



EAU CLAIRE
AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

2020-2021

Middle School Academic Planning Guide Grade 8

ECASD VISION: "We challenge minds, build relationships and nurture individual growth to prepare all students for post-secondary success."

A link to the online version of this academic planning guide is available on your school's webpage.

If you would like language assistance to interpret these materials, please call your child's school, or 715-852-3555.

Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov ntawv nov ua lus Hmoob, thov hu xov tooj rau koj tus menyuam lub tsev kawm ntawv los yog hu tus xov tooj no: 715-852-3555.

Si Ud. le gustaría ayuda para interpretar el idioma de estos materiales, por favor llame Ud. a la escuela de su hijo o hija, o 715-852-3555.

Equal Educational Opportunities

All ECASD programs and classes (including Career & Technical Education and Project Lead the Way) are available to students regardless of their sex, race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.

The District encourages informal resolution of complaints concerning alleged discrimination. If any person believes that the Eau Claire Area School District or any part of the school organization has failed to follow the law and rules of §118.13, Wis. Stats., the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title IX, Title VI, or Section 504 or in some way discriminates against students on the basis of sex, race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability he/she can bring or send a complaint to Kay Marks, Executive Director of Human Resources, 500 Main Street, Eau Claire, WI 54701. Ms. Marks can be contacted at 715-852-3051.

The Eau Claire Area School District Non-discrimination policy can be found at <http://www.ecasd.us/ECASD/media/District-Site/PDFs/NondiscriminationPolicy2013.pdf>

Eau Claire Area School District: Multi-level System of Support

Students reach educational targets and benchmarks in different ways. Several factors can impact when students reach proficiency in a course of study. In Eau Claire, our goal is that all students will meet or exceed our benchmarks. Therefore, we work to provide educational services within a framework known as a Multi-level System of Support (MLSS).

This means that we provide rigorous, differentiated educational programming within our universal coursework. Some students will need additional support and/or enrichment to meet or exceed grade-level benchmarks. Below is an explanation of some of the ways students can be supported in the ECASD MLSS framework in Middle School.

- **English Learners:** Students who speak a language other than English at home may qualify for English language (EL) support. For additional information on EL services, please contact the school's EL teacher or EL Program Support Teacher, Brianna Smit at 715-852-3140 or bsmit@ecasd.us . You may also contact the district bilingual helpline at 715-852-3555.
- **Gifted Education:** The Eau Claire Area School District provides for the special learning needs of students who exhibit gifted behavior in any of the following areas: General Intellectual Ability, Specific Academic Ability, Artistic Ability (including art, music, drama), Leadership Ability, and Creative Ability.

Students are assessed for appropriate math, science, and language arts placement during their middle school years. If you are interested in learning more about enrichment and/or acceleration, please contact your school counselor or gifted resource teacher. You may also contact the district Gifted Education Coordinator, Michelle Kooiker, at 715-852-3110 or mkooiker@ecasd.us.

- **Special Education:** Special education services may be delivered in a general classroom, pull out environment; or a combination of these options. Individual Educational Plans (IEP) are designed to meet the student's educational needs with accommodations and/or modifications. Course selection decisions are made based on the student's IEP. Most special education courses parallel traditional core academic offerings, but some are significantly modified in content and focus. See your school counselor or IEP team manager for more information. You may also contact the district Director of Special Education, Mandy VanVleet, at 715-852-3074 or mvanvleet@ecasd.us.
- **Course Credit Requirements:**

The District has established standard credit requirements for high school graduation. All required credits must be earned by completing the course with a minimum passing grade while the student is enrolled in the high school grades. While students in grades 7 and 8 may receive high school credit for the following classes: Algebra, Geometry, Biology, and World Language I, the credit earned shall not be used to meet the minimum credit requirements in math, science, or elective areas in high school. Students will still need to complete the required number of credits in each department during grades 9-12. All courses, regardless of level, will be taught by a teacher licensed in the subject/grade.

Grade 8 Required Courses

8100	English 8	Grade 8	Required	Year
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In English 8, students will grow as writers and readers. Students will continue to read both informational and literary texts and develop their skills in comprehension at or above 8th grade level. Through such methods as Reader/Writer Workshop, reader response, close reading and the writing process, students will develop skills for narrative, argumentative and informational writing. Students will also expand their abilities with other forms of communication. They will continue to pursue excellence in their work through continual revision and strive to produce work that meets expectations for 8th grade language and grammar. Units in science fiction, mythology, classics, poetry, mass media, and other literature are taught throughout the year.

8200	Math 8	Grade 8	Required	Year
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The Math 8 curriculum will expand on algebraic concepts and provide students with a strong foundation for Algebra I. The curriculum is structured to help students learn the Common Core State Standards for Mathematical content and practices that allow them to communicate their reasoning and apply their learning to real-world problems. This will encourage the development of habits of mind that will allow students to develop deep understanding of mathematics. Topics addressed in Math 8 include: real number operations; use of radicals and integers exponents; connecting proportional relationships and lines; solving systems of linear equations; defining, evaluating and comparing functions; applying rules of congruence and similarity; applying the Pythagorean Theorem and volume formulas; and analyzing bivariate data. There is a balanced instructional approach using the text series *Big Ideas Math* by Ron Larson.

8300	Social Studies 8	Grade 8	Required	Year
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This course explores the history of the United States from the founding of the nation through 1929. The course is an important foundation for the development of participatory citizenship. Students will learn about important people and events that helped to shape the United States. Further, they will interact with many primary and secondary sources, draw conclusions, and compare and contrast events from multiple perspectives. Students will also conduct research projects of varying length while learning to evaluate sources for reliability and validity. Instruction will include a variety of methods designed to ensure students learn the techniques used by historians to recount events of the past and make links to the future. Finally student will learn many ways to present findings effectively to various audiences.

8400	Science 8	Grade 8	Required	Year
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Eighth grade science is a full year of physical science including units on motion, forces, work, sound, light, heat, energy, and chemistry. Students will also conduct investigations using the scientific method, problem solving techniques, and critical thinking skills. All of these skills will be used in a laboratory setting. Much time is devoted to experimenting, but the students are also expected to do supplemental work to assist them in understanding the ideas developed through lab work. In addition, students will use technology as a tool to collect data and communicate conceptual understanding.

Grade 8 Required Courses

8640	Gateway To Technology: Design and Modeling/Automation and Robotics	Grade 8	Required	Semester
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This course has two units. The first unit, Design and Modeling, uses solid modeling software (a sophisticated mathematical technique for representing solid objects) as part of the design process. Utilizing this design approach, students learn how design influences their lives. Students also learn sketching techniques and use descriptive geometry as a component of design, measurement and computer modeling. Students brainstorm, research, develop ideas, create models, test and evaluate design ideas and communicate solutions. In the second unit, Automation and Robotics, students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics. They learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation and computer control systems. Students acquire knowledge and skills in problem solving, teamwork collaboration and innovation. **This course is part of the Project Lead the Way program and prepares students for the Introduction to Engineering course offered to freshmen in high school. It is part of the ECASD Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Pathway.**

8650	Family & Consumer Sciences 8	Grade 8	Required	Semester
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FACS 8 is a semester course that provides students the opportunity to learn essential life skills. Students will utilize food preparation labs and learn about healthy food choices. Cooperation and problem solving are evaluated during all lab experiences. 8th graders will explore the world of work and will use the website, Career Cruising to enhance high school course planning and post-secondary goal setting. Other topics include family relationships, employability skills, housing and design, consumer and financial skills, creative fabric projects, child development, and consumer and financial smarts.

8700	Physical Education 8	Grade 8	Required	Year - Alternate Days
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The eighth grade curriculum provides opportunities for students to develop lifetime leisure activities. Emphasis is placed on individual sports. Emphasis is also placed on participation and skill development of all students regardless of ability level. Teamwork, cooperation, healthy competition, fitness, and effort are also stressed at this level. Students are required to wear the physical education t-shirts that were provided in 6th or 7th grade. If a replacement is needed, a new t-shirt must be purchased by parents/guardians. Students new to the school in 8th grade will be provided a t-shirt at no cost.

Grade 8 Music Electives

8900	Band 8	Grade 8	Elective	Year - Alternate Days
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Band 8 requires that students have previous band experience. Concerts, parades, and solo festivals are a few of the experiences students will have. In addition, students may have the opportunity to participate in band clinics and perform in various ensembles such as jazz band, flute choir, clarinet choir, etc. Summer lessons are expected unless other arrangements have been made with the band instructor. Participation in performances will constitute part of the student's grade. This course has a dress code for all performances.

8910	Chorus 8	Grade 8	Elective	Year - Alternate Days
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Eighth grade chorus offers students who have an interest and ability in singing an opportunity to sing a more challenging level of choral music. Much of the rehearsals will deal with further developing singing technique and music reading skills. Classroom activities will culminate in the performance of a wide variety of styles of music in three and four part harmony. Opportunities may be available for singing solos and performing in local and district solo festivals, as well as singing in various ensembles (trios, quartets, octets, triple trios, show choirs, honors groups, etc.) Participation in performances will constitute part of the student's grade. This course has a dress code for all performances.

8920	Exploring Music 8	Grade 8	Elective	Year – Alternate Days
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Exploring Music 8 will be divided between "Music and Culture Here and There" and "Creativity in Music Through Technology." Students will learn about the functions of music in people's lives, music in the local community, and music in everyday life. Projects of composition and recording music using software and MIDI keyboards will be another focus.

8930	Orchestra 8	Grade 8	Elective	Year - Alternate Days
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Orchestra 8 requires previous string experience. Students will perform in concerts and in the solo and ensemble festival. Students will continue the study of music at a more advanced level, building on the skills learned in previous years. Participation in concerts will constitute part of the student's grade. This course has a dress code for all performances.

8870 Recreational Activities

Grade 8

Elective

Semester **OR**

Year - Alternate days

This class will give students the opportunity to participate in many outdoor/indoor physical activities. Students will learn individual lifetime fitness skills as well as an appreciation for the outdoors. The class will also work on developing leadership skills, positive self-esteem, critical thinking skills, problem-solving skills, and working in diverse situations through an extension of physical education. We will explore the possible opportunity of a field trip at the end of the course.

8880 Introduction to Computer Science – South only

Elective Grade 8

Semester **OR**

Year - Alternate days

This course introduces students to the Project Lead the Way Computer Science curriculum. Students who take this class are prepared to take Computer Science Essentials in high school. The course combines two nine-week units described below:

Computer Science for Innovators and Makers

Throughout the unit, students will learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development, allowing students to discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible, and shareable projects.

App Creators

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.

8890 Advanced Computer Applications and Coding – DeLong and Northstar only

Elective Grade 8

Semester **OR**

Year - Alternate days

This course builds on the knowledge and skills learned in the 6th grade Intro to Computer Applications and Coding class. Students will learn more advanced commands in common word processing applications such as Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, Microsoft Excel, and Google Docs. Students will learn how to create and share content on their own web pages. A focus will be put on structure and styling the pages using HTML and CSS. Students will also build on their coding experience as they program animations, interactive art, apps, games, and devices using programming concepts and the design processes that computer scientists use daily. By the end of the course, students will be able to apply the programming principles they mastered to learn other programming languages.