King Philip Middle School
Program of Studies
Grades 7-8

2020-2021
SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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MIDDLE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Michelle J. Kreuzer, Principal  
Kyle J. Alves, Assistant Principal

GUIDANCE/STUDENT SERVICES

Leah Barry, Guidance Counselor  
Jennilee Spinelli, Guidance Counselor  
Dr. Sarah Prevelige, School Psychologist  
Jill Goula, School Psychologist  
Jen Roman, School Adjustment Counselor  
Amanda McMorrow, School Adjustment Counselor  
Connie Eckart, District Team Chair/Middle School 504 Coordinator  
Linda Chichester, Middle School Team Chair  
Donna Lipiner, School Nurse  
Dena Bourque, School Nurse

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

Deborah Morry, Main Office  
Joan Solomon, Main Office  
Nicole Murphy, Special Education  
Susan DeMarco, Guidance  
Corey Flynn, Library Assistant
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Dear KPMS Families,

The 2020-2021 King Philip Middle School Program of Studies is your guide for your child’s academic experience for grades seven and eight. At King Philip Middle School, you will find that the program offers a range of learning experiences in the major disciplines and elective areas. In addition to courses, KPMS offers a wide variety of extra-curricular activities for students, such as sports, performing arts, student government, and special interest groups. I sincerely hope that your child will take advantage of these opportunities to tailor their middle school experience.

KPMS uses an interdisciplinary team teaching system, which is an integral part of the middle school model. Each grade has three teams, which are made up of four teachers: English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. The three teams in each grade level work together to ensure that students engage in a common curriculum and core learning experience. The interdisciplinary team model enables students to smoothly transition from elementary school to KPMS and from KPMS into high school. The team structure also gives our teachers the opportunity to work together to address the academic, social, and emotional needs of our middle school students.

In the Program of Studies, classes are presented in order, by grade, with on-team, full-year courses listed first, followed by off-team, trimester-long courses. Core academic courses include English Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, Mathematics and World Language (eighth grade). In addition to core academic courses, students will have the chance to take enrichment courses, such as Physical Education, Fine Arts, Health, STEM, Media Arts, and General Music. Students may also elect to take band and chorus. All courses are heterogeneously grouped (unleveled) except for Mathematics.

The King Philip Middle School teachers and I are proud of our middle school program and course offerings. I hope that you find KPMS to be a safe and engaging learning environment where our children can develop their passions and reach their potential.

Sincerely,

Michelle Kreuzer
Principal
MIDDLE SCHOOL TEAM STRUCTURE

The program at King Philip Middle School (KPMS) utilizes the interdisciplinary team approach at both the seventh and eighth grade levels. Each grade level has three teams. Students on a specific team work with the same teachers in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. The three teams in each grade work together and across the content areas to assure a common curriculum and core learning experience for all of our students. Students at KPMS also participate in a variety of additional offerings which allow them to explore various areas of interest. As eighth graders, students take either Spanish or French. All students also participate in Fine Arts, STEM, physical education and health. Additionally, students may participate in media arts, general music, chorus, or band.

ACADEMIC PROGRESS

KPMS uses a live grading system, Infinite Campus, through which students and parents/guardians can access course grades at any time. Regular academic progress is captured online at the midpoint and end of each trimester. Mid-trimester student progress updates are available in October, February, and May. Report card grades are available in December and March, with final course grades reported in June.

King Philip Middle School uses a letter system for grading students in academic areas. D- is considered the minimum passing grade. The following chart outlines the numeral equivalents of the letter grades.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>100-97</td>
<td>Excellent Achievement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>96-94</td>
<td>Outstanding accomplishment that shows mastery of subjects and the ability to apply principles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>93-90</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89-87</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>86-84</td>
<td>Honor work, above average but not showing mastery or originality, characteristic of superior achievement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>83-80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>79-77</td>
<td>Average Accomplishment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>76-74</td>
<td>An average working knowledge of the subject showing ability to apply the material learned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>73-70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>69-67</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>66-64</td>
<td>A low passing mark showing some accomplishment should be considered unsatisfactory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>63-60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59-0</td>
<td>Failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Very poor accomplishment or failure to do work required.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SEVENTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

English Language Arts 7

Grade 7  Full Year

The objective of this course is to develop engaged, purposeful readers and confident writers that can demonstrate mastery of the Massachusetts English Language Arts and Literacy Framework for Grade 7. Students will have the opportunity to challenge themselves through independent, partner, and group activities. Students will learn to write clearly and coherently, and to incorporate strong, relevant text evidence to support their ideas. Reading opportunities such as independent, partner, and read-alouds will be performed.

Students will study a culturally diverse and historically relevant collection of fictional short stories including: “Thank You M’am,” “Seventh Grade,” “Charles,” “Harrison Bergeron” and others. The novels, The Giver by Lois Lowry, and The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton will be explored for style, theme, conflict, characterization and symbolism. Figurative language, theme, tone and mood will be explored using a variety of lyrical and narrative poetry as well as Greek myths. Finally, a variety of nonfiction texts including memoirs, articles, essays, and biographies will be used to teach text structure, opinions vs facts, author’s bias, and persuasive techniques. This course is aligned with the Massachusetts 2017 English Language Arts and Literacy Framework.

Mathematics 7

Mathematics: Grade 7 Level 2

Grade 7  Full Year

This course progresses at a pace that allows for skill development and reinforcement of concepts. Students will develop skills involving problem solving strategies, probability, computation, expressions, equations, geometry, number theory, fractions, measurement, ratios, proportions, percents, statistics, integers, rational numbers, expressions and equations with rational numbers. There will be emphasis on linear equations and the algebraic process throughout the year. Students will use materials to reinforce daily coursework lessons. Assessments include tests, quizzes, nightly homework, projects, and writing answers to open-ended questions. Students will work cooperatively in group situations. This course is aligned with the 2017 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics.
Mathematics: Grade 7 Level 1
Grade 7 Full Year

This course progresses at a faster pace and covers topics to a greater depth than the Level 2 class. Level 1 is an accelerated, challenging course, emphasizing high level skills with a focus on in-depth applications involving problem solving strategies, probability, computation, expressions, equations, geometry, number theory, fractions, measurement, ratios, proportions, percents, statistics, integers, rational numbers, expressions, and equations with rational numbers. There will be emphasis on linear equations and the algebraic process throughout the year. Students will develop the ability to think abstractly. Students will use materials to reinforce daily coursework lessons. Assessments will include tests, quizzes, nightly homework, projects, and writing answers to open-ended questions. Students enrolled in this course should be self-motivated with the ability to work independently, as well as cooperatively in group situations. This course is aligned with the 2017 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics. Prerequisite: Students will enter Grade 7 with mastery of the basic operations of whole numbers, decimals, fractions, and knowledge of integers. The reading level, reading comprehension skills, and ability to follow directions for students enrolled in this course should be above grade level.

Mathematics: Grade 7 Extended
Grade 7 Full Year

This accelerated course moves at the fastest pace, covers the greatest breadth and depth of topics, and is for students who can accept a challenge as well as exhibit mathematical curiosity and insightful thinking. In addition to the seventh grade Massachusetts Curriculum Framework standards, students will be working towards the completion of the eighth grade standards and the Algebra I standards. Additionally, students will begin to make connections from arithmetic to algebra and apply algebra to real-life problems.

Students will complete and in-depth study of linear equations and inequalities. Using linear and absolute value models students will solve problems, graph and interpret data. Students will use scientific calculators, graphing calculators and computers to aid in higher level thinking problems. They will be assessed through tests, quizzes, nightly homework, projects and classroom observations. This course is aligned with the 2017 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics. Prerequisite: Students must enter Grade 7 with mastery of fractions, decimals, percents and integers. In addition, they are required to have a teacher recommendation, a Math MCAS score of Advanced for two consecutive years, and a strong performance on the district standard placement test.
**Science 7**
Grade 7

The grade 7 science course is designed to use more robust abstract thinking skills to explain causes of complex phenomena and systems. Many causes are not immediately or physically visible to students. An understanding of cause and effect of key natural phenomena and designed processes allows students to explain patterns and make predictions about future events. In grade 7 these include, for example, causes of seasons and tides; causes of plate tectonics and weather or climate; the role of genetics in reproduction, heredity, and artificial selection; and how atoms and molecules interact to explain the substances that make up the world and how materials change. Being able to analyze phenomena for evidence of causes and processes that often cannot be seen, and being able to conceptualize and describe those, is a significant outcome for grade 7 students.

Students will be exposed to a variety of approaches including teacher lecture and discussion, required reading, lab investigations, creation of models and various projects. Students will continue to develop and refine their scientific problem-solving skills and integrate more complex math skills into their work. Assessments will include tests, quizzes, homework, lab claims, and projects. This course is aligned with the 2016 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Science and Technology/Engineering.

**Social Studies 7 - World Geography and Ancient Civilizations II**
Grade 7

Students will examine the physical and political geography of ancient societies, as well as the religions, and cultures in Central and South and East Asia, Oceania, and classical Greece and Rome. Throughout the year, instructional strategies will allow students to enhance their reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills. Students will analyze primary source documents, pictures and other historical artifacts to draw conclusions about the creators of the source. Within each unit, students will participate in interactive hands-on activities, and a variety of common assessments. This course is aligned to the 2018 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for History/Social Sciences.
Physical Education 7
Grade 7 Full Year

In a co-educational setting, students will be given a variety of problem-solving activities, structured practice and game play where they can achieve the necessary skills and knowledge to become an educated participant and spectator. Students will develop competency in several movement forms and proficiency in one or two selected forms. In addition, students will explore the knowledge, attitudes and habits of physical and emotional wellness. The elements of physical fitness will be presented as a common theme throughout most units of study and will be investigated independently. Students will participate in activities specifically designed to develop competency in both upper and lower body manipulation, balance and coordination. Student achievement will be assessed as motor-skills are applied during game play and through skill tests. Through the use of technology students will record fitness data for the purpose of assessing their (current) personal fitness level and will compose a short and long term plan to address their needs. This class meets every other day.

Seventh Grade Unified Arts (UA) Course Descriptions

Fine Arts (part of required UA Rotation I)
Grade 7 Trimester

Fine Arts is centered around visual arts media exploration and finding artistic identity. In this curriculum, students will become acquainted with productive studio habits and practices, artists who have worked or are currently working in the art world, and how to be a part of an artistic community. Fine Arts will be broken-up into three phases: Explore, Investigate, and Create. Each phase will be structured around a series of guided, explorative exercises that will prepare students to find their own artistic identity. Students will practice technical skills with 2D and 3D art media, as well as studio habits that will prepare students for life-long artistic growth. This class meets every day.

Literature 7 (part of required UA Rotation I)
Grade 7 Trimester

This course is designed to enhance the literacy experience for all seventh graders and to foster a love of both reading and writing. Its purpose is to introduce and reinforce literacy skills and to immerse students in authentic reading and writing experiences. Comprehension strategies will be taught through teacher read-aloud activities, novels, plays, and nonfiction. Participants of this
course will learn to discuss literature in a meaningful way with their peers and complete a variety of activities to enhance their comprehension. Students will also learn to “write like pros,” by writing descriptively and creatively. This class meets every day.

**STEM I (part of required UA Rotation I)**

Grade 7 Trimester

The Unified Arts STEM I program is a trimester long, project-based learning course consisting of units that incorporate STEM topics. This program prepares students for advanced and rigorous coursework in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. The inquiry-based, student-centered units allow students to model what real scientists and engineers do. The units encompass subject areas such as transportation, bioengineering technologies, alternative energy, structures, geology, manufacturing and electricity. Upon completion of this comprehensive and unique course, students will formulate ideas to create an interdisciplinary portfolio which builds on student curiosity and existing conceptions. The coursework is based on the Next Generation Science Standards and the Common Core and the Massachusetts Science and Technology Curriculum Frameworks. This class meets every day.

**Foundations (part of UA Rotation II)**

Grade 7 Trimester

This Grade 7 course provides students with techniques and strategies needed to ensure confidence and success that will provide a strong foundation for middle school and beyond. As a result of this course, students will be able to apply knowledge to help them with goal setting, career options, and participating in our community as a responsible, informed citizen. Students will learn concepts and develop skills necessary to form safe habits and choose healthful actions that are safe, legal and that respect themselves and others while following parental guidelines. Reading, writing, and computing are an essential part of this course. Materials critical in this learning process are various contemporary pamphlets, booklets, and videos. In addition, guest speakers will be integrated into the learning process. Key assessments include tests, projects, cooperative learning skills, and class activities. This class meets every other day.

**General Music (part of UA Rotation II)**

Grade 7 Trimester

A music course is required in Grade 7 as part of the Unified Arts experience. In general music, students will increase their music knowledge by studying major trends in music history, important composers, world music, and basic elements of music theory. Students will learn to
read, write, and compose music, and develop their musical skills through various lessons and activities. Students will be assessed through unit tests, class participation performance, and collaborative music projects. Lastly, students will become better musicians by applying their understanding of music in actual music making through the use of healthy singing techniques and the playing of instruments. This class meets every other day.

STEM II (part of UA Rotation II)
Grade 7

STEM II is an introductory computer science course that requires students to apply mathematical concepts and rigorous programming principles to create a simple video game. Mathematical concepts used in this course include coordinate planes, order of operations, ratio and proportion, domain and range, function composition, and the distance formula. In addition to computer programming, students will also learn test-taking strategies, think critically to solve complex problems in creative ways and complete projects aligned to their seventh-grade mathematics class. Technology, teamwork, competition, and kinesthetic learning in this course creates a learning environment that is fun and educational for all the students. Coursework is aligned with the 2016 Massachusetts Digital Literacy and Computer Science Framework. This class meets every other day.

Math Exploration
Grade 7

This mathematics course is designed with personalized learning and flexibility in mind. The course is tailored to the needs, interests, backgrounds, and goals of the students enrolled. Instruction can be designed for either remediation or for enrichment. The intention of the course is to deepen students’ understanding of mathematics and to support students in developing a positive personal relationship with mathematics. One-to-one and small group work will be used, along with online mathematics programs which are aligned with the 2017 Massachusetts Mathematics Curriculum Framework. Students are enrolled in this course through a referral process. This class will meet everyday or every other day.

Reading Intervention
Grade 7

The Reading Intervention course targets word recognition, vocabulary, comprehension skills, and strategies for students with needs in these areas. Through reading appropriate texts, students will have the opportunity to build fluency and to strengthen their reading comprehension.
Students will also develop close reading and critical analysis skills through consistent practice and targeted instruction. *Students are enrolled in this course through a referral process.* This class will meet everyday or every other day.

**Seventh Grade Music Electives**

**Band 7**  
Grade 7  
Full Year

The primary goals of this class are to further develop ensemble skills and individual technique on a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. Through the study of technical exercises, chamber music, and diverse band literature students will build musical independence and further develop a love and appreciation for music making. Students will be evaluated on their preparation for each class, classroom conduct, concert attendance, home practice, and proficiency on their instrument. There are three major performances given each year. *Band is open to students with two or more years of experience on a band instrument or with the permission of the director.* This class meets every day (full band & instrumental sections).

Note: Students who participate in the 7th grade school band program have the opportunity to participate in the extracurricular Jazz Ensemble.

**Chorus 7**  
Grade 7  
Full Year

The primary goals of this class will be learning about the basics of music theory and preparing for performances during winter and spring terms. Students will be assessed based mostly on class participation and performance attendance. Students will develop skills for working within group situations, improve responsibility and individual music technique, and develop a personal appreciation for music making. The class will explore both classical and contemporary choral music representing many cultures and languages in various vocal part formats. This course has no prerequisites - all students are welcome to join the KPMS Chorus. This class meets every other day.

Note: Students who participate in the 7th grade chorus have the opportunity to audition for the extracurricular Vocal Ensemble. Students in Vocal Ensemble meet after school and will be singing and studying advanced music and vocal techniques.
Seventh Grade World Language Elective

Introduction to French and Spanish (*pending budget*)
Grade 7  Full Year

This course is designed to introduce students to both the French and Spanish languages. The course emphasizes basic listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Completion of Introduction to French and Spanish will allow students to make an informed choice for further study of either French or Spanish in eighth grade. Assessment of student work is based on quizzes, translations, written and oral assignments, and class work. This class meets every other day.
Seventh Grade Course Selections

All seventh graders will be scheduled for the following required courses. These courses make up 5 ½ out of 7 total instructional periods per week.

### 7th Grade Required Courses

- English Language Arts 1 period
- Mathematics 1 period
- Science 1 period
- Social Studies 1 period
- Physical Education ½ period
- Unified Arts Rotation I (Fine Arts, STEM I, Literature) 1 period

**Total:** 5½ periods

### 7th Grade Elective Courses

Seventh graders may choose band or chorus as additional music electives. Students who do not participate in the band or chorus program will be scheduled for additional unified arts programs.

#### Music Electives

- Band 7 1 period
- Chorus 7 ½ period
- Both Band & Chorus (per instructor approval) 1½ periods

#### Additional Unified Arts Electives

- Unified Arts Rotation II (Foundations, STEM II, General Music) ½ period
- Reading Intervention ½ or 1 period
- Math Exploration ½ or 1 period
- S.A.T. ½ or 1 period

#### World Language Elective

- Introduction to French and Spanish ½ period (*pending budget*)

**Note:** Course of studies may be subject to change.
EIGHTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

English Language Arts 8
Grade 8 Full Year

Through this course, students will work towards becoming more thoughtful, analytical readers, more articulate speakers, and more skillful and organized writers in preparation for the rigors of high school by developing student independence and personal initiative. This is a writing-intensive course that requires students to advocate for themselves, apply effective effort, and actively participate both individually and in small or large group settings.

Throughout the year, students will actively read, discuss, write about, and complete projects based upon a collection of novels, short stories, plays, and poems while paying homage to classic authors such as Edgar Allan Poe, O Henry, Robert Louis Stevenson, and William Shakespeare. Additionally, students will explore writing descriptive, narrative, expository, analytical, personal, and argumentative essays based on the fiction and nonfiction topics they explore. This course is aligned with the Massachusetts 2017 English Language Arts and Literacy Framework.

Mathematics 8

Mathematics: Grade 8 Math
Grade 8 Full Year

This course builds the foundations of an algebra program while completing the grade 8 standards from the 2017 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework. Students will solve, graph and interpret linear, absolute value functions, and linear systems of equations. Students will transform equations through symbolic manipulations. They will interpret data from tables, charts, and graphs. The students will be asked to write persuasive responses to open-ended questions. Students will use scientific calculators and computers to aid in higher level thinking problems. They will be assessed through tests, quizzes, nightly homework, projects, and classroom observations. Upon successful completion students will continue their studies by enrolling in Algebra I in grade 9. This course is aligned with the 2017 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics. Prerequisite: Completion of Grade 7 Level 2 mathematics.
Mathematics: Algebra I
Grade 8

This course completes a comprehensive Algebra I program. In addition to the eighth grade Massachusetts Curriculum Framework standards, students will be working towards completing the Algebra I standards. Students should exhibit mathematical curiosity and insightful thinking. They should be self-motivated and be able to work independently. During this course, students will apply algebra to real-life problems and will interpret data from tables, charts, and graphs. Students will study the four basic functions: linear, quadratic, absolute value, and exponential and will transform equations through symbolic manipulations. Students will use scientific calculators and computers to aid in higher level thinking problems. They will be assessed through tests, quizzes, nightly homework, projects, and classroom observations. It is expected that students will choose an appropriate problem solving strategy in order to complete tests and quizzes during given time constraints. This course is aligned with the 2017 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics. Prerequisite: Mastery of fractions, decimals, percents, one and two step equations, and integers is required upon the completion of grade seven mathematics. A minimum grade of B+ in Grade 7 Level 1 algebra-related content is required.

Mathematics: Grade 8 Extended Algebra
Grade 8

This accelerated course is a continuation of the Grade 7 Extended Math Course. In addition to the eighth grade Massachusetts Curriculum Framework standards, students will be completing the Algebra I standards. Students will solve, graph, and continue to interpret data using exponential and quadratic models. In addition, factoring polynomials, solving systems of equations, rational and radical equations will be studied. Students will continue to use scientific calculators, graphing calculators and computers to aid in higher level thinking problems. They will be assessed through tests, quizzes, nightly homework, projects and classroom observation. This course is aligned with the 2017 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics. Prerequisite: Completion of Grade 7 Extended Math with an average of a B- or better on the algebra-related content.
Science 8
Grade 8 Full Year

The grade 8 science course is designed to focus on systems and cycles using students’ understanding of structures and functions, connections and relationship in systems, and flow of matter and energy developed in earlier grades. A focus on systems requires students to apply concepts and skills across disciplines, since most natural and designed systems and cycles are complex and interactive. They gain experience with plate tectonics, interactions of humans and Earth processes, organism systems to support and propagate life, ecosystem dynamics, motion and energy systems, and key technological systems used by society.

Students will develop and refine their scientific problem solving skills, and integrate mathematics into work they produce. Students will be assessed by examinations, quizzes, homework, creation of models and various projects. This course is aligned with the 2016 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Science and Technology/Engineering.

Social Studies 8 - Civics
Grade 8 Full Year

Students will study the roots and foundations of U.S. democracy through primary source documents such as the United States Constitution, the Massachusetts Constitution, and Supreme Court decisions. Students also will examine how our democracy developed over time and the role of individuals in maintaining a healthy democracy at national, state, and local levels. Throughout the year, students can expect to enhance their reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills through completing projects, investigating primary sources, and analyzing historical situations. A variety of common assessments will be used in this course. This course is aligned to the 2018 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for History and Social Science.

World Languages (French or Spanish) 8

French
Grade 8 Full Year

This year-long introductory French course uses the D’accord 1 textbook and other related instructional tools. The successful completion of this first year French course leads to French II
studies at the High School level. Students will generally enter the French I course with no background knowledge of French. Students will develop their language skills in all four areas of language learning: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Students will develop French vocabulary, grammar and communication skills. Students will be required to communicate orally and in writing using developed skills of expanded vocabulary and grammar. They will speak in complete sentences with a varied vocabulary, using the present tense and begin to study one form of the past tense. The many different aspects of francophone culture will be explored through readings, short films, cultural videos and songs. Assessment of student work is based on quizzes, translations, written and oral assignments and performance assessments, as well as class work that includes skits, games and written and oral participation. The French I curriculum is aligned to the Massachusetts Foreign Language Framework for the Stage One Learner and the ACTFL (American Council of Teachers of a Foreign Language) standards for Novice levels: low, mid and high.

Spanish
Grade 8 Full Year

This year long introductory Spanish course, uses the Descubre 1 textbook and other related educational and study aides. The successful completion of this first year Spanish course leads to Spanish II studies at the High School level. Students will generally enter the course with this being their first exposure to Spanish in a classroom setting. Students will develop their language skills in all four areas of language learning: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Students will expand their Spanish vocabulary and develop grammar and communication skills. They will speak in complete sentences with a varied vocabulary, using the present tense and possibly begin to study one form of the past tense. The many different aspects of Spanish and Latin American cultures will be explored through readings, discussions, food tasting, movies and relevant activities. Assessment of student work is based on class work that includes stories, skits, games, written and oral participation, quizzes, and projects. The Spanish curriculum is aligned to the Massachusetts Foreign Language Curriculum for the Stage One Learner as well as the ACTFL (American Council of Teachers of a Foreign Language) standards for Novice level low mid and high.
Physical Education 8
Grade 8

In a co-educational setting, students will be given a variety of problem-solving activities, structured practice and game play where they can achieve the necessary skills and knowledge to become an educated participant and spectator. Students will develop competency in several movement forms and proficiency in one or two selected forms. In addition, students will explore the knowledge, attitudes and habits of physical and emotional wellness. The elements of physical fitness will be presented as a common theme throughout most units of study and will be investigated independently. Students will participate in activities specifically designed to develop competency in both upper and lower body manipulation, balance and coordination. Student achievement will be assessed as motor-skills are applied during game play and through skill tests. Through the use of technology students will record fitness data for the purpose of assessing their (current) personal fitness level and will compose a short and long term plan to address their needs. This class meets every other day.

Eighth Grade Unified Arts (UA) Course Descriptions

Health (part of UA Rotation)
Grade 8

This course is designed to enable students to learn health concepts and to develop the skills necessary to form healthy habits and choose healthful actions that are: safe, legal and that respect themselves and others while following parent guidelines. As a result of this course, students will be able to consistently exhibit knowledge of health concepts, life management skills and habits that can facilitate lifelong health for themselves and others. They will be able to clearly explain fundamental health concepts and skills by using appropriate examples. Students will be able to dismiss and disregard myths and health misconceptions. Topics covered may include: nutrition, reproduction/sexuality, mental health, substance use/abuse prevention, and interpersonal relationships. Materials critical in this learning process are various contemporary pamphlets, booklets, and videos provided by reputable health resources for disseminating information to the students. In addition, guest speakers will provide useful health and wellness information. Key assessments that provide information about student learning and evaluation criteria will be tests, projects, cooperative learning skills, and class activities. Note: Health is a mandatory course for all 8th graders. This class meets every other day.
**Literature 8 (part of UA Rotation)**

Grade 8  
Trimester

This course is designed to enhance the literacy experience for all eighth graders. Its purpose is to introduce and reinforce student skills and immerse students in authentic reading and writing experiences. Comprehension strategies will be taught through teacher read-aloud activities, group reading, nonfiction, and poetry. Students will have opportunities to read and respond to literature via weekly comprehension questions and end of section activities. Students will learn to find their passion, by completing a teen activism group project. Course participants will be expected to read independently, in partners, in groups and respond to what they have read on a daily basis. This class meets every other day.

**Media Arts 8 (part of UA Rotation)**

Grade 8  
Trimester

Media Arts is a project-based class which provides students instruction in the following areas: digital filmmaking, computer coding, STEM, digital literacy, keyboarding. The Media Arts curriculum is geared for students who wish to learn the skills used in professional digital media and STEM industries. These skills are important to careers in all kinds of technology-related fields. Reflected in our daily news, there is a high demand for graduates that possess the hands-on, technical skills this curriculum offers. Coursework is aligned with the 2016 Massachusetts Digital Literacy and Computer Science Framework and the 2016 Science and Technology/Engineering Framework. This class meets every other day.

**Math Exploration**

Grade 8

This mathematics course is designed with personalized learning and flexibility in mind. The course is tailored to the needs, interests, backgrounds, and goals of the students enrolled. Instruction can be designed for either remediation or for enrichment. The intention of the course is to deepen students’ understanding of mathematics and to support students in developing a positive personal relationship with mathematics. One-to-one and small group work will be used, along with online mathematics programs which are aligned with the 2017 Massachusetts Mathematics Curriculum Framework. *Students are enrolled in this course through a referral process.* This class will meet everyday or every other day.
**Reading Intervention**
Grade 8

The Reading Intervention course targets word recognition, vocabulary, comprehension skills, and strategies for students with needs in these areas. Through reading appropriate texts, students will have the opportunity to build fluency and to strengthen their reading comprehension. Students will also develop close reading and critical analysis skills through consistent practice and targeted instruction. *Students are enrolled in this course through a referral process.* This class will meet everyday or every other day.

**Eighth Grade Music Electives**

**Band 8**
Grade 8  
Full Year

The primary goals of this class are to further develop ensemble skills and individual technique on a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. Through the study of technical exercises, chamber music, and diverse band literature students will build musical independence and further develop a love and appreciation for music making. Students will be evaluated on their preparation for each class, classroom conduct, concert attendance, home practice, and proficiency on their instrument. There are three major performances given each year. *Band is open to students with two or more years of experience on a band instrument or with the permission of the director.* This class meets every day (full band & instrumental sections).

Note: Students who participate in the 8th grade school band program have the opportunity to participate in a variety of extracurricular music ensembles, including jazz ensemble, marching band, and winter percussion.

**Chorus 8**
Grade 8  
Full Year

The primary goals of this class will be learning about the basics of music theory and preparing for performances during winter and spring terms. Students will be assessed based mostly on class participation and performance attendance. Students will develop skills for working within group situations, improve responsibility and individual music technique, and develop a personal appreciation for music making. The class will explore both classical and contemporary choral music representing many cultures and languages in various vocal part formats. This course has
no prerequisites - all students are welcome to join the KPMS Chorus. This class meets every other day.

Note: Students who participate in the 8th grade chorus have the opportunity to audition for the extracurricular Vocal Ensemble. Students in Vocal Ensemble meet after school and will be singing and studying advanced music and vocal techniques.
Eighth Grade Course Selections

All eighth graders will be scheduled for the following required courses. These courses make up 6 out of 7 total instructional periods per week.

**8th Grade Required Courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Periods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Language Arts</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Language (French or Spanish)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 8 Unified Arts Rotation (Health, Media Arts, Literature)</td>
<td>½</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**6 periods**

**8th Grade Elective Courses**

Eighth graders may choose band or chorus as additional music electives. Students who do not participate in the band or chorus program will be scheduled for additional electives.

**Music Electives**

- Band 8: 1 period
- Chorus 8: ½ period

**Additional Electives**

- Reading Intervention: ½ or 1 period
- Math Exploration: ½ or 1 period
- S.A.T.: ½ or 1 period

**Note:** Course of studies may be subject to change.