

Northern Hills Middle School



Course Catalog 2025-26

Northern Hills Middle School
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Principal Letter

Dear Middle School Families:

We believe that middle school is a crucial period of transition for students. We recognize the unique physical, social, emotional, and intellectual needs of those in this age group. To support student growth, a middle school curriculum must be authentic, engaging, rigorous, and developmentally responsive to their needs. The school culture should provide a supportive environment where students are empowered to acquire the knowledge, skills, and competencies essential for success in life. Our caring and responsive staff is dedicated to fostering students' growing independence.

Forest Hills Middle School students will benefit from a rigorous core curriculum aligned with the Michigan Academic Standards and benchmarks in language arts, math, science, and social studies, along with a diverse array of exploratory opportunities. School counseling and support services are integral to our comprehensive whole child approach to education.

Results from the Michigan State Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) and PSAT show that Forest Hills Public Schools consistently ranks among the highest-scoring districts in Michigan. However, in evaluating our success, we do not rely solely on one data set. We value the quality of the relationships and interactions we have daily with our students, their families, and our staff. We model respect and understanding for one another. We invite our students' families to actively engage and participate as learning partners in the middle school educational experience.

This guide acts as a planning resource as you and your student explore middle school learning opportunities. A crucial aspect of preparing for secondary education is each student's creation of an Educational Development Plan (EDP) linked to their future career and educational goals after high school. To enhance your understanding of the Michigan Merit Curriculum and related requirements, we have included an additional section in our course description guide starting on page 4.

If you are new to Forest Hills, our counseling staff is ready to assist students in selecting and scheduling the appropriate courses for middle school.

We look forward to collaborating with you and your child as we plan for a successful school year ahead.

Sincerely,

David Simpson, Ph.D.
Northern Hills MS

Jeff Simon
Central MS

Kristine Yelding
Eastern MS

Educational Development Plans (EDP)

The Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) legislation states, “each pupil in grade 7 is provided with the opportunity to develop an educational development plan, and that each pupil has developed an educational development plan before he or she begins high school. An educational development plan shall be developed by the pupil under the supervision of the pupil's school counselor, or another designee qualified to act in a counseling role under section 1233 or 1233a selected by the high school principal and shall be based on a career pathways program or similar career exploration program.” (MCL 380.1278a)

The EDP is a secondary/post-secondary planning tool that directs the educational plan and career planning activities schedule. In their EDP, students identify a career pathway and write employment, education, and training goals. They also identify a course of study (the credits that will be taken) intended to provide the skills and competencies needed to be successful in the next steps after high school. EDP's are “living” documents that are updated as students' age and their interests and abilities become more obvious and focused. It is recommended that the EDP be updated at least annually in conjunction with other planning activities designed to support student achievement. (MDE MMC Guidelines v.12.07)

Forest Hills students begin planning for their EDP in seventh grade during classroom guidance. Students are introduced to a web-based career and post-secondary exploration program called Naviance. Students are issued an individual login so they may access the program from home as well as at school. Students complete state requirements for the EDP during eighth grade, including development of a four-year plan for courses they intend to take during high school. Counselors work with students each year to update the EDP to ensure course selections align with their educational pathway, employment, education, and training goals. During high school, students and parents will also utilize Naviance, a web-based program that helps track EDP information, high school grades, test scores, extra-curricular activities, applications to college, and other post-secondary training programs.

Course Selection Information

Students must take a full year of math, science, language arts, and social studies (these classes will be automatically scheduled). Spanish Immersion (SI) students must take social studies and language arts in Spanish.

SI students are required to take one semester of **21st Century Comparative Language** in both 7th and 8th grade (8th grade will be in the 1st semester; 7th grade will be in the 2nd semester)

Chinese Immersion students must take all four core subject classes and **Chinese Language and Literature in both 7th and 8th grade.**

All traditional/seated courses listed in this course catalog are allowed to be adapted for delivery in a virtual or blended format by Forest Hills Public Schools.

Earning High School Credit

FHPS middle school students who successfully complete a high school credit course in a FHPS middle school (Central, Northern, and Eastern) will receive a grade of "CR" (credit) on their transcript and earn high school graduation credit. No letter grade will be issued for a high school class taken in the middle school. (If a middle school student chooses to take an online course for high school credit, the student will receive the grade issue from the online provider.)

Students wishing to enroll in online courses outside the school environment should see their counselor to ensure the course can be included on the Forest Hills transcript upon completion.

Once a student registers for and attends a class, he or she agrees to the district's requirements for earning a grade/credit in the class. If a student fails a required course for graduation, credit is not granted, and the class must be made up. Since there is little room in a student's schedule each year for makeup classes, the failed credit can be recovered in various ways, such as summer school, taking an online class, repeating the course, testing out, or other credit recovery options.

The following courses are offered to 8th grade students for High School Credit:

Spanish 1

Algebra 1

Chinese Language and Literature 8

Health

Sample Student Schedules

7th Grade – No Music

1st Semester

CREW 7

1st hour – Language Arts

2nd hour – Social Studies

3rd hour – Math

Lunch (7th grade only)

4th hour – Science

5th hour – PE

6th hour – Coding 1

(1st semester= 3.0 credits)

2nd Semester

CREW 7

1st hour – Robotics

2nd hour – Math

3rd hour – Drama

Lunch (7th grade only)

4th hour – Science

5th hour – Social Studies

6th hour – Language Arts

(1st=3.0 + 2nd 3.0 = 6.0)

7th Grade – Music

1st Semester

CREW 7

1st hour – Language Arts

2nd hour – Social Studies

3rd hour – Math

Lunch (7th grade only)

4th hour – Science

5th hour – Orchestra

6th hour – Games/Strategies

(1st semester= 3.0 credits)

2nd Semester

CREW 7

1st hour – Engineering 1

2nd hour – Math

3rd hour – Social Studies

Lunch (7th grade only)

4th hour – Science

5th hour – Orchestra

6th hour – Language Arts

(1st=3.0 + 2nd 3.0 = 6.0)

7th Grade – SI Immersion

1st Semester

CREW 7

1st hour – SI Language Arts

2nd hour – Outdoor Expl.

3rd hour – Math

Lunch (7th grade only)

4th hour – Science

5th hour – Music/Elective

6th hour – SI Social Studies

(1st semester= 3.0 credits)

2nd Semester

CREW 7

1st hour – Math

2nd hour – SI Social Studies

3rd hour – 21st Century Comp.

Lunch (7th grade only)

4th hour – Science

5th hour – Music/Elective

6th hour – SI Language Arts

(1st=3.0 + 2nd 3.0 = 6.0)

7th Grade – Chinese Immersion

1st Semester

CREW 7

1st hour – Language Arts

2nd hour – CHI Lang/Lit

3rd hour – Math

Lunch (7th grade only)

4th hour – Science

5th hour – Music/Elective

6th hour – Social Studies

(1st semester= 3.0 credits)

2nd Semester

CREW 7

1st hour – Math

2nd hour – CHI Lang/Lit

3rd hour – Social Studies

Lunch (7th grade only)

4th hour – Science

5th hour – Music/Elective

6th hour – Language Arts

(1st=3.0 + 2nd 3.0 = 6.0)

8th Grade – No Music

1st Semester

CREW 8
1st hour – Language Arts
2nd hour – Social Studies
3rd hour – Math
4th hour – Science
Lunch (8th grade only)
5th hour – PE
6th hour – Drama
(1st semester= 3.0 credits)

2nd Semester

CREW 8
1st hour – Coding 1
2nd hour – Math
3rd hour – Drama
4th hour – Science
Lunch (8th grade only)
5th hour – Social Studies
6th hour – Language Arts
(1st=3.0 + 2nd 3.0 = 6.0)

8th Grade – Music

1st Semester

CREW 8
1st hour – Language Arts
2nd hour – Social Studies
3rd hour – Math
4th hour – Science
Lunch (8th grade only)
5th hour – Health
6th hour – Band
(1st semester= 3.0 credits)

2nd Semester

CREW 8
1st hour – Math
2nd hour – Social Studies
3rd hour – Science Olympiad
4th hour – Science
Lunch (8th grade only)
5th hour – Language Arts
6th hour – Band
(1st=3.0 + 2nd 3.0 = 6.0)

8th Grade – SI Immersion

1st Semester

CREW 8
1st hour – SI Language Arts
2nd hour – 21st Cent. Comp
3rd hour – Math
4th hour – Science
Lunch (8th grade only)
5th hour – SI US History
6th hour – Music/Elective
(1st semester= 3.0 credits)

2nd Semester

CREW 8
1st hour – Math
2nd hour – SI US History
3rd hour – Drawing
4th hour – Science
Lunch (8th grade only)
5th hour – SI Language Arts
6th hour – Music/Elective
(1st=3.0 + 2nd 3.0 = 6.0)

8th Grade – CHI Immersion

1st Semester

CREW 8
1st hour – Language Arts
2nd hour – CHI Lang/Lit
3rd hour – Math
4th hour – Science
Lunch (8th grade only)
5th hour – Social Studies
6th hour – Music/Elective
(1st semester= 3.0 credits)

2nd Semester

CREW 8
1st hour – Math
2nd hour – CHI Lang/Lit
3rd hour – Social Studies
4th hour – Science
Lunch (8th grade only)
5th hour – Language Arts
6th hour – Music/Elective
(1st=3.0 + 2nd 3.0 = 6.0)

Language Arts

English Language Arts 7 – Full Year Course

In the seventh grade, students are exposed to a variety of selections in literature (e.g., mystery, poetry, drama, mythology, legends, etc.), as well as outside readings. Students develop reading and writing strategies, academic vocabulary, spelling skills, and speaking and listening skills. Understanding thematic units and thesis support writings are a focus at this grade level. English Language Arts 7 involves an in-depth, Project Based Learning environment that creates opportunities for all students to go deep into the FHPS Literacy Framework while connecting to the real world.

English Language Arts 8 – Full Year Course

In the eighth grade, a continued development of composition skills occurs with an emphasis on writing from selected topics. Speaking, listening, grammar, writing, and reading comprehension are strongly emphasized. Extended learning in poetry, short stories, and dramatic techniques through selected topics in literature are three major units of study. English Language Arts 8 involves an in-depth, Project Based Learning environment that creates opportunities for all students to go deep into the FHPS Literacy Framework while connecting to the real world.

Spanish Language and Literature 7 – Full Year Course (SI Students Only)

This course is designed to meet the Michigan Standards for Language Arts (see English Language Arts 7) while also meeting the National Foreign Language Standards. Teachers will "immerse" students in authentic literature and informational media by carefully implementing instruction to increase their L2 proficiency levels (aligned by ACTFL to the Michigan Academic Standards).

Spanish Language and Literature 8 – Full Year Course (SI Students Only)

This course further develops the strong foundational language skills and cross-cultural knowledge base students acquire in SI Language and Literature 7 while also preparing them to meet the more academically challenging setting of high school. By continuing to meet both the Michigan Academic Standards for Language Arts (see English Language Arts 8) and National Foreign Language Standards through the study and analysis of authentic literature and informational media, teachers will intentionally foster the L2 linguistic development necessary to support students' increased cognitive capacity.

SI 21st Century Comparative Language 7 – One Semester (SI Students Only)

This course is designed to foster the metalinguistic awareness of students' first language (eg. English) through the comparative study of their second language (eg. Spanish). This course will facilitate learning through opportunities designed to dissect language and its structure in order to accurately construct and convey meaning. The objective of the course for second language learners (immersion) is

to elevate the quality of the four modes of communication (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) in their primary language as well as other acquired languages.

SI 21st Century Comparative Language 8 – One Semester (SI Students Only)

This course builds on the knowledge and understanding developed in 21st Century Comparative Language 7 and is designed to continue to foster the metalinguistic awareness of students' first language (eg. English) through the comparative study of their second language (eg. Spanish). This course will facilitate learning through opportunities designed to dissect language and its structure in order to accurately construct and convey meaning. The objective of the course for second language learners (immersion) is to elevate the quality of the four modes of communication (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) in their primary language as well as other acquired languages.

Mathematics

-Incoming 7th grade students have been placed into the appropriate math course. Placement information was sent home in late January to all 6th grade families.

Math 7 – Full Year Course

Math 7 develops mathematical concepts and skills in four important mathematical strands: Number and Operations, Geometry and Measurement, Data Analysis and Probability, and Algebra and Functions. Students will engage in a research-based, problem-centered learning environment to develop proficiency in both mathematical reasoning and communication.

Math 7/8 (7th Grade) – Full Year Course

*Math 7/8 is an accelerated course that combines the standards from Math 7 and Math 8 and prepares students for Algebra 1 in 8th grade. This class is geared for students who are willing to engage and exhibit high levels of commitment, achievement, and a passion for math. Students who qualify for Math 7/8 should have excellent study skills and the time to devote to a significantly higher workload in math outside of school. **A minimum of a “B” letter grade must be maintained to remain in the Math 7/8 class.***

This is the first year of a two-year course that covers three years of math curriculum, including Math 7, Math 8, and High School Algebra I academic standards. Math 7/8 encompasses the essential standards from both Math 7 and Math 8. After successful completion of this two-year program, students are prepared for Geometry in 9th grade. **A minimum of a “B” letter grade must be maintained to remain in Math 7/8 class.**

Math 8 – Full Year Course

Math 8 develops mathematical concepts and skills in major areas of study that include: the Number System, Expressions and Equations, Functions, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. Student will

engage in a research-based, problem-centered learning environment to develop proficiency in both mathematical reasoning and communication.

Algebra 1 – Full Year Course

Prerequisite: Demonstrated proficiency in Math 7/8 standards

Algebra 1 in 8th grade is an accelerated math course that provides credit for high school Algebra 1. This course covers the high school Algebra 1 standards: linear, quadratic, radical, absolute value, and exponential functions, and their applications. Methods for solving equations, inequalities, and systems will be emphasized. Since this course is part of our two-year acceleration at middle school, students will go deeper into the Algebra 1 standards than in a traditional Algebra 1 course.

Students who take Algebra 1 in 8th grade should have excellent study skills and the time to devote to a significantly higher workload in math outside of school. **A minimum of a “B” letter grade must be maintained to remain in Algebra 1.**

Students who complete this course will be eligible to take the Advanced Placement Calculus or the Advanced Placement Statistics course during their senior year of high school. Upon successful completion of Algebra 1, the credit will be recorded on the student’s high school transcript and applied to high school graduation requirements.

Science

Science 7 – Full Year Course

The Science 7 course is based on student-driven questions and discoveries based on the Next Generation Science Standards. Students are involved in numerous hands-on labs and group discussions. Main units include chemistry: identifying substances based on properties, physics: manipulating transfer of forces, body systems: distinguishing cells and systems and weather: measuring and predicting patterns. Science 7 involves an in-depth, Project Based Learning environment that creates opportunities for all students to go deep into science while connecting to the real world.

Science 8 – Full Year Course

The Science 8 course includes units in physics, chemistry, life science, and Earth science. The units of study are the science and engineering practices, how the Earth is changing, why organisms look the way they do, how things move, and how food provides our bodies with energy. Students will experience phenomena, investigate questions and participate in collaborative investigations to solve relevant problems. Science 8 involves an in-depth, Project Based Learning environment that creates opportunities for all students to go deep into science while connecting to the real world.

Science Olympiad – One Semester

Dive into the exciting world of science exploration, where curiosity and creativity take center stage! This course is perfect for students who love science and want to deepen their understanding of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) topics through hands-on activities and problem-solving challenges. While the course will introduce activities similar to those in Science Olympiad tournaments, participation on the competition team is optional.

Social Studies

Social Studies 7 – Full Year Course

Social Studies 7 encompasses World History from the beginnings of human society through 300 C.E. Students will learn geographic, environmental, biological, and cultural processes that influenced the rise of the earliest human communities, the migration and spread of people throughout the world, and the causes and consequences of the growth of agriculture. Students will discover the innovations and social, political, and economic changes which occurred through the emergence of classical civilizations in Africa and Eurasia, and their impact on our world yet today. Social Studies 7 involves an in-depth, Project Based Learning environment that creates opportunities for all students to go deep into the C3 Framework while connecting to the real world.

US History 8 – Full Year Course

US History 8 encompasses major themes of the 18th and 19th centuries in American History. Students will learn about the fight for independence from Britain and the forging of a new nation. Moving into the 19th century, students will investigate the underlying causes and results of westward expansion, and its consequences for American Indians and enslaved African Americans. Students will also study reform movements such as abolition and women’s suffrage, sectional tensions that contributed to the Civil War, and the successes and failures of Reconstruction. Students will examine a variety of primary and secondary documents and engage in historical research and writing. Social Studies 8 involves an in-depth, Project Based Learning environment that creates opportunities for all students to go deep into the C3 Framework while connecting to the real world.

Spanish E. Hemisphere Explorations 7 – Full Year Course (SI Students Only)

Using the Spanish language, students will experience World History from the beginnings of human society through 300 C.E. With an emphasis on Spanish content-rich vocabulary and grammar, students learn geographic, environmental, biological, and cultural processes that influenced the rise of the earliest human communities, the migration and spread of people throughout the world, and the causes and consequences of the growth of agriculture. Students will discover the innovations and social, political, and economic changes which occurred through the emergence of classical civilizations in

Africa and Eurasia, and their impact on our world yet today, while practicing language functions in order to improve their language proficiency.

Spanish Exploring America 8 – Full Year Course (SI Students Only)

Using the Spanish language, students will experience major themes of the 18th and 19th centuries in American History. Students will learn about the fight for independence from Britain and the forging of a new nation. With an emphasis on Spanish content-rich vocabulary and grammar, the learning focus will be the 19th century, and students will investigate the underlying causes and results of westward expansion, and its consequences for American Indians and enslaved African Americans. Students will also study reform movements such as abolition and women’s suffrage, sectional tensions that contributed to the Civil War, and the successes and failures of Reconstruction, all while practicing Spanish language functions in order to improve their language proficiency.

World Language

Chinese Language and Literature 7 – Full Year Course (Required for CHI Immersion)

This course is a continuation of the Chinese Immersion experience for our students. This course focuses on speaking, writing, reading, and listening. In addition, cultural experiences will also be included. Students will be engaged in various learning experiences to allow further practice of the target language.

Chinese Language and Literature 8 – Full Year Course (Required for CHI Immersion)

This course is a continuation of the Chinese Immersion experience for our students. This course continues to focus on speaking, writing, reading, and listening. In addition, cultural experiences will also be included. Students will be engaged in a variety of learning experiences to allow the further practice of the target language. Upon successful completion of this course, the credit will be recorded on the student’s high school transcript and applied to high school graduation requirements.

Introduction to Spanish – One Semester

This course is meant to bridge students’ previous World Language exposure to a future high school Spanish experience. Students will practice all four language components: reading, speaking, listening and writing in Spanish. Students will also participate in activities, games, songs, and utilize technology to further their skills. Project-based learning will be utilized as a way to learn about Spanish and Latin American cultures, and literature.

Spanish 1 – Full Year Course (8th Grade Only)

Students will become immersed in the language and culture through a variety of listening, reading, writing, and speaking experiences. Students will take the equivalent of the high school final exam at

the end of the year. This course is a great way to earn 1 of 2 required High School World Language credits. Upon completing Spanish 1, the credit will be recorded on the student's high school transcript and applied to high school graduation requirements.

Performing Arts

Band 7 – Full Year Course

Recommended Prerequisite: Demonstrated proficiency in Band 6 and/or one year of study on the instrument they are planning to play in Band 7.

A variety of band literature is studied and performed. Practice at home and attendance at all performances are expected. The bands perform several concerts throughout the year and may attend music festivals. Additional opportunities exist through solo and ensemble festivals. ***Students are scheduled into this course for the entire year.***

Band 8 – Full Year Course

Recommended Prerequisite: Demonstrated proficiency in Band 7.

This course is for students who have completed two previous years of band. Students new to Forest Hills should contact the school office to determine appropriate placement. A variety of band literature is studied and performed. Practice at home and attendance at all performances is expected. The Band performs several concerts throughout the year and may attend music festivals. Additional opportunities exist for participation in solo and ensemble festivals. ***Students are scheduled into this course for the entire year.***

Orchestra 7 – Full Year Course

Recommended Prerequisite: Demonstrated proficiency in Orchestra 6 and/or one year of study on the instrument they plan to play in Orchestra 7.

A variety of orchestra literature is studied and performed. Practice at home and attendance at all performances are expected. The orchestras perform several concerts throughout the year and may attend music festivals. Emphasis is placed on gaining technical skill through performance of different types of literature, and on music theory as it relates to string playing. ***Students are scheduled into this course for the entire year.***

Orchestra 8 – Full Year Course

Recommended Prerequisite: Demonstrated proficiency in Orchestra 7.

A variety of orchestra literature is studied and performed. Practice at home and attendance at all performances are expected. The orchestras perform several concerts throughout the year and may attend music festivals. Emphasis is placed on refining and improving an individual's music skills to a higher degree of proficiency. A variety of orchestral literature is studied and performed. ***Students are scheduled into this course for the entire year.***

Choir – Full Year Course

Choir students will build on their previous experience in music (vocal or instrumental) and learn to use their vocal instrument to produce a correct and pleasing sound. In addition to mastering proper vocal production and technique, students will also develop music reading skills, sight-singing and aural skills, music history, and performance skills. They are expected to practice at home and attend all performances. The choir participates in the annual district Middle School Choral Gala, as well as several concerts throughout the year. Performance demeanor, responsibility to the group, and teamwork are emphasized. **Students are required to remain in the class for the entire year.**

Visual Arts

Draw, Paint, Print – One Semester

Whether you are just starting out or already a young Picasso, this class will help you enhance your skills! You will explore a variety of drawing, painting, and printmaking techniques and media, including pen and ink, watercolor, pastels, linoleum block, mixed media, acrylics, and charcoal. Classwork will focus on skill development, creative problem-solving, and visual literacy. Throughout the course, connections will be made across different subjects.

Photo, Yearbook, and Creative Imaging – Full Year Course

The primary focus of this course is the production of the Northern Hills Middle Yearbook. Students will start by learning the basics of digital photography and will then apply those skills to take the photos for the NHMS Yearbook. In addition to photography, students will study page design, layout, theme development, and other production elements. Some commitment outside of the scheduled school hours (before or after school) is expected for Yearbook work. The course will conclude with exploring various media in the creative image-making process.

Art Explorations – One Semester

This class offers students the chance to engage in a range of creative experiences in both two- and three-dimensional design. Drawing, painting, sculpture, crafts, computer graphics, and cartooning are just a few mediums students can explore for creative expression. Throughout the course, students will enhance their skill levels and visual literacy as they study and apply the elements and principles of design. Cross-curricular expressions occur throughout the curriculum.

Clay & Sculpture – One Semester

In this class, clay and its many possibilities will be explored. Several hand-building methods and glazing techniques will be presented. Both functional and nonfunctional pieces will be encouraged. Sculpture and design in materials other than clay will also form a portion of the course.

Technology

Engineering/Robotics 1– One Semester

This is a beginner course in robotics. Students will utilize VEX IQ kits, VEXcode software, and various VEX Robotics materials. This course aims to introduce students to basic programming and problem-solving strategies. This course will engage students in developing, building, and programming a VEX IQ robot. Students will collaborate in teams to design, build, program, and document their progress. Topics may include motor control, gear ratios, torque, friction, sensors, timing, program loops, logic gates, decision-making, timing sequences, propulsion systems, and binary number systems.

Engineering/Robotics 2– One Semester

Prerequisite: Demonstrated proficiency in Engineering/Robotics 1.

This course will build upon the experience from Engineering 1 by exploring related math, engineering, robotics, and programming concepts in greater detail. Students will concentrate on three different programming languages: JavaScript, C/C++, and Python. They will deepen their understanding of essential programming skills using robotic components, Arduino boards, Raspberry Pi, and drones. The capstone project involves designing, constructing, and programming a personal food computer.

Coding 1 – One Semester

Coding 1 is designed for 7th and 8th grade students, requiring no prior programming experience. It draws inspiration from "Fundamentals of Programming and Computer Science," a successful course offered at Carnegie Mellon University for over a decade. The course promotes the idea that learning programming and computer science should be enjoyable and engaging. This approach introduces intriguing problems to solve, as computational problem-solving lies at the core of computer science.

The browser-based course features an Integrated Development Environment (IDE) that students use to create and run their programs. With the IDE, students can write their code and see their drawings come to life on screen. Units cover topics such as Creating Drawings, Functions, Mouse Events, Properties, Mouse Motion Events, Conditionals, and Helper Functions.

Coding 2 – One Semester

Prerequisite: Demonstrated proficiency in Coding 1.

This course builds upon the foundations of Coding 1 by covering additional programming and computer science topics, then applying and extending computational problem-solving skills across various application areas. Units will utilize computation in fields such as art, science, music, mathematics, simulations, and game design. Topics include: More Conditionals, Key Events, Methods, Groups, Step Events, and Motion.

Communications

Drama/Creative Writing – One Semester

This class will emphasize the excitement of creative dramatics and writing! Do you enjoy writing and performing skits, working on sets and costumes, and participating in a group production? While interacting with classmates in imaginative ways, you will learn stage directions and acting techniques. This class is a fantastic opportunity to conquer stage fright and learn to think on your feet. Additionally, it employs the writing workshop method: time, ownership, and response, engaging you in a writing process that is sure to enhance your creative writing potential.

Games and Strategies for Critical Thinking – One Semester

This engaging elective explores the power of games as tools for developing critical thinking, problem-solving, and strategic decision-making skills. Students will analyze and apply strategic thinking across various game formats, from classic board games like Chess and Catan to cooperative challenges like Pandemic and Forbidden Island. Through hands-on gameplay, discussions, and reflection, students will learn the principles of risk management, negotiation, teamwork, and adaptability. The course concludes with a student-designed game project and a final tournament, allowing students to test their skills in a fun and collaborative environment.

Lead the Way – One Semester

This class will examine leadership for global citizens and the issue of intolerance from a social science perspective to advance the mission of respecting all people and ensuring future success in a global society. The instruction will incorporate various leadership skills and styles, service learning, and volunteerism to enhance the spirit and practice of inclusion and open-mindedness among participants

and our entire school community. All activities organized by the students—such as community service and global awareness projects, dances, and spirit weeks—are designed to actively implement student learning! Students will need to be available outside the scheduled class period for certain projects

Husky Pals – One Semester

Students enrolled in our Husky Pals Program will serve as mentors, role models, and friends to those in our Special Education Cognitively Impaired Program. Each student will dedicate one class period each day to their assigned student. In addition to being a mentor, role model, and friend, they will help the student demonstrate appropriate classroom behavior, organize assignments and supplies, and maintain focus during instruction.

Outdoor Exploration/Physical Education

Outdoor Exploration – One Semester

This activity-based class will take students into the natural areas surrounding the school to engage in a variety of studies. Topics include, but are not limited to, wild edible plants, stream exploration and water quality, habitats and wildlife, compass skills, and survival techniques. Expect to spend time in the woods, by the stream, in the fields, and in the classroom as students learn about the natural environment and our interactions with it. This course is designed for students with a genuine interest in hands-on science. Winter weather may affect daily activities.

Physical Education – One Semester or Full Year

The physical education curriculum emphasizes recreational and lifelong activities, individual sports, and team sports. The program's activities promote physical fitness, personal responsibility, self-discipline, respect for oneself and others, and cooperation. Students will participate in drills and activities designed to develop or enhance fundamental offensive and defensive skills, as well as strategies for both. Additionally, students will appreciate the benefits of regular activity by engaging in a variety of fitness activities.

Strength and Conditioning – One Semester

This course primarily introduces structured routines in weight training, stretching, plyometrics, and conditioning. The main emphasis is on teaching students the correct form, discipline, and workout intensity necessary to enhance their physical fitness levels. Individual programs will be provided to accommodate students with varying abilities and interests within the same class.

Husky Pals PE – One Semester

Students enrolled in our Husky Pals PE Program will serve as mentors, role models, and friends to students in our Special Education Cognitively Impaired Program. In this role, they will be with their assigned Husky Pal during Physical Education class.

Health – One Semester (8th grade only) ***Course offering is subject to availability***

Health in 8th grade is a course that provides credit for high school Health. Students will explore units that meet the State of Michigan Health Standards. Throughout these units, emphasis is placed on the avoidance of risky behaviors, positive self-image, refusal skills, and knowledge of responsibilities and laws. Units will include: types of health (mental, physical, social/emotional), foods and fitness, alcohol, tobacco, and drugs, healthy relationships, communicable and non-communicable diseases, HIV/STIs, reproductive system, pregnancy (abstinence-based), CPR and First Aid.

Upon successfully completing Health, the credit will be recorded on the student's high school transcript and applied to high school graduation requirements.

Academic Support

Academic Support – One Semester

This support class is open to all students and is specifically designed for those who need additional support in areas like study skills, time management, and organization. Participants will take part in this course to improve their success in other classes and develop skills that will serve them well in future studies. They will also have the opportunity to focus on and receive assistance with assignments from their other courses. Enrollment is dependent on a teacher or counselor recommendation and/or a parent request.

Reading Lab – One Semester

This support class is open to all students and is taken in addition to your language arts course. Students will learn and continue developing reading strategies to support their growth. **This course is designed as an intervention to help students become proficient readers.** **Enrollment is based on teacher or counselor recommendation, and/or parent request.*

Math Power 8 – One Semester or Full Year (8th Grade)

This support class is open to all students and is taken concurrently with Math 8. Do you sometimes look at a problem in math and wonder where to start to find the answer? Do you frequently come up with the wrong answer because you don't understand the process you need to use to find it? Does math sometimes seem like a foreign language to you? Math Power 8 will review the most troublesome areas of math for you so that you can find success in mathematics! **Enrollment is based on teacher or counselor recommendation, and/or parent request.*

Academic Strategies: Students with IEP's – Full Year Course

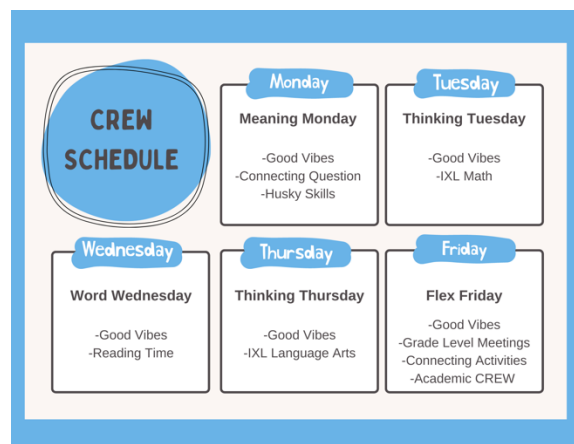
Student placement is based on students' Individualized Education Program (IEP) requirements/goals

This course is designed to assist students in developing academic skills and meeting IEP goals and objectives through specially designed instruction. Focus areas include instructional support, time management, organization, self-advocacy skills, and accommodations per students' IEPs. Students will be graded CR or NC for this course.

CREW

Overview of our Husky CREW experience:

- Husky CREW brings our school community together by fostering meaningful relationships, encouraging reflection on academic progress, and focusing on developing Husky Skills. CREW is a space where every student feels known, valued, and supported.
- Each student is assigned to a CREW with a teacher they have during the school year, creating a consistent and supportive connection.
- CREW meets daily for 25 minutes at the start of the school day.
- This time also provides students with opportunities to use IXL, a personalized learning platform, to strengthen their math and language arts skills.



NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

It is the policy of the Forest Hills School District that no person shall, on the basis of race, religion, age, color, national origin, sex, or handicap, be excluded from participation in, be the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity of the district, including employment.

Any questions, concerning title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, including athletic issues, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, or inquires related to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicap, should be directed to:

Mrs. Christine Annese
Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Forest Hills Public Schools
6590 Cascade Road, S.E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546
(616) 493-8800