

MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Grades Six, Seven and Eight.

The following shall be taught in grades six seven and eight: English-language arts, social studies, mathematics, science, visual art, music, health, and physical education. In implementing the middle school program standards, the following curriculum definitions shall be used.

English-Language Arts. English-language arts instruction shall include the following communication processes: speaking, listening; reading; writing; viewing; and visual expression and nonverbal communication.

Instruction shall incorporate language learning and creative, logical, and critical thinking. The following shall be taught:

- oral and written composition;
- communication processes and skills, including spelling;
- literature;
- creative dramatics; and
- reading.

Social Studies. Social studies instruction shall include citizenship education, history, and social sciences. Democratic beliefs and values, problem-solving skills, and social and political participation skills shall be incorporated. Instruction shall encompass:

- history,
- economics,
- geography,
- government including American citizenship,
- behavioral sciences, and the
- cultures of other peoples and nations,
- Iowa history.

Strategies for continued development of positive self-perceptions shall be infused in the instructional program.

Mathematics. Mathematics instruction shall include:

- problem solving;
- geometry;
- measurement;
- appropriate computational skills, including mental arithmetic through the real number system;
- ratio, proportion, and percent;
- reasonableness of results;
- reading, interpreting, and constructing tables, charts, and graphs;
- estimation; and the
- use of calculators as standard tools in problem solving.

Science. Science instruction shall include life, earth, and physical science. It shall incorporate the following:

- hands-on process skills;
- scientific knowledge;
- application of the skills and knowledge to students and society;

-conservation of natural resources; and
-environmental awareness.

Visual Art. Visual art instruction shall include: perceiving, comprehending, and evaluating the visual world; viewing and understanding the visual arts; developing and communicating imaginative and inventive ideas; making art; and using the visual arts as an avocation or vocation.

Music. Music instruction shall include skills, knowledge, and attitudes. It shall also include: singing and playing music; listening to and using music; reading and writing music; recognizing the value of the world's musical heritage; respecting individual musical aspirations and values; preparing for consuming, performing, or composing; and using music as an avocation or vocation.

Health. Health instruction shall include personal health; food and nutrition; environmental health; safety and survival skills; consumer health; family life; substance use and nonuse, encompassing the effects of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and poisons on the human body; emotional and social health; health resources; and prevention and control of disease and the characteristics of communicable diseases, including sexually transmitted diseases.

Physical Education. Physical education shall include the physical fitness activities that increase cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, and flexibility; sports and games; tumbling and gymnastics; rhythms and dance; water safety; leisure and lifetime activities.

Exploratory Classes. Depending upon scheduling and general availability, junior high students will have an opportunity to receive instruction in assorted exploratory classes. Among these classes may be art, music, keyboarding, computer literacy, industrial arts, vocational agriculture and study skills.

Character Education. Character Education stresses character qualities that will maintain a safe and orderly learning environment and that will ultimately equip students to be model citizens. Character qualities to be taught include: honesty, responsibility, respect and care for the person and property of others; self-discipline and obedience to law; courage, initiative, commitment, and perseverance; kindness, compassion, service, loyalty, fairness, moderation and patience; dignity and the necessity of hard work.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Iowa Admin. Code 3.5(1), (4), (6)
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 11, 1991
DATE OF REVIEW: November 13, 1996
DATE OF REVISION: November 10, 1993; February 8, 1995; November 10, 1999,
December 15, 2008

MAQUOKETA VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
DELHI, IOWA 52223