



2015-2016

Middle School Academic Planning Guide Grade 8

ECASD VISION: "All children in the district are prepared 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 tsab ntawv nov txhais ua lus Hmoob, thov hu xov tooj rau koj tus menyuam lub tsev kawm ntawv/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 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, 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 model known as a Multi-level System of Support. This means that we provide rigorous, differentiated educational programming within our universal coursework. Some students will need additional support and/or enrichment to be able to meet or exceed grade-level benchmarks. Below is an explanation of some of the ways students can be supported in the ECASD Middle School Program.

- **English Learners:** Students who speak a language other than English at home may qualify for English language support. For additional information on EL services, please contact the school's EL teacher or school counselor. 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. Eau Claire Area School District's Gifted Education Coordinator is Pam Cernocky (715-852-5132, pcernocky1@ecasd.k12.wi.us).

- **Special Education:** Special education services may be delivered in a general or special education 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 manager for more information. You may also contact the district Director of Special Education and Student Services, Robyn Criego, at 715-852-3074 or rcriego@ecasd.k12.wi.us.

Grade 8 Required Courses

8100	English 8	Grade 8	Required	Year
<p>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.</p>				
8200	Math 8	Grade 8	Required	Year
<p>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 <i>Big Ideas Math</i> by Ron Larson.</p>				
8250	Algebra I	Grade 8	Meets Requirement	Year
<p>Algebra 1 is offered for students in 8th Grade. Students are assessed using multiple measures to determine readiness for Algebra 1. Math 8 is aligned to the College and Career Readiness Standards and provides a rigorous opportunity for students. However, some students may want to pursue this additional challenge or have already been part of accelerated math coursework, please contact your school counselor to determine if Algebra 1 is the best placement for the student.</p>				
8300	Social Studies 8	Grade 8	Required	Year
<p>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.</p>				
8400	Science 8	Grade 8	Required	Year
<p>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.</p>				

Grade 8 Required Courses

8640	Gateway To Technology: Design and Modeling/Automation and Robotics	Grade 8	Required	Semester
-------------	---	---------	----------	----------

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
-------------	---	---------	----------	----------

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, WISCareers 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
				OR
				Semester

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.

Grade 8 Music Electives

8900	Band 8	Grade 8	Elective	Year - Alternate Days
-------------	---------------	---------	----------	-----------------------

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
-------------	-----------------	---------	----------	-----------------------

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
-------------	--------------------------	---------	----------	-----------------------

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
-------------	--------------------	---------	----------	-----------------------

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.

Grade 8 World Language I Electives

8500	French I	Grade 8	Elective	Year
-------------	-----------------	---------	----------	------

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 7th grade French.

This course is a continuation of French 7. Students will continue to develop their speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. More advanced grammatical forms and expanded vocabulary are presented. Cultural studies will again be presented throughout the course.

8510	German I	Grade 8	Elective	Year
-------------	-----------------	---------	----------	------

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 7th grade German.

This course is a continuation of German 7. Students will continue to develop their speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. More advanced grammatical forms and expanded vocabulary are presented. Cultural studies will again be presented throughout the course.

8520	Spanish I	Grade 8	Elective	Year
-------------	------------------	---------	----------	------

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 7th grade Spanish.

This course is a continuation of Spanish 7. Students will continue to develop their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. More advanced grammatical forms and expanded vocabulary are presented. Cultural studies will again be presented throughout the course.

8530	Japanese I	Grade 8	Elective	Year
-------------	-------------------	---------	----------	------

Prerequisite: No pre-requisite is required.

This course will fulfill the requirement of Japanese I. Students will develop their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. Grammatical forms and vocabulary are presented. Cultural studies will again be presented throughout the course.

Grade 8 Electives

8810	Art & Design	Grade 8	Elective	Semester
-------------	-------------------------	----------------	-----------------	-----------------

This course introduces students to new art experiences as well as builds on concepts and skills learned in previous art classes. This class combines both 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional art. Examples of 2-dimensional experiences may include the following: drawing, painting, tessellation design, etching, and paper arts. Examples of 3-dimensional experiences may include the following: metal making, ceramics, sculpture, and environmental and packaging design. Students will also be introduced to various artists, art styles, art careers, and world cultures. Different themes may include: art from various cultures, human proportion, information design, and visual culture; as well as additive and subtractive sculpting techniques. Art materials and techniques may include: acrylic and watercolor paints, clay, glazes, metals, plaster, carving foams, and the use of art software, such as Adobe PhotoShop Elements.

8820	Health 8	Grade 8	Elective	Semester
-------------	-----------------	----------------	-----------------	-----------------

This course builds on the foundation of knowledge and life skills learned in 7th grade required health classes. It gives students a very relevant, interactive, fun, and exciting opportunity to not only think about the many decisions they will make; but also to learn more about those issues so that good decisions can be made! This is a great place for self-reflection and discovery promoting an excellent transition as students move from middle to high school.

8830	Business Exploration	Grade 8	Elective	Semester
-------------	-----------------------------	----------------	-----------------	-----------------

Have fun and explore business concepts as you create and run a business. Develop products and/or services; market your business through the development of a website, commercials, and print media; experience selling; and keep financial records. Use word processing, desktop publishing, spreadsheet, database, presentation, digital imaging, Internet, and web page applications; and discover how cooperation, leadership, and good decision-making skills are keys to business success. In addition, research the impact education, skills, and career choice have on your financial future.

8840	Engineering & Design	Grade 8	Elective	Semester
-------------	---------------------------------	----------------	-----------------	-----------------

Students will investigate the designed world by creating projects and completing activities in the areas of: material, manufacturing, construction, communication, transportation, energy, and biological technologies.

8850	FACS-Expo	Grade 8	Elective	Semester
-------------	------------------	----------------	-----------------	-----------------

FACS EXPO is a class that uses the foods and textiles labs to explore creative cooking, fun fabrics and managing your money. Some of the units of study/ projects may include; The iron chef cooking competition, ultimate smoothie challenge, recipe creation, cooking world cuisines, textile dying, fabric weaving, sewing recycled materials, machine embroidery, and tips for you and your money. This is a class for students that enjoy hands on activities and opportunities to explore their creativity.

8860	Lamination Process – DeLong only	Grade 8	Elective	Semester
-------------	---	----------------	-----------------	-----------------

This course provides students with an exploratory experience that includes planning, gluing, layout, forming, and shaping of laminated materials. Students may choose to make large projects or small projects. Students can make complex projects like bows, lamps, skateboards, or canoe paddles; or they can make small projects such as salad forks and spoons, bats, bowls, jewelry, and bread boards. Students will acquire knowledge and develop working skills centered on the construction of laminated materials. Students will use epoxy glue, plastics, woods, and other materials suitable for lamination.

8870	Recreational Activities	Grade 8	Elective	Semester
-------------	--------------------------------	----------------	-----------------	-----------------

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.