

LEGG MIDDLE SCHOOL

8TH GRADE ENROLLMENT PACKET

2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope that this school year has been a successful one for your child. Over the course of the seventh grade year, we trust that your child made a meaningful connection to school and is proud to be a LMS Cardinal. We are anxiously looking forward to a challenging and rewarding eighth grade year.

All eighth grade students will be divided into academic teams where they will get instruction in the core subjects of English, mathematics, science, and social studies. The academic teachers assigned to work with your child will have a common group of students. This arrangement will allow us to deliver instruction more effectively, integrate curriculum topics, and create smaller groups of students. **If you would like to make a teacher request, please do so by completing the application that can be found on our website or in our middle school office. Applications need to be completed and turned in to the principal by FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2019.**

An eighth grade program sheet is included to help you orient yourself to the Legg curriculum. Your child's seventh grade math and English teachers have made recommendations for level placement in math and English. This was based on teacher observations of your child's abilities and test scores. Changes may occur if class sizes need to be adjusted. If you have questions or concerns about your child's placement, please do not hesitate to contact the appropriate teacher or the Legg counseling staff.

The signed enrollment sheet needs to be returned to your child's first hour class by Monday, April 29, 2019. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either of our counselors, Mrs. Bach or Mrs. Lyon-Welch at 279-5940.

Sincerely,

Julie Slusher

Julie Slusher, Principal
Legg Middle School

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8TH GRADE ENROLLMENT

COURSE LEVEL DESCRIPTIONS

PRE-ALGEBRA 8 (8TH GRADE CURRICULUM)

This course is designed for the eighth grade student working at grade level in mathematics. Course materials are aligned to the Common Core State Standards. In this course, emphasis is placed on solving and graphing of linear equations. Other concepts include polynomials, nonlinear functions, perimeter, area, volume, probability, and problem solving. An understanding of the topics covered is essential for success in future courses in algebra and geometry.

ALGEBRA I (HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM)

This course is intended for the 8th grade student who has demonstrated an exceptional aptitude in mathematics. To be placed in this class, students must demonstrate algebraic readiness by achieving an acceptable score on the Algebraic Aptitude Test and have teacher recommendation or parent and student recommendation. Course materials are aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Topics include an extensive study of linear equations, factoring and graphing nonlinear equations. High school credit will be earned by students who successfully complete this course.

ENGLISH 8

This course includes the teaching of reading, vocabulary, and comprehension skills. Students will read a variety of genres including fiction, non-fiction, mystery, biography and science fiction. In literature, the emphasis will be on short stories, poetry, drama, novels and nonfiction. Special emphasis will be placed on literary analysis and comprehension skills. Unique writing will include participation in the America and Me essay contest.

ADVANCED ENGLISH 8

This challenging course includes the teaching of reading, vocabulary, and comprehension skills. Students will read a variety of genres taught at an accelerated pace and more concentrated focus. Increased critical thinking skills and extended learning activities will be included. In literature, the emphasis will be on short stories, poetry, drama, novels and nonfiction. Special emphasis will be placed on literary analysis and comprehension skills. Unique writing will include participation in America and Me contest.

U.S. HISTORY 8

This course will introduce students to the major events, movements, people, and ideas that shaped U.S. History from the first shots of revolution to becoming a world power. An emphasis will be placed on the political, social, and economic patterns which have and will continue to shape American History. Students will demonstrate basic skills in critical thinking, communication, research writing, and technology appropriate to historical understanding. Core democratic values as expressed in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights will be recognized by students. Students will appreciate the labors of our forefathers and will be encouraged to promote this heritage.

EARTH SCIENCE 8

High School Content Expectations from the **Earth Science Essentials** and Earth Science Core Knowledge will be studied, focusing on units such as Earth's Systems: hydrosphere, geosphere, atmosphere, biosphere, energy in Earth's systems, biogeochemical cycles, resources and human impacts on Earth's systems. The Solid Earth: landforms and soils, rocks and minerals, plate tectonics, interior of the earth, earthquakes and volcanoes. The Fluid Earth: water cycle, hydrology, oceans, glaciers, climate, weather and atmosphere. The Earth in Space and Time: astronomy (with an emphasis on identification and location of the major stars and constellations), motions of celestial objects, formation of the universe, the sun, stellar evolution, earth history and geological time, geological dating, and climate changes over time.

THE GAME OF LIFE 8: NINE WEEKS REQUIRED ELECTIVE FOR ALL 8TH GRADE STUDENTS

Have you ever played the board game Life? In this elective you will explore career and educational opportunities, and participate in interactive experiences in money management and personal finance. You will also have the opportunity to interact with speakers from local businesses, and start building your talent portfolio. Students will develop real world skills that can be applied in high school and beyond.

8TH GRADE ELECTIVE CHOICES

8th GRADE CHOIR: FULL YEAR

Eighth grade choir is open to all students who are interested in singing. Students will learn to sing three-part and four-part music. Students will continue their focus on fundamentals of singing including tone, breath support, posture, pitch, rhythm, interpretation and presentation. Students will learn to read music in treble- and bass-clefs. They will be able to identify all key signatures and read rhythms in all time signatures. Students will learn to work cooperatively to prepare for performances. Students will be expected to participate in four performances, one each marking period.

8TH GRADE BAND: FULL YEAR

The eighth grade band is open to any student who completed seventh grade band. This class will work towards mastery of the basic musicianship skills each day. This class will also include elements from other core subjects such as math, history, reading, and writing. In addition, this class fosters an opportunity to develop fundamental life skills such as teamwork through the common goal of a performance, responsibility, and character building. The band performs both a winter and spring concert. The band also participates in the annual MSBOA Band and Orchestra Festival in March and the Solo and Ensemble Festival in April.

SPANISH 1: FULL YEAR (HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM)

Spanish 1 will provide students the opportunity to learn the basics of the Spanish language. As in learning any foreign language, students will be exposed to Spanish through reading, writing, listening, and speaking activities throughout this course. Participation in all areas is expected in order to achieve the best results to become a better foreign language student. Students must have earned B's or above all year in English 7 in order to be eligible to sign up for this class.

Student must pass all four quarters of this class, along with the high school semester exams, in order to earn a high school foreign language credit.

YEARBOOK 8: FULL YEAR COURSE

Students will market, design and create the yearbook for the 2017-18 school year. Students will be tracking, organizing and distributing the purchased yearbooks. This class will require students to assist in the photographing school events, uploading, creating, editing and putting together the yearbook spreads. Students must be dedicated, good with time management and organized as well as willing to work in groups or on a team. Students with strong computer skills and good sense of art and design are strongly suggested. Students must complete and turn in an application form provided at the end of the year as well to be considered for this course. **Enrolling in this class is a commitment for an entire year.**

WOODWORKING & ENGINEERING 8: NINE WEEKS

The majority of class time in this course will be spent on projects. Students will learn how to safely operate woodworking machinery, and learn basic mechanical drawing techniques and measuring skills. Students will start with woodworking projects designed by the instructor and advance to projects with design input from the student. Students will also be challenged with engineering projects requiring them to design and build solutions to problems.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8: NINE WEEKS

The physical education students will be involved in a variety of units. The main objective of these units is to enhance student knowledge, skill proficiency, motor development, coordination, and social skills needed for life long physical fitness. Our goal is to encourage the student to value his/her health through teaching developmentally appropriate physical education skills and lifetime sports. Grades will be based upon a straight percentage scale with letter grades assigned A-E. Students will have the opportunity to earn ten points per day based upon changing their clothes for class, behavior and participating in the daily lesson.

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE AND CREATIVE WRITING 8: NINE WEEKS

This course will be a study of creative writing focused on children's literature, including a section studying Dr. Seuss. Students will create original children's books and the culminating project will be sharing those stories with students at Max Larsen.

SCIENCE DISCOVERY: EXPLORING THE UNIVERSE WITH THE LMS PLANETARIUM 8: NINE WEEKS

This course will have students exploring the universe by examining celestial objects in the night sky. Students will become astronomers by blasting off into the night sky learning stars, constellations, and other objects through the LMS Planetarium. Students will begin by learning and examining basic planetarium and night sky terminology. Then, they will discover the stars and 88 constellations in groups such as zodiac, non-zodiac, seasonal, north circumpolar, etc. Students will be able to provide the exact location of any item in the night sky by learning how to use the celestial grid system. Hands-on activities and assignments will include items such as a day sky observation and a night sky observation. Next, students will voyage into the history and mythology of the constellations. Lastly, students will learn how to use the day and night sky for navigation in the world just as ancient astronomers and explorers did. If time permits other topics might include our solar system, planets, planetary alignments, seasons, moon phases, tides and eclipses.

ART 8: NINE WEEKS

Students will further their knowledge and vocabulary with aesthetics and art history throughout the nine week course. Each nine weeks will focus on a different medium of art to allow for further exploration of that type of art: sculpture, drawing, painting and fabrics. This will allow the student to dig deeper into that type of art and produce four to five final projects over the course of the nine weeks. Students will be able to take two quarters of art over the course of the year if space is available in these courses.

SWIMMING 8: NINE WEEKS

This course will include stroke development (free style, backstroke, breast stroke, butterfly, and side stroke), diving and water games. Students will also receive water safety instruction.

STEM-ROBOTICS & ENGINEERING 8: NINE WEEKS

This course will focus on integrating Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics. Students will learn basic robotics concepts, building robots with the LEGO EV3 hardware and programming them with the LEGO Mindstorm software. Students may also develop engineering skills through activities such as bridge building.

FLEX YOUR MATH MUSCLES 8: NINE WEEKS

Math is intellectual muscle building. By playing games and learning to solve logical puzzles, students will improve their math muscle. Training one's brain will improve memory, attention, logical reasoning, and problem solving. Doing math only in school is not enough; students will learn fun games, activities, and puzzles that they can continue outside of school for continued growth.

INTERACTIVE FILM 8: NINE WEEKS

Do you like to watch movies? Do you like to read or hear about your favorite actor or actresses? Have you ever wanted to give an acceptance speech? Well, this is the time to get your star on the streets of Legg Middle School. We will learn about, watch, and review movies, while getting to know the award-winning actors, actresses, directors and producers. Welcome to Interactive Film Class!

UKULELE 8: NINE WEEKS

This class will teach students to play the ukulele. In this course students will learn how to play and accompany themselves on the ukulele through learning basic chord progressions and basic music theory. No music training is required for this course, however, a strong appreciation for music and positive attitude is needed. Students will learn to play many popular songs from the radio that will make for an interesting and fun class experience. The ukulele as an instrument is growing in popularity and has been featured by many popular artists like Jason Mraz, Bruno Mars, Ingrid Michaelson, Jack Johnson, American Authors and many, many more.

