

King Philip Middle School

Program of Studies

Grades 7-8



2023-2024

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Trevor Knott, Chair, Wrentham	Jim Lehan, Norfolk Representative
Bruce Cates, Vice Chair, Plainville	Marc Waxman, Wrentham Representative
Christopher Brenneis, Plainville Representative	Greg Wehmeyer, Plainville Representative
Erin Greaney, Wrentham Representative	Jennifer Wynn, Norfolk Representative
Eric Harmon, Norfolk Representative	

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Paul Zinni, Superintendent
Dr. Susan Gilson, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Lisa M. Moy, Director of Student Services
Mr. Larry Azer, Director of Finance & Operations
Mr. Michael Bois, Director of Technology

MIDDLE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Michelle J. Kreuzer, Principal
Kyle J. Alves, Assistant Principal
Joseph Donovan, Dean of Students

GUIDANCE/STUDENT SERVICES

Leah Barry, Guidance Counselor
Eric Lipschutz, Guidance Counselor
Morayo Sayles, School Psychologist
Jen Roman, School Adjustment Counselor
Grace Morrison, School Adjustment Counselor
Linda Chichester, School Adjustment Counselor
Connie Eckart, District Team Chair/Middle School 504 Coordinator
Traci Vaughan, Middle School Team Chair
Michele Caulfield, School Nurse
Charrel Liberatore, School Nurse

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

Deborah Morry, Main Office
Joan Solomon, Main Office
Tori Hurvitz, Special Education
Nicole Murphy, Guidance

Educational Opportunities/Notice of Non-Discrimination

The King Philip Regional School District does not discriminate against students, parents/guardians, employees or the general public on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, religion, or age. Accordingly, no person shall be excluded from or discriminated against in admission to a public school of any town or in obtaining the advantages, privileges, and courses of study of such public school or in employment in its services in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI); on the basis of sex, in accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; on the basis of disability, in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Title II); or on the basis of age, in accordance with the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (Age Discrimination Act) and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967. Nor does it discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, gender identity or sexual orientation, in accordance with Chapter 622 of the Acts of 1971 (M.G.L. c. 76 s. 5) and M.G.L. Chapter 151B. The District also does not discriminate against students on the basis of homelessness in a manner consistent with the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act. Similarly, consistent with the requirements of federal and state law, the District does not discrimination against students on the basis of pregnancy.

To file a complaint alleging discrimination or harassment by the King Philip Regional School District on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, homelessness, religion, or pregnancy/parenting status or to make inquiry concerning the application of Title II, Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, the ADA, the Age Discrimination Act, Age Discrimination in Employment Act or applicable state laws and their respective implementing regulations, please contact the Civil Rights Coordinators or the Director of Student Services for 504, Foster, Homeless, or ELL.

Dr. Susan Gilson Assistant Superintendent of Schools	Civil Rights, Title IX, Title I, Title II
Mr. Larry Azer Director of Finance and Operations	Civil Rights, Title IX
Ms. Lisa Moy Director of Student Services	504, Foster, Homeless, ELL
18 King Street, Norfolk, MA 02056 508-520-7991	

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome Letter.....	5
Middle School Team Structure.....	6
Academic Progress.....	6
Seventh Grade Course Descriptions.....	7
Core Academic Courses.....	7
Unified Arts and Special Courses.....	11
Music Electives.....	14
Seventh Grade Course Selections.....	15
Eighth Grade Course Descriptions.....	16
Core Academic Courses.....	16
Unified Arts and Special Courses.....	20
Music Electives.....	23
Eighth Grade Course Selections.....	24

Dear KPMS Families,

The 2023-2024 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. All students participate in fine arts, speech, STEM, physical education and health. As eighth graders, students take either Spanish or French. Additionally, students may participate in 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.

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

SEVENTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

English Language Arts 7

Grade 7

Full Year

The objective of this course is to develop engaged, purposeful, and confident readers and 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 written by prominent authors including Langston Hughes, Gary Soto, Shirley Jackson, Ray Bradbury, Emily Dickinson, Jason Reynolds, and others. The novels, Lois Lowry's *The Giver* and Jacqueline Woodson's *Brown Girl Dreaming* 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. 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 current Massachusetts English Language Arts and Literacy Framework.

Mathematics 7

Mathematics: Grade 7

Grade 7

Full Year

Grade 7 mathematics uses a problem-based core curriculum designed to address content and practice standards to foster learning for all. Students learn by doing math, solving problems in mathematical and real-world contexts, and constructing arguments using precise language. It emphasizes 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 and will be expected to work both independently as well as cooperatively in group situations. Assessments will include tests, quizzes, nightly homework, projects, and writing answers to open-ended questions. This course is aligned with the 2017 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics.

Mathematics: Grade 7 Extended

Grade 7

Full Year

This accelerated course moves at a fast pace 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 an 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 should have a teacher recommendation, a Math MCAS score of Exceeding Expectations for two consecutive years, and a strong performance on the district standard placement test, if given.*

Science 7

Grade 7

Full Year

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. 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 - Ancient History

Grade 7

Full Year

Students will examine the physical geography, culture, and politics of ancient societies in Central, South, and East Asia, Oceania, as well as classical Greece and Rome. Additionally, students will explore topics such as world religions, development of government and structure of societies, and how these societies changed with developing technologies. 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 and Social Science.

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) and Special Course Descriptions

Fine Arts (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.

STEM I (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 bioengineering technologies, alternative energy, structures, geology, computer science 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.

Exploring World Language (UA Rotation I)

Grade 7

Trimester

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, written and oral assignments, and class work. This class meets every day.

Wellness (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 (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 class participation, performance, and collaborative music projects. During the course, students may engage in a variety of experiences, such as bucket drumming, creating music using technology and exploring popular music genres. This class meets every other day.

Literature 7 (UA Rotation II)

Grade 7

Trimester

This course is designed to enhance the literacy experience for all seventh graders and to foster a love of reading. Its purpose is to introduce and reinforce literacy skills and to immerse students in authentic reading experiences. Comprehension strategies will be taught through teacher read-alouds, novels, short stories, and plays. 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. 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 meets every day 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 meets every day or every other day.

Library Media Studies

Grade 7

The library program teaches students to be critical and informed consumers, seekers, and evaluators of information and media across all modalities and how to be responsible digital citizens. The library strives to increase interest in recreational and informational reading and support and augment the curricular needs of the teaching staff. The library actively supports and continues to enhance the advancement and celebration of diversity, equity, and inclusion through its diverse collections, educational programming, and responsive outreach.

Library coursework is aligned with International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) standards and the 2016 Massachusetts Digital Literacy and Computer Science Framework.

Seventh Grade Music Electives

Band 7

Grade 7

Full Year

The primary goals of this class are to begin or 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, continue to build on their musical pedagogy skills, 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. Students that are starting an instrument for the first time are highly encouraged to take private lessons. 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 throughout the school year. Students will be assessed on class participation, class performance 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 with the option of students joining every day for more advanced studies.

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 Course Selections

There are 35 instructional periods in a week. All seventh graders will be scheduled for the following required courses, which make up 27.5 out of 35 total instructional periods.

7th Grade Required Courses

English Language Arts	5
Mathematics	5
Science	5
Social Studies	5
Physical Education	2.5
Unified Arts Rotation I (Three Trimester Classes)	5
	27.5 periods

7th Grade Elective & Special Courses

Seventh graders may choose band or chorus as additional music electives. Students who do not participate in the band and/or chorus program will be scheduled for special courses, starting with Unified Arts Rotation II, to complete their schedule of 35 instructional periods per week.

Music Electives

Band 7	5 periods
Chorus 7	2.5 periods
Both Band & Chorus (per instructor approval)	7.5 periods

Special Courses

Unified Arts Rotation II (Three Trimester Classes)	2.5 periods
Reading Intervention	2.5 or 5 periods
Math Exploration	2.5 or 5 periods
S.A.T.	2.5 or 5 periods

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 and analytical readers, more articulate and effective speakers, and more skillful and organized writers in preparation for the rigors of high school by developing their independence and 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, Shirley Jackson, Robert Louis Stevenson, and William Shakespeare, along with contemporary writers of students' choice, including Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, Jimmy Santiago Baca, and Pam Muñoz Ryan. Additionally, students will write 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 with Algebra

Grade 8

Full Year

This course completes the eighth grade Massachusetts Curriculum Framework standards and provides opportunities for students to develop their algebra skills in preparation for high school. The course uses a problem-based core curriculum designed to address content and practice standards to foster learning for all. Students learn by doing math, solving problems in mathematical and real-world contexts, and constructing arguments using precise language

Students will solve, graph and interpret linear functions and pairs of simultaneous linear equations. During this course, students will apply algebra to real-life problems and will interpret data from tables, charts, and graphs. In addition to studying algebra concepts, students will learn and apply the Pythagorean Theorem and will work with expressions that include radicals and integer exponents. 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. This course is aligned with the 2017 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics.

Mathematics: Grade 8 Extended Algebra

Grade 8

Full Year

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 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

In this course, students will study the roots and foundations of American democracy and government, how and why these institutions have developed over time, and the role of U.S. citizens in maintaining these establishments. Students will analyze America's founding documents such as the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights in order to determine how American democracy is shared and structured. Students will then examine the framework of the American federal government and the roles and responsibilities of each of its branches. Additionally, students will explore topics such as state and local governments, the duties and responsibilities of citizenship, and dealing with community issues. Students will also investigate landmark, precedent-setting Supreme Court decisions and how these rulings have impacted the fabric of American democracy, life, and culture. Finally, students will develop a student-led, civics action project that supports the development of civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions. This course utilizes a variety of common assessments and all course components are aligned with the 2018 Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks 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 textbook and other related instructional tools. 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, written and oral assignments and performance assessments, as well as class work that includes skits, games and written and oral participation. The French curriculum is aligned to the Massachusetts Foreign Language Framework and the ACTFL Global Benchmarks (American Council of Teachers of a Foreign Language) for Novice levels: low and mid.

Spanish

Grade 8

Full Year

This year long introductory Spanish course uses the Descubre textbook and other related educational and study aides. 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. 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 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 quizzes, written and oral assignments and performance assessments, as well as class work that includes skits, games and written and oral participation. The Spanish curriculum is aligned to the Massachusetts Foreign Language Framework and the ACTFL Global Benchmarks (American Council of Teachers of a Foreign Language) for Novice levels: low and mid.

Physical Education 8

Grade 8

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.

Eighth Grade Unified Arts (UA) and Special Course Descriptions

Health (UA Rotation)

Grade 8

Trimester

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.

STEM II (UA Rotation)

Grade 8

Trimester

The Unified Arts STEM II 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 course includes introductory computer science coursework 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. The units encompass subject areas such as energy sources, structures, electricity, and technology. Technology, teamwork, competition, and kinesthetic learning in this course create 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 for a single trimester.

Speech & Writing (UA Rotation)

Grade 8

Trimester

In this course, students will be introduced to the art of persuasive writing and speech. Students will explore and analyze how to use evidence and facts to support an opinion or theory. Students will develop skills to convey their point of view effectively through various public speaking platforms. Students will develop skills in effective group work and communicating as a group. Students will also develop active listening skills and how to respond to dissenting viewpoints. Further, students will have the opportunity to become a better public speaker through practice. 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 meets every day 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 meets every day or every other day.

Library Media Studies

Grade 8

The library program teaches students to be critical and informed consumers, seekers, and evaluators of information and media across all modalities and how to be responsible digital citizens. The library strives to increase interest in recreational and informational reading and support and augment the curricular needs of the teaching staff. The library actively supports and continues to enhance the advancement and celebration of diversity, equity, and inclusion through its diverse collections, educational programming, and responsive outreach.

Library coursework is aligned with International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) standards and the 2016 Massachusetts Digital Literacy and Computer Science Framework.

Eighth Grade Music Electives

Band 8

Grade 8

Full Year

The primary goals of this class are to begin or 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, continue to build on their musical pedagogy skills, 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. Students that are starting an instrument for the first time are highly encouraged to take private lessons. 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 throughout the school year. Students will be assessed on class participation, class performance 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 with the option of students joining every day for more advanced study.

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

There are 35 instructional periods in a week. All eighth graders will be scheduled for the following required courses, which make up 30 out of 35 total instructional periods.

8th Grade Required Courses

English Language Arts	5
Mathematics	5
Science	5
Social Studies	5
World Language (French or Spanish)	5
Physical Education	2.5
Grade 8 Unified Arts Rotation (Three Trimester Courses)	2.5
	30 periods

8th Grade Elective & Special Courses

Eighth graders may choose band or chorus as additional music electives. Students who do not participate in the band and/or chorus program will be scheduled for special courses to complete their schedule of 35 instructional periods per week.

Music Electives

Band 8	5 periods
Chorus 8	2.5

Special Courses

Reading Intervention	2.5 or 5 periods
Math Exploration	2.5 or 5 periods
S.A.T.	2.5 or 5 periods

Note: Course of studies may be subject to change.