new school year in the spring semester.**

Core Courses/Descriptions:

- **Language Arts**
- **Mathematics**
- **Science**
- **Social Studies**

Language Arts 7

Grade: 7

Length of Course: Year (36 weeks)

Course Description: This course emphasizes the fundamental language skills of reading, writing, speaking, listening, thinking, and presenting. An emphasis on vocabulary and composition skills will be ongoing throughout the course. The course includes studies of various literary genres: short story, poetry, novel, drama, and non-fiction. The development of critical reading and writing skills is a major emphasis of the course.

Language Arts 8

Grade: 8

Length of Course: Year (36 weeks)

Course Description: Grade 8 English is designed to teach students concepts in the subjects of reading and writing as outlined in the state of Ohio standards for the language arts curriculum. Areas of study include Literature, Informational Text, Writing, Speaking/Listening, and Language. Students will also be prepared for success on the Ohio state assessments and for the challenging expectations of the high school course work they will encounter as first-year students.

Honors English

Grade: 7, 8

Length of Course: Year (36 weeks)

Course Description: Honors English focuses on the central themes of maturation, diversity, and the development of compassion, empathy, and respect for others. The curriculum teaches the skills of reading, writing, discussion, language use, and vocabulary development through the study of both literature and informational texts. Core readings include novels, plays, short stories, and poetry. Students will be asked to explore additional works of literature. The writing modes targeted are expository and fictional/personal narrative. Honors English serves as both an introduction to the high school English curriculum as well as an opportunity for students to critically explore their own maturation process through the lens of literature.

The rigors of the course are intended to be commensurate with the preparation students need for success later in high school, in college, and in the working world. Students are being trained to be excellent critical thinkers, readers, textual analysts, writers, and creative producers of argument. The course will demand both high quantity and quality of effective writing for a range of audiences and purposes. By so writing, students will demonstrate their mastery of the conventions of the standard written language. Through the coursework, students will be expected to meet and exceed state standards for reading, writing, listening, speaking, and language.

Math 7

Grade: 7

Length of Course: Year (36 weeks)

Course Description: In 7th grade math we focus on developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships, developing understanding of operations with rational numbers, and working with expressions and linear equations. We will also be solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions and working with two- and three- dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume, and drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

Course of Study: Proportional Relationships, Apply and extend operations with rational numbers, Draw, construct and describe geometric figures, Statistics, and Probability.

Math 8

Grade: 8

Length of Course: Year (36 weeks)

Course Description: This course will encompass the study of real numbers, exponents and scientific notation, proportional relationships, non-proportional relationships, writing linear equations, functions, solving linear equations, solving systems of linear equations, transformations and congruence, transformations and similarity, angle relationships in parallel lines and triangles, the Pythagorean Theorem, volume, scatter plots, and relative frequency tables.

Accelerated Math 7

Grade: 7

Length of Course: Year (36 weeks)

Course Description: This accelerated course combines the 7th and 8th grade years' standards. After successful completion of this course, students are prepared for the Algebra or Honors Algebra I course. The focus is fully understanding the unique aspects of 7th and 8th grade and enriching the learning of the combined skills taught in both grades. Students should expect a rapidly moving course with independent study and rigorous work. Some points of emphasis will be on operations within the real number system, interpreting and using rate, geometric properties of 3 dimensional figures, and statistical analysis of samples and populations. **Students must qualify based on MAP testing scores. Students will take the 8th grade State Math Assessment.**

Algebra I

Grades: 7, 8

Length of Course: Year (36 weeks)

HS Credit: 1 credit

Prerequisite: Completion of 8th Grade Math

This is the first year of required Algebra I. This course is an in-depth study of algebraic concepts and processes to represent and solve problems that involve variable quantities. Other topics include solving systems of equations, polynomials, factoring, solving and graphing quadratic and exponential equations, and elementary statistics. Any handheld calculator will suffice. **THIS IS A HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT COURSE.**

Honors Algebra I

Grades: 7, 8

Length of Course: Year (36 weeks)

HS Credit: 1 credit + Weighted HS Credit: 0.10 (see requirements)

Prerequisite: Completion of 8th Grade Math

Course Description: Honors Algebra I will focus on Expressions, Equations, and inequalities. Students will interpret the structure of expressions and equations. The emphasis will be creating equations and expressions that describe numbers and relationships. Reasoning will influence decision making to perform arithmetic operations on polynomials. Summer work must be completed by the first day of school.

Course of Study: Expressions, Equations, Functions and inequalities, Exponents and Exponential Functions, Polynomials and Factoring, Systems of Equations, Graphing, Quadratic Functions **THIS IS A HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT COURSE**

Honors Geometry

Grade: 8

Length of Course: Year (36 weeks)

HS Credit: 1 credit + Weighted HS Credit: 0.10 (see requirements)

Course Description: This course covers the geometry curriculum at a faster pace and is more in-depth than Geometry. This course will encompass definitions, postulates, theorems, measurements using a ruler, compass, and protractor plus finding measurements using computer software. The coordinate plane will be emphasized with distance, midpoint, and slope between two points plus linear equations involving parallel and perpendicular lines. Special properties along with areas, perimeters/circumferences of triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, and circles will be a focus along with an introduction to congruent and similar figures. Trigonometry of right triangles will be taught along with applications of these concepts. Required: scientific calculator. **Please note: a graphing calculator is permitted on this course and is REQUIRED for Algebra II. If you choose to purchase a graphing calculator, it is suggested to get a TI-84 or a TI-84 Plus. **THIS IS A HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT COURSE.**

Science 7

Grade: 7

Length of Course: Year (36 weeks)

Course Description: Students in the 7th grade will continue to develop skills of scientific inquiry and apply math skills to evaluate and analyze variables and data from investigations as they draw conclusions from scientific evidence. Students will explore the arrangement of atoms and the classification of elements on the periodic table. Students will investigate electricity through a variety of hands-on-labs and activities. The positions on the earth, sun, and moon will be discussed and modeled to explain natural phenomena such as eclipses and tides. Students will explain how matter can change forms and how energy is transferred through the earth's atmosphere and hydrologic cycle. Students will access knowledge to explain how energy entering the ecosystems, such as sunlight, supports the life of organisms through photosynthesis and the transfer of energy through the interactions of organisms and their environments within the biomes.

Science 8

Grade: 8

Length of Course: Year (36 weeks)

Course Description: The three main topics covered in eighth grade science are: The Physical Earth, Forces and Motion, and Species and Reproduction. Students will learn how energy, forces and motion combine to change the physical features of the Earth, how the changes of the physical Earth and the species that have lived on Earth are found in the rock record and that for species to continue, reproduction must be successful. Throughout the year students will enhance their understanding of scientific processes by learning to identify questions that can be answered through scientific investigations, design and conduct scientific investigations, analyze, and interpret data, and think critically and logically to connect evidence and explanations.

Social Studies 7

Grade: 7

Length of Course: Year (36 weeks)

Course Description: We will be examining various civilizations of the world to gain an understanding of how each developed historically, socially, politically, economically and in relation to their environment. World History will cover 1000 B.C.E. to 1750 C.E. and build an intellectual framework from which regions, ideas and events can be critically analyzed and understood. Through our studies, you will be exposed to new ideas and people, and will gain an appreciation of the various peoples and regions of our world.

Course Study: Ancient Greece and Rome, The Middle Ages: Africa, China, Japan, Mongols & Islamic Civilization, The Middle Ages: Europe, The Renaissance.

Social Studies 8

Grade: 8

Length of Course: Year (36 weeks)

Course Description: The historical focus of the eighth grade is the study of European exploration and the early years of the United States. This study incorporates all four social studies strands into a chronologic view of the development of the United States. Students examine how historic events are shaped by geographic, social, cultural, economic, and political factors.

Course Study: U.S. Studies from 1492 to 1877: Exploration through Reconstruction

Electives/Descriptions:

- **Health and Physical Education**
- **Sports & Fitness**
- **Keyboarding 7**
- **Music**
 - **Band, Choir, General Music**
- **Service Learning & Leadership**
- **Art**
- **Gateway**

8th Grade Only:

- **Flight and Space**
- **Apps Creator**
- **Advanced Robotics**
- **Computer Applications 8**
- **Foreign Language (Spanish or French)**
- **AFJROTC**

Health & Physical Education

Grade: 7, 8

Length of course: Semester (18 weeks)

Course Description: Includes components of physical, mental, and social development. Healthful living is a life-long process, which requires that an individual make responsible decisions based on accurate information, personal beliefs, and an understanding of the consequences of their decisions. Students will study and learn valuable decision-making skills, personal health, nutrition, healthy relationships, communication skills, and exercise in correlation with your maximum and target heart rate. 8th grade students will also be involved in a program called "Maximum Freedom" which is an education program that gives factual information on STD/STI's on the consequences of risky behaviors. Students will be involved in various activities that promote physical growth while considering individual abilities and differences. These activities will include various fitness activities and testing, individual sports, and small group and team activities. All students must dress appropriately for class (shorts, sweats, tennis shoes, T-shirt, or sweatshirt). Students will keep an organized binder that includes all health information and weekly exercise logs. In addition to the healthy skills students will learn the harmful effects that drugs and alcohol have on your body. The 7th grade curriculum will also incorporate the D.A.R.E Program which is offered through the Warren County's Sheriff Department.

Sports & Fitness

Grade: 7, 8

Length of course: Semester (18 weeks)

Course Description: This class will focus on team and individual sports. Additionally, there will be a focus on personal fitness and sports performance to help develop overall athletic ability.

Keyboarding 7

Grade: 7

Length of course: Semester (18 weeks)

Course Description: This Keyboarding course is designed for middle school students to master the skill of entering alphabetic, numeric, and symbolic information on a keyboard and a ten-key pad using the touch method of key stroking. Emphasis is placed on development of accuracy and speed, proper techniques, and correct finger positions. Students will further develop and enhance touch skills for entering information using a keyboard to compose and produce personal, educational, and professional documents. Digital literacy, composition, and language skills are embedded throughout the course.

General Music – Ukulele 101

Grade: 7, 8

Length of course: Semester (18 weeks)

Course Description: Learn some of the basic techniques for playing the ukulele! Along with strumming, fingerpicking, and chord-melody style, students will learn some fundamentals of how to read and write music and song. Some assignments require video recording. A smartphone is not required but recommended for use. The final project is to create a how-to video on one or more ukulele skills. This course is designed with a twofold purpose: 1) as an introduction to playing the ukulele and 2) an introduction to how words and music are put together to form a song.

General Music – Percussion Ensemble

Grade: 7, 8

Length of course: Semester (18 weeks)

Percussion Ensemble teaches students how to read music and correct playing technique while learning pieces of music written for this exciting ensemble. In Percussion Ensemble, students will learn how to play many percussion instruments including snare drum, bass drum, timpani, xylophone, tambourine, and instruments from other cultures- it is not just drums! Percussion Ensemble is available to students both in and out of the band program. No prior experience is necessary. You just need a great attitude and time to practice!

Choir – Women's & Men's

Grade: 7, 8

Additional Course Fee: \$20.00

Length of course: Year (36 weeks)

HS Credit: 1 credit (8th Grade Only)

*Prerequisites**: Open to all 7th & 8th grade boys & all 7th grade girls.

*Prefer 8th grade girls to have at least one year of choral/vocal experience, but not required. Need prior permission of instructor. Private instruction is not required but encouraged.

Members of the LMMS Choirs will continue to develop their young and changing voices through daily vocal exercises and the study of selected pieces from the choral repertoire. Special focus will be given to good tone production, proper vocal technique, enunciation, intonation, blend, breathing, rhythm, expression, and basic music theory practices. A variety of styles and languages will be learned, memorized, and performed. Students will be expected to participate in 3 to 4 out-of-school concerts throughout the school year. There are opportunities, though limited, for performing a solo and in a small ensemble.

Band

Grade: 7,8

Additional Course Fee: \$25.00

Length of course: Year (36 weeks)

HS Credit: 1 credit (8th Grade Only)

*Prerequisites: Open to 7th & 8th grade students that have experience on a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument or to students that are beginning on an instrument for the first time. **If a student has no previous experience, then private instruction is highly recommended as they will be a year or more behind.***

Members of the LMMS Bands will continue to develop their playing skills and musicianship through daily exercises and the study of selected pieces from the concert band repertoire. Special focus will be given to good tone production, fingering/sticking technique, articulation, intonation, blend, breathing, rhythm, expression, and basic music theory practices. A variety of styles will be studied, learned, and performed. Students will be expected to participate in 3 to 4 out-of-school concerts throughout the school year. There may be opportunities for performing as a soloist, in a small ensemble, and going to contest in a large group setting.

Symphonic Band is an auditioned group. Students are selected for more advanced study based on playing ability demonstrated in auditions at the end of the prior year.

Computer Applications 8

Grade: 8

Length of course: Semester (18 weeks)

Course Description: A semester-long introductory course in personal computers using Microsoft Windows and Office Suite applications. The students will receive hands on experience in MS Windows, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Office 365, OneDrive, Outlook, and other programs.

Art

Grade: 7, 8

Length of course: Semester (18 weeks)

Course Description: A basic introduction into the Elements and Principles of Art and Design.

Students will create artwork that reinforces these concepts that will prepare them to be successful with Art at the high school level.

Service Learning & Leadership

Grade: 7, 8

Length of course: Semester (18 weeks)

Course Description: The Service Learning & Leadership class is a semester long course offered to 7 and 8th graders. Students will learn valuable skills in preparation for college and careers, by partnering with area non-profit organizations and developing project-based activities to enhance and improve their communities. The course will emphasize professional skills such as teamwork, leadership, goal setting, research, time management, critical thinking and problem solving. This course is designed to address several gifted programming standards; however, enrollment is not required.

Gateway

Grade: 7, 8

Length of course: Semester (18 weeks)

Course Description: Students will imagine the world through the eyes of an engineer while exploring STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) ideas and careers. They will explore concepts such as 3D printing, robotics, programming, and design using cutting edge computer software. The class uses an activity-oriented curriculum that applies STEM principles. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) to the projects.

Flight and Space

Grade: 7,8

Length of course: Semester (18 weeks)

Prerequisite: Gateway 7th Grade

Course Description: The exciting world of aerospace comes alive through Flight and Space. During this unit, students delve into the history of flight and space, discover the science behind aeronautics, and explore traveling and living in space. Students are then challenged to use their knowledge to design, build, and test an airfoil.

Apps Creator

Grade: 7, 8

Length of course: Semester (18 weeks)

Prerequisite: Gateway

Course Description: This unit will expose students to computer science as a means of computationally analyzing and developing solutions to authentic problems through mobile app development and will convey the positive impact of the application of computer science to other disciplines and to society. Students will start by learning about different app functions, progressing with new skills in each lesson culminating with a final project where they design and code their own app.

Advanced Robotics

Grade: 8

Length of course: Semester (18 weeks)

Prerequisite: Gateway and Teacher recommendation

Course Description: This class will pick up where Gateway left off. Students will complete detailed programming and build robotic structures with an emphasis on automation. Using the VEX Robotics® platform students will design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, moving bridges and robotic arms.

French I

Grade: 8

Length of Course: Year (36 weeks)

Additional Course Fee: \$20.00

HS Credit: 1 credit

Course Description: This is a one-year course designed to develop foreign language skills and to prepare students for living in a global society. Classroom instruction is designed to develop the ability to communicate in a second language by involving students in communicative tasks. Classroom instruction includes listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills. Students will learn French in a contemporary cultural context. **This class is pre-assigned to those students who qualified per requirements. THIS IS A HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT COURSE.**

Prerequisite: Students must have A's and B's in all 7th grade classes. The course has limited availability. Students will be placed by GPA with 4.0 GPA as a priority.

Spanish I

Grade: 8

Length of Course: Year (36 weeks)

Additional Course Fee: \$20.00

HS Credit: 1 credit

Course Description: An introduction to the Spanish language using basic vocabulary and simple grammar. Listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills are also developed. Students will study the culture of Spanish speaking countries. **This class is pre-assigned to those students who qualified per requirements. THIS IS A HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT COURSE.**

Prerequisite: Students must have A's and B's in all 7th grade classes. The course has limited availability. Students will be placed by GPA with 4.0 GPA as a priority.

AFJROTC

Grade: 8

Length of Course: Year (36 weeks)

Additional Course Fee: \$25.00

HS Credit: - 1 credit

Course Description: AFJROTC is the primary AFJROTC course for all cadets. It consists of three components: Aerospace Science (40%), Leadership Education (40%), and Wellness/Physical Fitness (10%). The Aerospace Science component introduces students to the principles of aircraft flight and navigation, the history of aviation, development of air power, contemporary aviation, human requirements of flight, the space environment, space programs, space technology, rocketry, propulsion, and the aerospace industry. The Leadership Education portion introduces the student to the AFJROTC program, instills elements of good citizenship, strengthens, and develops character, and prepares students for life after high school in the high-tech, globally oriented, and diverse workplace of the 21st century. The Wellness/Physical Fitness portion encourages AFJROTC cadets to lead an active and healthy lifestyle. Two full credits of AFJROTC fulfill the state requirement of 1/2 credit of physical education. There is no military commitment for taking AFJROTC.

THIS IS A HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT COURSE.

Lab

Grade: 7, 8

Length of Course: Semester (18 weeks)

Course Description: Lab is a 1-2 semester course based on raising the skill level for students performing below grade level. Students will utilize this time to receive extra reading or math interventions during the regular school day. This class is in addition to the core instruction that a student receives in grade-level ELA (English Language Arts) and math classes. Students are scheduled into Lab class based on teacher recommendation and individual assessment data, such as AIR and MAP. This course will replace a student's elective choice if recommended.

Math Lab

Grade: 7,8

Length of Course: Semester (18 Weeks)

Course Description: Math lab 1-2 semester course. This course is an elective course designed for students to improve their basic and overall mathematical skills. Teacher will fill in any gaps of grade level standards throughout this course. The primary intent of this course is to address the needs of struggling students. By allowing students to learn, practice and review at their own pace, each student receives instruction which reflects their strengths and weaknesses. Placement in this class is based on academic need. Students may be re-evaluated at the end of the semester and, if recommended by the teacher, may be moved out of the class into another elective, or may remain in the class. This course will also emphasize developing general nonacademic skills that will help students become more successful with all courses. These skills include study habits, interpersonal skills, critical thinking, and decision making. This course will not replace the student's 7th or 8th grade math course.

