

**Nordonia Middle School  
Curriculum Guide  
2023-2024**



**NORDONIA HILLS CITY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

*Inspiring every student to value learning, community and excellence*

**Nordonia Middle School  
73 Leonard Ave  
Northfield, OH 44067  
330-467-0584**

**Administration:**

Mr. Bryan Seward - Principal  
330-908-6606

Mrs. Ashley Turner - Associate Principal  
330-908-6607

**Counseling Department:**

Dr. Rachel Vitale- Counselor, 7th grade  
330-908-6608

Mrs. Theresa Kaleal - Counselor, 8th grade  
330-908-6609

**Administrative Assistants:**

Mrs. Jill Malone  
330-908-6600

Mrs. Celeste Olenik  
330-908-6605

## **Attendance**

Nordonia Middle School believes all children deserve a solid education to prepare them for the challenges of today's world and the future. Asking questions, listening to others' ideas, and working together are important parts of learning. Repeated absences and tardies to school hurt a child's ability to learn.

- Attendance Line: 330-908-6160

## ProgressBook:

ProgressBook is an online program that allows parents to have access to their child's grades. Grades are continuously updated by teachers. New to the district parents are assigned a registration key to set up a username and password for their account. Lee Eaton parents will continue to use their current account login information.

How to access ProgressBook:

- Go to [www.nordoniaschools.org](http://www.nordoniaschools.org)
- Click on the ProgressBook link under the "Parents" drop down menu
- Type in your username and password
- Click on "Grades" to view your child's grades
- There are several other options with ProgressBook such as checking your child's attendance, setting up email alerts to notify you if your child is missing an assignment or if a grade drops. You can also access report cards through ProgressBook. Please note that report cards are only mailed home for the 1st and 4th quarters.
  - If you forgot your login information, you can click on the "Forgot your username or password" link

## Athletics:

There are a variety of athletics available for Nordonia Middle School students to participate in. Nordonia Middle School follows OHSAA policies for eligibility and participation. For more information on athletics, contact Carrie Hutchinson [carrie.hutchinson@nordoniaschools.org](mailto:carrie.hutchinson@nordoniaschools.org) or Kelly Labonte [kelly.labonte@nordoniaschools.org](mailto:kelly.labonte@nordoniaschools.org).

<b>Fall</b>	<b>Winter</b>	<b>Spring</b>
Football	Boys Basketball	Boys Track
Volleyball	Girls Basketball	Girls Track
Boys Cross Country	Wrestling	
Girls Cross Country	Cheerleading	
Cheerleading		

To participate in a sport, students must have the following:

- A completed physical examination form (completed within the past year of the sport's season)
- A completed OHSAA authorization form
- A signed insurance waiver form
- A completed emergency authorization form
- Academic eligibility:
  - Students must receive a passing grade in a minimum of 5 classes in the grading period preceding the sport's season.
  - Incoming 7th grade eligibility for a fall sport is determined by the 4th quarter grades in 6th grade.
- The participation fee must be paid prior to the first contest

## **Activities and Clubs:**

### **BUDS- Building an Understanding of Differences through Social interaction**

This group plans and participates in activities with students who have special needs to encourage social interaction, develop self-confidence, and foster friendships.

### **Drama Club/School Musical**

Drama Club is a club that introduces students to drama and performing arts. Students have the opportunity to try out for a musical and participate in a formal performance. Students will learn introductory performing arts skills: choreography, vocal production, and stage terminology. Performing in a musical allows students the opportunity to interact with others on stage, study a role, learn lines, stage directions, and become the role they are portraying. Tryouts and rehearsals will be held after school. Club availability is contingent upon student interest and available advisors for the club.

### **G.I.R.L.S. Club**

G.I.R.L.S. Club is an acronym for Girls in Real Life Situations. The goal of the program is to educate girls about issues important to adolescent girls, meet new friends, provide positive peer support for one another, and to have fun!! Some topics discussed in this group are promoting self esteem, handling negative peer pressure, Leadership skills, planning for the future and creating a positive self-image. Club availability is contingent upon student interest and available advisors for the club.

### **Interact Club**

Interact Club is a service-based club that works with Rotary Club of Nordonia Hills. Our primary focus is to make our school and greater community a better place to live, work, and play. Past service projects include: serving meals at a local food pantry, picking up trash at city facilities, planting a Veterans garden, and fundraising money to help in-need students attend the eighth grade trip. Club availability is contingent upon student interest and available advisors for the club.

### **Media and Innovation Club**

This club is for students who like to create. Students will have the opportunity to work with 3D modeling and create 3D and Laser prints. Students will have opportunities to work with graphic design and video production to create media with the purpose of conveying information. Club members also have an opportunity to be part of the team that does the morning announcements. Club availability is contingent upon student interest and available advisors for the club

### **NMSDEIC Nordonia Middle School Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Club**

The Mission of the NDEIC is to ensure that all students are able to thrive academically and socially without barriers presented by prejudice and discrimination. The NMSDEIC is geared towards 7th and 8th students who are looking to foster a school-wide culture of appreciation for diversity. The goal of NMSDEIC is to provide a safe and inclusive space for all members of the school regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion or ability. Members of NMSDEIC are open-minded and ready to spread the message of inclusion and acceptance throughout the school. NMSDEIC meets one Friday per month in the Media Center.

### **Power of the Pen**

Power of the Pen is a statewide interscholastic competition which encourages and rewards creative writing. A team, composed of seventh and eighth graders, is chosen based on results of an after-school impromptu writing tryout judged by several English teachers. The team then meets weekly to prepare for tournaments. All members participate in the District Tournament held in January. The top 50% advance to the Regional Tournament in March at Kent State University; the top 20% of those writers advance to the State Tournament in May. Club availability is contingent upon student interest and available advisors for the club.

### **Science Olympiad**

More than 13,500 K-12 schools now participate in Science Olympiad. Nordonia participates at the middle and high school levels. The purpose of Science Olympiad is to fully involve students in an exciting competitive science format. Events include Biology, Bottle Rockets, Egg Drop, Airplane and Robo-Billiards, Forensic Crime Lab, Topographic Maps, Physics Lab, and more. The team begins practice in early November and competes at the Akron Regional in March. Winning teams move on to compete at the Ohio State Finals in April. The top two teams from Ohio earn the right to attend the National Finals. Club availability is contingent upon student interest and available advisors for the club.

### **Spelling Bee**

The Nordonia Middle School spelling bee is open to all students at the middle school and is held once per year in the mid winter. Students who are interested in the NMS Spelling Bee may request study material from their ELA teacher and may have the opportunity to participate in mock spelling bees during advisory time. The Spelling Bee is sponsored by the *Akron Beacon Journal*.

### **Student Council**

Student Council's mission is to promote a more positive school climate through various activities. Student Council sponsors school dances, a canned food drive, spirit week, and staff appreciation day. All students are welcome to be a part of Student Council. Club availability is contingent upon student interest and available advisors for the club.

### **Yearbook Club**

In Yearbook Club, we design, promote, and sell the Nordonia Middle School Yearbook. Assisted by teachers, students use an online computer program to create pages, and are also primarily responsible for taking the pictures that will end up in the yearbook. Our main goals are to capture the atmosphere of everyday life, sports, clubs and other fun activities that occur here at Nordonia Middle School. Club availability is contingent upon student interest and available advisors for the club.

### **Youth to Youth (Y2Y)**

Nordonia Youth to Youth is a leadership club that focuses on three goals: to lead, inspire, and live well. We do this through developing our leadership skills, service to school and community, and making healthy decisions. Nordonia Youth to Youth is derived from Youth to Youth International, which is based in Columbus, Ohio and supports youth-led prevention groups all over the globe by hosting annual training conferences for young people and training the adults that support them. So all the fancy words and stuff aside, we're a leadership club that makes good decisions and encourages our friends to make good decisions with us. All interested students are invited to join. There is open enrollment all year. If you would like more information, please visit our website at: [www.nordoniay2y.com](http://www.nordoniay2y.com). Club availability is contingent upon student interest and available advisors for the club.

# Core Academic Course Descriptions:

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

### **English Language Arts - 7th Grade**

The purpose of this course is to provide integrated educational experiences in the language arts strands of reading, writing, listening, viewing, speaking, language and literature. The content will include the following:

- using the reading process to construct meaning from a wide variety of literary, informational and technical texts
- using the writing process to communicate information and ideas
- using listening, viewing and speaking strategies
- understanding the common features of a variety of literary forms
- responding critically to visual, oral and written texts
- demonstrating the conventions of standard English (grammar and mechanics)
- acquiring new vocabulary through a variety of methods (i.e. context, affixes, roots, reference materials and inference)

### **English Language Arts - 8th Grade**

This course will provide an integrated educational experience in the language arts strands of reading, writing, listening, viewing, speaking, language and literature. The content will include the following:

- using the reading process to construct meaning from a wide variety of literary, informational and technical texts
- using the writing process to communicate information and ideas
- using listening, viewing and speaking strategies
- understanding the common features of a variety of literary forms
- responding critically to visual, oral and written texts
- demonstrating the conventions of standard English (grammar and mechanics)
- acquiring new vocabulary through a variety of methods

## MATHEMATICS

### **Math - 7th Grade**

In Grade 7, students spend instructional time focusing on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples. Students in 7th grade math will develop their understanding of these math concepts using the Standards for Mathematical Practice of problem solving, reasoning and proof, communication, representation, and connections.

The 7th grade Math curriculum also contains foundational standards from Pre-Algebra that will provide the opportunity for acceleration, and a pathway to Algebra I in the 8th grade. Students who show a strong mastery of the 7th grade curriculum will be advised as to their placement into either Pre-Algebra or Algebra I. Students who would be successful taking Algebra I are students who:

- Have shown content mastery by achieving 90% overall grade or better in 7th grade Math Show consistency in work completion throughout 7th grade
- Math Average 85% or better on all Summative Assessments during 7th grade Math Student
- **Must score Proficient or better on the 7th grade OST.** Students will be given a preliminary placement before OST scores become available over the summer. Final placement will not be determined until a student's Spring OST score is known.
- Intend to enroll in higher level Math courses and/or potential college major with a math concentration
- Students not meeting the above criteria will remain on the traditional Mathematics pathway in Pre-Algebra



### **Math - Pre-Algebra - 8th Grade**

Students in Pre-Algebra will develop their understanding of math concepts using the Standards for Mathematical Practice of problem solving, reasoning and proof, communication, representation, and connections. Concepts will focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. Successful completion of this course will advance to Algebra I.

### **Math - Algebra 1**

This is a year-long Algebra I course for students who completed 7th grade math course with success, and who have demonstrated above-average ability, aptitude, and learning attitudes. High school credit is earned upon successful completion of this course. The curriculum is designed to address the remaining 8th grade standards not addressed in 7th grade accelerated math and all of the Algebra 1 Ohio content standards. Topics in this class include analyzing multiple representations of linear, exponential, and quadratic functions, problem solving, factoring, solving systems of equations and inequalities, and radicals. Students must maintain a B or better in this course in order to move on to Honors Geometry. This class has a fast pace and demands mastery of the basic skills of Algebra including fractions, ratios, equation and problem solving, percent/decimals, and proportions. Students will work as teams to complete problems and activities that will help discover mathematical ideas and develop solution methods. The teacher will support the work, but will not take away opportunities to think and investigate individually. **\*This is a High School Credited Course and is typically taken in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, it is taught with the same rigor and expectations. This grade will appear on the high school transcript.**

### **Math - Geometry**

This course is designed to formalize and extend the student's experience with geometry from the middle grades. Students will deepen their understanding of geometric relationships and demonstrate this understanding through formal mathematical arguments. There is an emphasis on transformational geometry and students will use their understanding of dilations and proportional reasoning to build a formal understanding of similarity. Students will be able to use a coordinate system to verify geometric relationships including relationships between lines, properties of special right triangles and quadrilaterals. **\*This is a High School Credited Course and is typically taken in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, it is taught with the same rigor and expectations. This grade will appear on the high school transcript - Prerequisite: Algebra 1**

## SCIENCE

### **Science - 7th Grade**

Seventh grade science explores topics in the cycles and patterns of the Earth and atmosphere including how water cycles throughout the Earth, and how ocean energy contributes to formation of ocean currents and contributes to global climate. Studies of the various biomes and characteristic flora and fauna are related to climate and defined by biotic and abiotic factors. Also, students investigate a diversity of living things from bacteria and viruses to invertebrates and vertebrates with scientific dissections to compare body plans of each. There is also concentration on the cell and various organelles.

### **Science - 8th Grade**

Eighth grade delves into the dynamic changes in the Earth's surface, including the structure of its interior and various layers. This Physical Earth study continues with geologic processes and plate tectonics, and results thereof. Energy as it relates to force and motion is discussed, particularly potential and kinetic energy. Also, students learn about how species must adapt and change over time in order to survive and how many adaptations become inherited traits to prevent extinction.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### **Social Studies - 7th Grade**

Seventh grade social studies students explore ancient civilizations around the world during this year. They study Greece, Rome, the middle ages including feudal Japan and Mongol China, the Renaissance/Reformation, West African empires and the Age of Exploration. Teachers incorporate culture, art, literature, government, religious ideas and geography into each unit.

### **Social Studies - 8th Grade**

The eighth grade year brings students back home to the Americas. The year is all about American History starting with colonization of North America and moving chronologically through the beginning of the United States to the Civil War that almost broke the country apart. The students will learn about American history with units covering Colonization, the Revolutionary War, the New Nation, Government/Citizenship, Westward Expansion, Pre-Civil War and Civil War/Reconstruction. Students also learn important personal finance terms and money management skills.

# Encore/Elective Course Descriptions

## FINE ARTS

### **Art - 7th & 8th Grade**

This course promotes thinking, working, reasoning, and communication skills. The art curriculum is based on the content standards established by the state. Students are encouraged to explore their creative ideas through a variety of media styles, subjects and themes. The focus of the visual art program includes drawing, painting, printmaking, fiber arts and clay. Students will have an opportunity to use a wide variety of tools, techniques and processes to increase their knowledge and skills in a studio setting.

### **Band - 7th Grade**

The Seventh Grade Band is made up of students who previously participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade band as well as any students who did not participate at Lee Eaton! If your child did not participate in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, please contact Mary Schrembeck at 330-908-6657 with any questions you might have. Band meets every day during school and gives 4 performances per year, including a performance at the Quicken Loans Arena for the Cleveland Monsters hockey team. A fee is associated with this course.

### **Band - 8th Grade**

The eighth grade band continues the course of study begun in the elementary and seventh grade bands but enrollment is open to all students. Band meets every day during school and gives 4-5 performances each year including a performance at a High School Football Game and at Quicken Loans Arena for the Cleveland Monsters Hockey Team! A fee is associated with this course.

### **Jazz Ensemble - 7th and 8th Grade**

Students who sign up for Band may take Jazz Ensemble too. Any band instrument is eligible to participate including bass players, pianist and guitarists. This is a great opportunity for students to pick up another instrument or excel even further on their band instrument! Students will begin exploring different genres of band music which includes jazz, blues, rock and beginning improvisation. This ensemble has several performances including at band concerts, Veterans Day, the Business Expo, at the end of the year for the elementary schools, the annual Dinner Dance with the HS Jazz and for the Senior Citizens Breakfast with the Student Council. Jazz Band must be taken with Band class. A fee is associated with this course. Jazz Band will be offered during the students Advisory period. Because Advisory also serves as intervention time for all students, any student not maintaining satisfactory academic progress will return to their scheduled Advisory class. Jazz Band is an ungraded co-curricular activity.

### **Choir - 7th and 8th Grade**

The choir focuses on developing the adolescent voice, concentrating on matching pitch, breath support, and ear training. Typically, there are 4 mandatory concerts each year, one per quarter. A fee is associated with this course.

- 7th and 8th grade choir members have the option of attending the *Music in the Parks Festival* at Cedar Point in the spring. There is an added fee for this trip to cover park admission, transportation, etc.

### **Today's Music - 7th & 8th Grade**

"Today's Music" is a journey of the roots of American Pop Music. The course begins with the Revolutionary War and travels through Spirituals, Ragtime, Dixieland, Big Band, Blues, Rock and Roll, the British Invasion, Disco, Heavy Metal, Rap, Hip-Hop and music of today! This is not a vocal performance class.

### **Adapted Music- 7th & 8th Grade**

The adaptive music course offers an exploratory music experience for students with unique needs. Students will investigate sound by both listening to and creating music and learn to move to a steady beat. A variety of percussive instruments will be used to help the students with this as they work together as a team to make music.

## **HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

### **Health - 7th Grade**

This course is designed to provide students with accurate information and skills needed to make positive, healthy decisions now and in the future. This course focuses on age appropriate information and skills application. Health topics covered include nutrition, physical activity, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, mental health, diseases, puberty, and relationships. **\*This course is required for all 7th grade students**

### **High School Health - 8th Grade**

Health education affords high school students a balanced program including physical, mental and social phases of health and fitness. These phases of the program encompass up-to-date concepts such as CPR/AED, and first aid skills, family living, human growth and development, human sexuality and abstinence, STD, drug and alcohol abuse, suicide prevention, nutrition, many guest speakers to discuss various health topics, and much more. **\*\*This is a High School Credited Course and is typically taken in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, it is taught with the same rigor and expectations. This grade will appear on the high school transcript. Prerequisite: Must have earned at least a B average in 7th grade Health**

### **Physical Education - 7th & 8th Grade**

Students will participate in a variety of activities in physical education, such as team handball, volleyball, soccer and basketball. Students will take on various roles other than a player, such as coach, referee, statistician, athletic trainer and administrator. Games are modified for maximum participation and an emphasis is placed on skills, game tactics and strategies. Students will be assessed on the new state Physical Education Standards.

## **PROJECT LEAD THE WAY**

### **\*\*Computer Science For Innovators and Makers-7th & 8th Grade**

Throughout the unit students will learn about programming with a purpose. Students will blend hardware design and software development which will allow them to discover the basics of the computer science field while creating wearable technology or interactive art. This is a very hands-on class that students should take if they are ready to design, build, test and share their work.

### **\*\*Medical Detectives- 7th & 8th Grade**

Play the role of real-life medical detective as you collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. You will solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, examine nervous system structure and function, and investigate disease outbreaks.

### **\*\*Robotics and Automation - 7th & 8th Grade**

Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

### **\*\*Flight and Space-7th & 8th Grade**

Become an aerospace engineer in Flight and Space. In this hands-on course you will design, prototype and test models to learn about the science of flight and what it would take to travel to and live in space. Solve real-world aviation and space challenges and plan a mission to Mars.

**\*\*Two of these four classes will be offered, each year. Classes rotate on an annual basis.**

## WORLD LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

### **World Cultures- 7th & 8th Grade**

In the World Cultures class we will discover celebrations, eating habits, traditions, music, language, social rules, geography, stereotypes, and other perspectives related to culture. The main focus will be on countries that speak French, German, and Spanish, but we will also encounter a few traditions from other parts of the world. By learning about other nations, we will gain a greater understanding of our own culture.

### **Exploratory Spanish - 7th & 8th Grade**

This semester course will introduce students to the Spanish language and Hispanic culture. The primary goal of this course is for students to communicate at a basic level. Students will be expected to use their developing Spanish skills at every available opportunity. This course will stress speaking, but it will also include listening, writing, and reading. Students will also learn about popular music, cultural events, art, and geography. The best way to succeed in this class is through active class participation, practice at home, and timely completion of assignments both in and out of class.

### **Spanish 1-8th Grade**

Spanish I consists of the four linguistic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in the target language. Cultural elements are woven throughout. The curriculum is proficiency-based, and offers an accelerated approach to advanced-level concepts and processes. The main characteristics of this class are: active student participation, flexible thinking, interpretive skills (listening and reading), presentational communication (speaking and writing), and interpersonal communication. The students are expected to use the target language daily, and the class is mainly conducted in Spanish. **\*This is a High School Credited Course and is typically taken in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, it is taught with the same rigor and expectations. This grade will appear on the high school transcript. Students must receive a recommendation, based on previous academic performance, and have earned an average grade of at least a B in 7th grade ELA to enroll in Spanish I.**

## Grading Scale

### Grading Scale:

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	Below 59%

**\*\*If a student is taking a course at the middle school they will be receiving High School credit for, they will receive High School credit for completing that class successfully with a passing grade. The grade they earn in that class will not average into their GPA for High School, but will be listed as a letter grade.**