

Required Courses

Placement for courses with an * will be based on individual student performance and need.

	IB MYP SUBJECT GROUP	COURSE NAME	COURSE OPTIONS	
Core Classes	Sciences	Science	Science 8	Honors Physical Science*
	Individuals and Societies	Humanities 8		
	Physical & Health Education	IB Physical Health A/B/C/D		
	Mathematics	Mathematics	Pre-Algebra	Honors Algebra*
	Language and Literature	English Language Arts	English Language Arts 8	Honors English Language Arts 8*
	Language and Literature	Reading Skills 7/8 A or B*		
	Language Acquisition	Spanish	Spanish 2	Spanish for Spanish Speakers*

Performing and Visual Arts

You must select a total of two semesters in the Arts.

You may choose a year-long course or two semester-long courses. Year-long courses are designated with an *.

Visual & Performing Arts	Chorus 8*	Chorus 8 is available to eighth grade students who have special interests and abilities in choral singing. Choral music is introduced in two and three parts that include bass clef participation. Vocal emphasis is placed on the introduction of the male changing voice and greater extension of all voice ranges. Performance opportunities including the All-City Music Festival are an extension of the classroom experience. Chorus 8 is a year-long course.
	Advanced Band*	Advanced Band is offered for students with advanced abilities secured through several years of instrumental music participation. Music introduced includes technique studies and selected concert music with full instrumentation appropriate to the classes and ability. Membership is achieved by the recommendation of the instructor. Performance is included as an extension of the classroom activities. Advanced Band is a year-long course.
	Advanced Orchestra*	Advanced Orchestra is offered to eighth grade students who have demonstrated advanced ability in playing a string instrument. Technique studies and selected concert music advance both technical and musical understandings. The instrumentation includes violin, viola, cello and string bass. Membership is achieved by the recommendation of the instructor or successful completion of Intermediate Strings. Performance is included as an extension of the classroom activities outside of the school day. Advanced Orchestra is a year-long course.
	Jazz Band Technology*	Jazz Band Technology is for advanced instrumental students by audition only. Participation in all performances is required. Students enrolled in Jazz Band Technology will also take Intermediate Band. Jazz Band Technology fulfills the Design requirement of Middle Years Program.
	Music Exploration 8	Music Exploration 8 extends the scope of previously learned musical concepts and skills. Students explore various aspects of singing, listening, creating, notating, and playing. The focus is on contemporary and popular music styles. Student performances are limited to classroom demonstrations.
	Beginning Guitar	Beginning Guitar is an introductory and beginning course in acoustic guitar for middle school students. The class will focus heavily on guitar in which the student will learn to play melodies and chords. Course materials will be adapted to student advancement. Guitars are provided.
	Art 8	Art 8 allows students to be innovative and reflect on their own experiences as many American artists have and do today. American artists were and are on the forefront of shaping America's identity through recording the human experience in innovative ways. Throughout this course, students will continue to develop their artistic voice and style and explore how they do and will play a part in society. Students will examine art and artists throughout American history focusing on America's diversity and influence. Aesthetic theories of Instrumentalism, Expressionism and Formalism will be studied as well.
	Introduction to Pottery	Introduction to Pottery introduces basic skills in hand building techniques with clay. Students will study the history of ceramics throughout the world and learn about the relationship between form and function in ceramic art. Students will learn and use art vocabulary when discussing and writing about ceramic art created by others and themselves. Students will participate in regular aesthetic, historical and critical discussions about ceramic art.
	Drama Exploration 8	Drama Exploration 8 introduces students to the fundamentals of dramatic performance and production for middle school students. Students will participate in a variety of experiences including, but not limited to, effective mime techniques, voice and diction improvement, acting techniques, theatre criticism, playwriting, improvisation, stage terminology, set design, and the use of technology in theatre.
	Drama 1 & 2*	Drama 1 & 2 introduce students to drama and theater as an art form. Students enrolled in this course will learn and apply basic principles of acting and fundamentals of stage terminology and audience etiquette. Participants will study, experience, and perform pantomime, improvisation, monologues, original scenes, and create, write, and perform original scripts/plays. Students will also study the technical aspects of

theater and an introduction to theater history. Students are required to attend and critique all school play and musical productions. Enrollment in Drama 1 & 2 is by recommendation of the instructor.

Design

You must select a total of two semesters in Design.

Design	Tech & Living 8	Tech & Living 8 provides blend of innovative units from both the Industrial Technology and Family and Consumer Science curriculum are taught by staff from either discipline. Students are provided an opportunity to investigate a number of activities based on learning units in a state-of-the-art laboratory. Pairs of students work cooperatively through a seven-day Technology and Living Unit. Students independently choose from areas such as computer-aided design (CAD), clothing, structures, foods, lasers, housing, electricity/electronics, consumerism, robotics, childcare, research and design, and family.
	Global Entrepreneurship	Global Entrepreneurship explores entrepreneurship in the World. Students will apply skills learned in IB-Entrepreneurship by taking the product they created and researching laws in another country, decide if the original product can be marketed in another country, adjust the product to fit the needs of the country, design a plan on how the product will be marketed globally, and present products to global business leaders.
	Inventions and Innovations	Inventions and Innovations introduces students to the fields within science and technology that offer career opportunities that may not be apparent to them in the traditional curriculum. They will be introduced to a problem, brainstorm possible solutions, design experiments and models to test the ideas generated, and report their findings in a formal setting. They will also develop skills in working as a team, researching for information, communicating design information, and reporting results.
	Student Reporting Lab 8	Student Reporting Lab 8 allows students to participate in PBS NewsHour Student Reporting Labs. Students learn how to think critically, problem-solve, synthesize information, and investigate important topics. The PBS NewsHour Student Reporting Labs program connects students to local PBS stations and news professionals in their community to produce original, student-generated video reports.

Lewis & Clark Middle School is committed to working with families on an individual basis to best meet the needs of our students. Please call your counselor with questions at 531-299-2400.

Omaha Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, age, genetic information, citizenship status, or economic status in its programs, activities and employment and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following individual has been designated to address inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Superintendent of Schools, 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68131 (402-557-2001).

Required Courses at Lewis & Clark Middle School

Science 8	Science 8 engages students in the three dimensions (science practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts) of learning as identified by the Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards for Science. The topics include forces and interactions, waves and electromagnetic radiation, energy, heredity: inheritance and variation of traits, biological evolution, space systems, and history of Earth. This course provides the foundations for other science coursework.
Hon Physical Science 8	Honors Physical Science Grade 8 engages students in the three dimensions (science practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts) of learning as identified by the Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards for Science. The topics include forces and interactions, waves and electromagnetic radiation, structure and properties of matter, energy, chemical reactions, space systems, weather and climate, and Earth's systems. This course provides a foundation for other science courses and meets the district requirement for Physical Science. Students enrolled in honor courses have additional experiences that require a more rigorous program of study.
Humanities 8	IB-Humanities 8 aims to encourage students to respect and understand the world around them, and to provide a skills base to facilitate further study. This course examines the geography, history, economics, culture, art, literature, and elements of citizenship within studying the United States.
Physical Health 8	Physical Health 8 encourages the development of "intelligent performers" and to encourage students to understand the importance of a balanced, healthy lifestyle. Students should develop knowledge, critical thinking and reflection skills, and a sense of responsibility, as well as interpersonal and self-motivational skills. This is a series of four quarter classes.
Pre-Algebra	Pre-Algebra will contain spiraling reinforcement of basic algebraic concepts and topics in order to prepare students for successful placement in Algebra 1-2. This course will cover the content standards for pre-algebra, including operations on real numbers, conversions among fractions, decimals, and percents, solving linear equations and inequalities, graphing linear equations, working with polynomials, and using measures of central tendency to interpret data.
Hon Algebra	Honors Algebra covers traditional algebra topics including operations with signed numbers and polynomials, solving first-and second-degree equations, verbal problems, systems of linear equations, graphing and writing linear equations and inequalities, and simplifying exponential expressions. As an honors class, these topics will be covered in greater depth and with enrichment.

English Language Arts 8	English Language Arts 8 encourages students to recognize that proficiency in their native language is a valuable life skill, a powerful tool both in societal communication and as a means of personal reflection. This course supports student mastery of eighth grade standards. Students will learn that language and literature are creative processes that encourage the development of imagination and creativity through self-expression using reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing and thinking.
Hon English Language Arts 8	Honors English Language Arts 8 encourages students to recognize that proficiency in their native language is a valuable life skill, a powerful tool both in societal communication and as a means of personal reflection. This course supports student mastery of eighth grade Nebraska English Language Arts standards. Students learn that language and literature are creative processes encouraging the development of imagination and creativity through self-expression using reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students will create projects designed to challenge them. These projects require advanced thinking, problem solving, communication, research, leadership, and creativity. Some activities include descriptive writing, poetry writing, public speaking, literature circles, and History Day.
Reading Skills 8 A & B	Reading Skills 8 A & B are designed for readers who have a foundation in decoding skills but have difficulty comprehending grade-level material. The curriculum focuses on strengthening fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary skills. Placement is based on standardized test scores and teacher recommendation.
Spanish 2	Spanish 2 is a continuation and expansion of the principles and concepts of the Spanish 1. Students continue to work extensively with interpretive, presentational, and interpersonal communication skills while also delving more extensively into language structure, reading for information and general composition. Students continue to develop an awareness and appreciation of the various cultures associated with that language as well as the impact these cultures have made on their own community, country, and world.
Spanish for Spanish Speakers	Spanish for Spanish Speakers is designed for students who speak Spanish fluently but have difficulty reading and writing the language. Most of these students feel more comfortable reading and writing in English. Students will develop basic Spanish literacy skills along with gaining a deeper knowledge of the culture, history, and literature of the Spanish language. The course is taught in Spanish.

Course Placement Appeals

All Secondary Omaha Public Schools offer procedures for appealing course placement (i.e. AP, Honors, IB, etc.). Each building may have specific forms and deadlines; however, the following general procedures shall apply:

Level One: Counselor, Curriculum Specialist, Assistant Principal/Data, or Principal

A student or parent with a course placement appeal may first discuss the matter with the counselor, or building administrator involved, with the object of resolving the matter informally.

Level Two: Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

If the course placement appeal is not resolved at Level One and the individual still wishes to pursue the appeal, he/she may formalize the appeal in writing addressed to the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment at 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68131.

Level Three: Superintendent

If the appeal is not resolved at Level Two and the individual still wishes to pursue the appeal, he/she may formalize the appeal to the superintendent of schools after receiving a written response from the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.

These steps shall be taken in a timely manner so as to accommodate the registration of courses for the school year in question.