

MIDDLETOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL



Curriculum and Course Description
2025-2026

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MIDDLETOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT GUIDE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHEDULING 2025-2026

This booklet has been prepared as a resource for parents and students to help make decisions in planning the most appropriate educational program. School counselors and teachers are available to further explain and clarify the information.

Please carefully review the information in this booklet before making class selections. Counselors will meet with students to assist in the selection of subjects to be studied. Parents may arrange a conference with counselors by calling the Counseling office from 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at 420-4531.

School Counselors at MMS:

Lisa Blue-7th Grade
Brittany King-8th Grade
Catie Wambaugh-7th/8th Grade IEP students

Let's have a great 2025-2026 school year!

Michael Valenti
Principal

TEACHING TEAMS

Middletown Middle School is based on the middle school concept of organizing by teaching teams. Teaming allows us to build smaller learning communities for our students. We have 6 teaching teams, three at each grade level. Each consists of Language Arts teachers, Math teachers, Science teacher, Social Studies teacher, and Intervention Specialist(s).

SCHEDULES

Student schedules will be available prior to the start of school. A letter will be sent home in August explaining when schedules will be available for pick-up.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Our scheduling system allows us to build student schedules with the best possible match to student choices. Classes are scheduled upon availability, academic needs, and balanced class sizes. Class changes must occur during the **first ten days of each semester**. This policy allows for the best learning environment for all of our students.

GRADES

Progress Book: ProgressBook is an online system at Middletown Middle School that enables school staff, parents, and students to view grades and classroom assignments.

To access Progress Book:

1. Visit the school website at middletowncityschools.com
2. Click on the Progress Book icon
3. Student Access: Log in using your Google Account credentials
4. Parent/Guardian Access: Create an account using a Registration Key provided by the school district.

Grading Scale

90-100	A
80-89.49	B
70-79.49	C
60-69.49	D
0-59.49	F

District Grading Policy for ESL Students:

It is important for the Middletown City Schools District to operate within a uniform policy of grading and issuing credits for students who are English Learners. Asking students who are not proficient in English to perform as native speakers is unrealistic. These guidelines are intended to ensure equity and consistency in the evaluation of EL students while preserving the integrity of the grading system.

The following options should be considered when issuing grades and credits to EL students in academic classes:

- A student whose English language skills are so limited that little if any learning is taking place should be assigned grades only in those areas where a realistic evaluation of progress can be made; ie: work habits, social skills, art, physical education, etc.
- A student who has an overall understanding of the basic concepts of the course but has some difficulty in written and oral expression that makes it difficult for him/her to be tested or to complete all assignments might receive a satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade credit. Students receiving a "S" will receive a Carnegie Unit with a grade equivalent of a "C". If the student is able to earn a letter grade of "C" or above with no adjustment in the curriculum and the evaluation procedures, the teacher will assign the actual letter grade earned. Once the EL student has been able to earn a letter grade of "C" or better, the content area teacher is encouraged to continue using the regular district grading policy.
- Failure to perform at grade level or on par with native English-speaking students and/or failure to pass tests and quizzes designed for native English-speaking students does not in and of itself constitute failure for the ESL student.
- A student who is performing on a par with native speakers may be treated as such and given a grade and credit.

Criteria for assigning a grade of “S” (equivalent to “C”) to an EL student who qualifies for the S/U option:

- The student has made an effort to understand the content subject matter.
- The student has demonstrated progress during the given grading period.
- The student has attempted to do the assigned tasks, both in class and outside of class.
- The student made an effort to come to class prepared.
- If the student is not yet failing, but intervention is needed, a grade of “S” may be assigned.

Criteria for assigning a grade of “U” to an EL student who qualifies for the S/U option:

- The student has made no effort to learn the content material.
- The student has made no demonstrated progress during the given grading period.
- The student has made no effort to complete class assignments.
- The student has made no effort to complete homework assignments.
- The student does not come to class prepared.

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

High school credit can be earned upon successful completion of a high school level course. The grade earned will appear on the high school transcript; however, the earned grade will not be calculated into the student’s high school Cumulative GPA. A student who earns a grade of “C” or below, may be encouraged to repeat the same course at the high school, if offered. Any course taken in the Middle School, if repeated during the regular school day in high school, must be repeated during the 9th grade year. If a student chooses to repeat a course (must have earned a C or below) during the regular school day for which credit has been earned, the higher grade shall replace the lower grade on the student’s transcript, but additional credit shall not be granted. Credit for a course may only be earned one time.

Spanish I (Full year, 1 credit)

Adv. Geometry (Full year, 1 credit)

Algebra I (Full year, 1 credit)

Physical Education (Semester, .25 credit)

Health 7 (Semester, .5 credit)

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Ohio’s graduation requirements consist of 3 key components:

1. Course Completion
2. Competency Demonstration
3. Readiness Demonstration

1. Course Completion

COURSES	CREDITS
English	4
Math Algebra 1 (1 credit) Algebra 2 or equivalent (1 credit)	4
Science Biological (1 credit) Physical (1 credit) Elective (1 credit)	3
Social Studies World History (.5 credit) AM History (1 credit) AM Government (.5 credit)	3
Health	.5
Physical Education* 2 semesters	.5
Financial Literacy	.5
Fine Arts	1
Electives	3.5
Total	20

2. Competency Demonstration

Ohio Revised Code section 3313.618(B)(1)

Students must earn a 684 raw score on the English II and Algebra I end-of-course tests. Students not earning competency scores must retake the test at least once. In lieu of attaining competency scores on the state tests, students can use alternative ways to demonstrate competency.

Second, show competency

Earn a passing score on Ohio's high school Algebra I and English II tests. Students who do not pass the test will be offered additional support and must retake the test at least once.

Is testing not your strength?

After you have taken your tests, there are three additional ways to show competency!

Option 1:

Demonstrate two career-focused activities:

1. Foundational

- Proficient scores on WebXams
- A 12-point industry credential
- A pre-apprenticeship or acceptance into an approved apprenticeship program

2. Supporting

- Work-based learning
- Earn the required score on WorkKeys.
Earn the OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal

Option 2:

Enlist in the Military-Show evidence that you have signed a contract to enter a branch of the U.S. armed services upon graduation.

Option 3:

Complete college coursework-Earn credit for one college-level math and/or college-level english course through Ohio's free College Credit Plus Program.

3. Demonstrate Readiness

Students will demonstrate readiness for their post-high school paths by earning two seals that allow them to demonstrate important foundational and well-rounded academic and technical knowledge, professional skills, social and emotional competencies, and leadership and reasoning skills.

State of Ohio Seals-Visit [State of Ohio Seals](#) website for additional information.

Local Seals

Community Service Seal- Students must complete 12 hours in various school or community service projects such as SALT, Clean Up Middletown, Hope House, etc.or complete PEER Tutoring class.

Student Engagement Seal-Student must complete 6 points earned through participation in extracurricular activities such as (but not limited to) athletics, music performances, clubs, student government and community activities with 1 point earned per season/performance/year of participation.

Fine Arts and Performing Arts Seal-Student must complete 6 points in various fine arts classes or school/community-based music, art, theater or dance performance with 1 point earned for each semester class or 1 point for each performance with a maximum of 2 points in performance.

The Passport to Tomorrow

The Passport to Tomorrow strategic vision answers the question: *What does a successful Middle graduate look like tomorrow?* Through My Passport to Tomorrow, every Middle will be ready for enlistment, employment, enrollment or entrepreneurship. How each student achieves success will look different based on their career surveys and individual interest inventories. Middle school students will take a deep dive into career exploration with the opportunity to participate in various career experiences. The Passport to Tomorrow frames the student's schedule to allow time for a deeper exploration into career clusters within their fields of interest. It will, in short, allow them to dream today so they can rise tomorrow.

7th Grade Core Academic Courses

- Language Arts (2 periods)
- Math (2 periods)
- Science
- Social Studies
- Health (Semester) *For high school credit*

7th Grade Elective Course Offerings

- PE (Semester) *For high school credit*
- Art (Semester)
- Band (Full year)
- Choir (Full year)
- Orchestra (Full year)
- App Creator (Semester, Butler Tech course)
- STEM: Design & Modeling (Semester, Butler Tech course)

8th Grade Core Academic Courses

- Language Arts (2 periods)
- Math (2 periods)
- Science
- American History

8th Grade Elective Course Offerings

- Art (Semester)
- Band (Full year)
- Choir (Full year)
- Orchestra (Full year)
- PE (Semester) *For high school credit*
- Spanish I (Full year) *For high school credit*
- Work and Family Life (Semester, Butler Tech course)
- STEM: Robotics (Semester, Butler Tech course)
- Intro to Photography & Graphic Design (Semester)
- Flight & Space (Semester, Butler Tech course)

Advanced Course Placement- Middletown Middle School offers advanced placement courses in the areas of Math and Language Arts. Student placement in Pre-Algebra (Grade 7), Algebra I (Grades 7,8), Adv. Geometry (Grade 8) and Advanced Language Arts (Grades 7,8) is based on achievement, ability, MAP scores, and OST scores. All students who are placed in advanced courses are asked to remain in the course at least 5 weeks. If after this trial period the student is still having difficulties, removal from the course may be initiated by the parent, teacher, or counselor and will be determined on an individual basis.

ELECTIVE COURSES

ART

Art-Grade 7- (Semester)- This course introduces the 7th grade student to the Basic Elements and Principles of Design. Basic levels of drawing, painting, design and ceramics are taught. All work is on a beginning level and students have an opportunity to develop their own creative talents through a variety of media.

Art-Grade 8- (Semester)- This course continues to build the 8th grade students skills and knowledge in the Elements and Principles of design. Drawing, painting, design, and ceramics are taught. All students have an opportunity to develop their own creative talents through a variety of media.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Spanish I-Grade 8- (Full year)- This class is designed for motivated students interested in learning a foreign language and pursuing advanced level foreign language classes in high school. Students in first level Spanish focus on learning through basic conversation, with emphasis on speaking, listening, reading and writing proficiency. Emphasis is placed on comprehension and communication, using authentic multimedia materials. A variety of strategies will be utilized incorporating culture as it connects with language learning. Spanish I follows the same course syllabus, instructional calendar, and students will take the same assessments as students taking Spanish I at Middletown High School. Students successfully completing this course will receive one high school credit and then may continue on with Spanish II their 9th grade year at MHS.

HEALTH

Health-Required-Grade 7- (Semester)- Students must have .5 credit of Health Education for graduation. The course is designed to meet the needs of the young adolescent. This course explores body structures and functions, safety and first aid, health practices and wellness, community and environmental health, health careers and related occupations, diseases, human sexuality, and substance use and abuse. This

course follows state guidelines and uses the National Health Curriculum. Students successfully completing this course will receive .5 high school credit towards graduation.

MUSIC

Orchestra-Grade 7- (Full year)- This course focuses on developing the fundamental playing skills needed to master the instruments. During seventh grade students will develop basic instrument skills, master some advanced techniques, increase the sophistication of music reading skills, learn basic music theory concepts, and gain independent practice skills. The class also includes three evening concerts (fall, winter, and spring). **Attendance at all concerts is mandatory.**

Orchestra-Grade 8- (Full year)- This course focuses on learning basic and advanced instrument skills and preparing the students for high school orchestra. During eighth grade students will review all basic techniques, learn advanced techniques such as vibrato and shifting, use critical thinking to analyze the music played in class, and learn advanced music theory concepts. The class also includes three evening concerts (fall, winter, and spring). **Attendance at all concerts is mandatory.** Students must have completed 6th and/or 7th grade orchestra and be recommended by the teacher to continue in 8th grade orchestra or must meet with the teacher **prior** to signing up for the class. They will be asked to complete an audition at the teacher's discretion to assess whether or not they have the skills required for the class. At the end of the year, all 8th grade students will be evaluated to determine eligibility for, and placement in, high school orchestra.

Band-Grade 7- (Full year)- The focus for 7th grade band is building skills, increasing musical ability, and playing lots of fun and challenging music along the way. Seventh grade band students are also allowed to audition for Jazz Band, Junior High Honor Band, and Solo and Ensemble as well. **Students will be required to perform at three evening band concerts during the year.**

Band-Grade 8- (Full year)- This ensemble is made up of all 8th grade band students in one group and rehearses daily. The focus is preparing each student for the demands of being in a high school band. Students will continue to develop their technical abilities, learn to think critically as a musician, and expand their skills by playing fun and challenging music. Eighth grade band students are allowed to play in the high school Pep Band and audition for Jazz Band, Junior High Honor Band, and Solo and Ensemble. **Students will be required to perform at three evening band concerts during the year.**

Choir-Grade 7- (Full year)- This course welcomes students interested in learning proper vocal production through singing. Seventh grade choir is designed as a 3-part choir. Part 1(soprano) and Part 2(alto) are designed for higher and lower female voices. Part 3 (baritone) is designed for the young male singer that may be in various stages of voice change. Very exciting things are happening to some of our voices at this age,

most notably to the boys. Voice range checks will be done periodically in small groups to determine voice part assignments so that repertoire selection can accommodate everyone's voices. There **are 3 required concerts a year**, in addition to Solo and Ensemble, District Honor Choir, or other community events. This is a performance-based class.

Choir-Grade 8- (Full year)- This course welcomes students interested in learning proper vocal production through singing and will expand on skills learned in seventh grade choir. Eighth grade choir will begin as a 3-part choir, but may expand to a 4-part choir. Parts 1(soprano) and Part 2(alto) are designed for higher and lower female voices. Part 3 (baritone) is still designed for the young male singer that may be in various stages of voice change. Depending upon the stage of vocal development, Part 3 may split into higher male voices (tenor) and lower male voices (bass). Like seventh grade choir, voice range checks will be done periodically in small groups to determine voice part assignments so that repertoire selection can accommodate everyone's voices. There are **3 required concerts a year** in addition to Solo and Ensemble, District Honor Choir, or other community events. This is a performance-based class.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education-Grades 7, 8- (Semester)- The primary objectives of the Physical Education class are to increase fitness, to learn to enjoy a variety of activities, to develop skills of teamwork, cooperation, respect and listening; and to gain confidence in one's personal abilities. An attempt is made to include activities in three areas: personal fitness, team sports and lifetime sports. Appropriate dress is required. All courses follow national and state content standards. Students successfully completing this course will receive .25 high school credit towards graduation.

INTRODUCTION TO PHOTOGRAPHY & GRAPHIC DESIGN

Intro. to Photography & Graphic Design –Grade 8- (Semester)- This course offers students a foundation in photography, digital photography, and related computer applications, including photo editing. It includes instruction on practical application and marketable skills of photography and graphic design. Emphasizing creative expression and problem-solving, the program includes hands-on experiences and explores applications for photography and graphics as a career.

BUTLER TECH COURSES

STEM:Design and Modeling-Grade 7- (Semester) Explore past inventors and innovators to help inspire your own new ideas. You will learn hands-on measurement skills and sketching techniques to create miniature models of furniture builds. Get

experience using power tools, like scroll saws, to help prototype for celebrity clients. Work in teams to brainstorm, sketch, and build a “tiny house”. Use a CAD program to make plastic 3D printed creations that you get to take home. This is the first course for the STEM engineering path.

App Creator-Grade 7- (Semester) In this class you will learn about computer science, coding languages and develop solutions to problems. You will create apps by coding on classroom desktop computers and test your student-designed apps through live-programming on classroom tablets. Students collaborate with others and explore driver and navigator pair programming.

STEM:Robotics –Grade 8– (Semester) This course is the second course of the STEM program in which students study content related to **S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering, and **M**athematics, hence STEM. 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 use a robust robotics platform to design, build and program a solution to solve an existing problem.

Work & Family Life -Grade 8- (Semester) This course introduces students to basic foods, cooking and nutrition concepts. Students learn safety and sanitation in the kitchen, kitchen utensils, how to read a recipe, measuring, and preparing/cooking simple recipes during class. Students prepare a meal from start to finish for their family at home. The career exploration part of the course emphasizes the connection between sound preparation in school and opportunities for students’ potential career interests. Students learn about careers in the Hospitality industry and are given the opportunity to participate in Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) – that is an integral part of the Family and Consumer Sciences curriculum and assessment, and provides leadership and citizenship opportunities.

Flight and Space- Grade 8- (Semester) This course explores the exciting world of aerospace. Students explore the science behind flight and space and use their knowledge to design, build, and test an airfoil. This class acts as an introduction to the Aviation Pathway offered at the high school.

EXTRACURRICULAR STUDENT ACTIVITIES

We encourage all students to take part in the outstanding extracurricular activities offered at Middletown Middle School. Through participation in these groups, students are offered an opportunity to benefit personally through the skills they develop and through the friendships and associations they form with fellow students and staff.

Eligibility-By board policy, eligibility criteria for students in grades 7-12 include the following: a minimum of 1.55 GPA or above on a 4.0 system and the GPA is based on the previous quarter’s grades. A student who does not achieve a 1.55 GPA in the previous quarter is ineligible to participate during the quarter. If at the end of the quarter a student achieves a 1.55 GPA or above, the student is eligible to participate during the following quarter.

Athletic Teams

Ohio High School Athletic Association's eligibility requirements further mandate that: In addition to the 1.55 GPA, a student athlete must be currently enrolled in a member school and have received passing grades in a minimum of five of all subjects in which enrolled the immediately preceding grading period. Summer school grades may not be used to substitute for failing grades received in the final grading period of the regular school year or for lack of enough courses taken the preceding grading period. Students who try out for an interscholastic activity must be eligible to participate at the time tryouts occur.

FALL

Cross Country
Football
Volleyball
Cheerleading
Golf
Soccer

WINTER

Basketball
Wrestling
Cheerleading

SPRING

Track
Softball
Baseball
Tennis

Student Affiliations

Chess Club
HOPE Squad
Jazz Band
MMS Newspaper Club
National Junior Honor Society
Spring Musical
Student Council