



**CLARENCE B. SABBATH MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**2024-2025**

## **Clarence B. Sabbath Middle School Academic Philosophy**

At Clarence B. Sabbath Middle School, we believe that all students can learn at a high level. Our mission is to provide a high-quality educational experience that emphasizes social-emotional development, inquiry, critical thinking, and exploration. We strive to create an environment where students take ownership of their learning and are actively engaged in their educational journey.

To support this, we implement targeted interventions that ensure all students receive the help they need to succeed. This is the Sabbath Experience—an inclusive, supportive, and dynamic approach to education that empowers every student to reach their full potential.

### **INSTRUCTIONAL TIME**

To maximize instructional time, students will be provided with 90-minute blocks dedicated to English Language Arts and Math, either the first or second semester. The administrative team, in collaboration with teachers, will determine the priority for these sessions based on data analysis. This approach ensures that instructional time is allocated effectively, targeting the specific needs of students to enhance their learning outcomes and overall educational experience.

### **Administration**

Wyatt L. Jones III, Ed.S.  
Principal

Quannah King  
Academic Engagement Officer

### **Address**

340 Frazier St.

River Rouge, MI 48218

(313) 297-9654

### **Office Hours**

7:30am - 4:30pm



# **CORE CLASSES**

## **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 6**

English encompasses the processes of reading, writing, listening, speaking, and viewing, as well as the content of written and visual texts. Students will be exposed to both narrative and informational texts of increasing complexity. They will engage with the four modes of writing—descriptive, argumentative, narrative, and expository—often in combined forms, through multiple exposures of varying lengths. Students will listen, view, and speak in both formal and informal contexts, demonstrating a continuum of skills across various settings.

## **MATHEMATICS 6**

This course is based on the Sixth Grade Common Core State Standards for Mathematical Content and Practice. It encourages abstract thought, reasoning, and inquiry as students tackle motivating and relevant problems. The course focuses on five critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number operations and using these concepts to solve problems; (2) understanding division of fractions and extending to rational numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; (4) developing statistical thinking; and (5) reasoning about relationships among shapes to determine area, surface area, and volume. This course builds mathematical understanding and supports the application of key concepts.

## **SCIENCE 6**

Using an inquiry-based, hands-on approach, students will develop problem-solving and higher-order thinking skills while exploring science concepts in earth, life, and physical sciences. Topics covered include the water cycle, ecosystems, body systems, and energy and matter in the environment. This activities-based course incorporates multiple learning styles and employs both individual and small group cooperative strategies and practices throughout.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES 6**

United States history from Pre-Columbian times to the end of the Civil War (1865). Through the context of history, concepts in civics, economics, and geography are continued. Students strengthen their skills in using maps and globes, interpreting and using information, and historical thinking.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH 6**

Students will develop skills that will assist in a lifelong interest in and enjoyment of physical activities as a participant. Students will perform a daily routine of stretching, aerobic/anaerobic exercises and sport unit lessons. Units will include team and individual sports, health-related fitness activities as well as a standardized fitness test. Lessons within these units will teach the appropriate motor skills and basic strategies for the various sports. The fitness test unit will be effort-based and focus on performing the tests in accordance with the standards. Results will be compared to the criterion-based standards at the end of the year. Students will be assessed on the following areas: motor skills performance, cognitive knowledge of sport and using physical education terminology in context.

## **SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING HEALTH**

The SEL Curriculum is a comprehensive program designed to nurture students' personal and social awareness. This course equips students with the skills to understand and appreciate differences, make meaningful connections, and effectively problem-solve. It aligns with the *Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) Core Competencies: Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, and Responsible Decision-Making*. Through this curriculum, students will develop essential social-emotional skills that foster personal growth and positive interactions.

**This is a semester course**

## **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7**

This course focuses on reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Through a variety of lessons, activities, and experiences, students will enhance their understanding and appreciation of various literary genres, including short stories, novels, plays, and poetry. They will examine how these texts connect to the global community, developing research skills and using the writing process to compose narrative, expository, and persuasive pieces. Additionally, students will improve their grammar and spelling, study media message techniques, and apply research methods to gather, organize, and communicate information effectively.

## **ADVANCED ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7**

This course emphasizes literature, writing, and critical thinking skills through a combination of essays, literature, and speaking experiences, such as formal presentations and inquiry-based discussions. This course provides a study of genres of literature and literary terms, and a variety of writing experiences, including an emphasis on the writing process and research methods. The depth and pacing will differ from *English 7* in that learners will be expected to routinely work independently on self-guided assignments and

explore more complex, advanced texts. Vocabulary study is derived from seventh grade foundational vocabulary, including SAT vocabulary enrichment.

### **MATHEMATICS 7**

This course is designed for 7th grade students at the grade level in math. It focuses on developing a strong understanding of the number system, expressions and equations, ratios and proportional relationships, geometry, and statistics and probability. Students will build on their knowledge of fractions, decimals, percents, and integers, learning to write and solve single-variable equations. They will explore ratios, rates, proportions, and direct variation. In geometry, students will tackle problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions. Through these topics, students will enhance their problem-solving skills and mathematical reasoning, preparing them for high school algebra, geometry, and statistics.

### **INNOVATIVE MATHEMATICS 7**

The 7th grade Innovative Math course is designed to challenge students and foster creativity. Key topics include:

- Algebra: Linear equations and inequalities
- Geometry: Geometric shapes and properties
- Statistics: Data analysis and basic probability

Students will use technology and engage in hands-on, interdisciplinary projects that integrate math with other subjects, enhancing real-world application and critical thinking. This course prepares students for advanced math by deepening their understanding and analytical skills.

### **SCIENCE 7**

The Physical Science course provides an in-depth understanding of the nature and structure of matter and the characteristics of energy. Major areas covered include the periodic table, physical and chemical changes, nuclear reactions, temperature and heat, sound, light, electricity and magnetism, and work, force, and motion. Additionally, the course builds on skills related to body systems, nutrition, physical health, disease and injury prevention, community and environmental health, and family life.

### **SOCIAL STUDIES 7**

United States history from the end of the Civil War (1865) through the present day. Through the context of history. Concepts in civics, economics, and geography are continued. Students strengthen their skills in using maps and globes, interpreting and using information, and historical thinking.

## **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8**

Students will learn to apply their understanding of the characteristics and elements of various literary forms. They will enhance their vocabulary development through the study of word origins, analogies, metaphors, and similes. Additionally, students will write in a variety of formats, focusing on composing, written expression, and usage/mechanics. The course also covers analyzing mass media messages and using interviewing techniques to gather information.

## **ADVANCED ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8**

This course challenges 8th-grade students with complex texts and advanced writing tasks. Key areas of focus include:

- Literary Analysis: Study of classic and contemporary literature, emphasizing themes, character development, and literary devices.
- Writing: Development of persuasive, expository, narrative, and creative writing skills.
- Research Skills: Conducting research and synthesizing information into essays and presentations.
- Vocabulary and Grammar: Expanding vocabulary and mastering advanced grammar concepts.
- Critical Thinking: Engaging in discussions, debates, and projects to deepen text interpretation.

Students will participate in collaborative projects and peer reviews, preparing them for high school English with enhanced analytical and communication skills.

## **MATHEMATICS 8**

This course is designed for 8th grade students at the grade level in math. The main areas of emphasis are formulating and reasoning about functions and geometry. In expressions and equations, students focus on linear functions and systems of equations. Functions are explored through various representations: symbolic, graphical, tabular, and verbal. In geometry, students will deepen their understanding of 2D and 3D shapes and their properties, applying this knowledge to solve problems involving perimeter, area, and volume. Students will also apply transformations to shapes on a coordinate plane to explore similarity and congruence. Figures in 2D space are analyzed using the distance formula, properties of parallel lines, and the Pythagorean Theorem. Units and lessons are aligned with the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics, preparing all students for success in high school and beyond by the end of 8th grade.

## **ADVANCED MATHEMATICS 8**

This Advanced Math 8 course is designed for 8th-grade students ready to tackle challenging mathematical concepts. The main areas of emphasis are advanced functions and geometry.

Course Highlights:

- **Functions and Equations:** Students will focus on linear functions and systems of equations, exploring various representations: symbolic, graphical, tabular, and verbal.
- **Geometry:** Deepening understanding of 2D and 3D shapes and their properties to solve complex problems involving perimeter, area, and volume.
- **Transformations:** Applying transformations to shapes on a coordinate plane to explore similarity and congruence.
- **Advanced Geometry:** Analyzing figures in 2D space using the distance formula, properties of parallel lines, and the Pythagorean Theorem.

Units and lessons are aligned with the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics, preparing students for success in high school and beyond by the end of 8th grade.

## **SCIENCE 8**

This course is designed for all eighth grade students. Think like a physicist or meteorologist and solve problems like a mechanical, electrical, or environmental engineer! Throughout the year, students will ask questions, define problems, consider criteria and constraints, use systems models and mathematics, plan investigations, analyze data, argue from evidence, and communicate their solutions. Topics covered include forces and motion, alternative ways to generate electricity, transfer of thermal energy, weather and climate, and sound and light waves. Crosscutting concepts such as systems modeling, energy transfer, patterns, cause and effect, and stability and change will be emphasized in each unit.

## **ELECTIVES**

### **BAND 6-8**

This yearlong, performance-based class is designed for students with no prior band experience. The band program follows a sequential structure, teaching students to play a band instrument through the intermediate level. Instruction covers performance, music literacy, listening, analysis, music technology, and music history. Students will make connections between music from different cultures and learn to care for and play their instruments. They will receive instruction in rhythmic reading, with an emphasis on understanding time signatures, musical terminology, key signatures, scales, and ensemble skills. Students will perform both as soloists and as part of an ensemble, experiencing the steps necessary to achieve excellence. The class incorporates a variety of technologies to enhance the learning experience, and students will develop skills that foster lifelong learning and a love of music.

**Offered one section per grade for the duration of the year**

### **TECHNOLOGY 6: Digital Citizenship**

This course is designed to educate students on the ever-changing digital world, as well as provide practical experience regarding online safety. Additionally, students will explore ethical questions relating to technology, society and our choices as digital citizens. The curriculum covers a wide range of areas, so it appeals to a diverse group of students. Topics covered in Digital Citizenship classes include self-image, cyberbullying, digital footprint, communication, internet safety, security and creative credit.

**This is a semester course**

### **INTRODUCTION TO TECHNOLOGY 7**

This course is designed for 7th grade students and focuses on developing essential technology skills. Using UltraKey software, students will enhance their keyboarding proficiency. They will learn computer skills including file structure, respectful use of school computers, and Google Apps, such as Google Mail and Wiki Spaces. The course includes instruction on Microsoft Office applications, including MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint, and MS Publisher. Students will also develop library literacy skills, including effective internet searches, website evaluation, digital citizenship, and understanding Web 2.0 tools.

### **ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY 8**

This 8th grade course advances technology skills using UltraKey software to enhance keyboarding and computer proficiency. It covers file structure, respectful computer use, and advanced Google Apps. Students receive in-depth instruction on Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher) and advanced library literacy, including effective internet searches, website evaluation, digital citizenship, and Web 2.0 tools. They integrate tools like word processing, multimedia, desktop publishing, and spreadsheets into comprehensive projects,



reinforcing core subjects. The course also addresses legal, social, and ethical issues related to computer use.

## **SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING HEALTH 6**

The SEL Curriculum is a comprehensive program designed to nurture students' personal and social awareness. This course equips students with the skills to understand and appreciate differences, make meaningful connections, and effectively problem-solve. It aligns with the *Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) Core Competencies*: Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, and Responsible Decision-Making. Through this curriculum, students will develop essential social-emotional skills that foster personal growth and positive interactions.

**This is a semester course**

## **META 24: 6-8**

META24 helps students build core skills that support entrepreneurship and competitive entry into sustainable jobs. The program focuses on developing transferable skills that enhance employment retention and cultivating hands-on skill development in emerging industries.

### ***Graphic Design***

In this course, students will explore the field and tools of graphic design through hands-on projects. They will create a self-portrait using scanned objects and design an 8.5 x 11-inch canvas incorporating multiple images.

Students will learn about logos, compare and contrast strong designs, and create their own business logo. Typography will be introduced, and students will design a graphic poster using various fonts that reflect their business goals. Additionally, they will design a business banner, create a WordPress website, and produce a business poster, applying their skills to practical projects.

### ***Personal Care Course***

In this course, students will gain knowledge and practical skills in the use of natural versus chemical products. They will learn to prepare and create natural personal care products from recipes, including candles, lotions, facial scrubs, and bath soaps. Additionally, students will explore packaging and marketing techniques for these products, combining hands-on creation with business acumen.

## **PERSONAL FINANCE 8**

Equips students with essential financial literacy skills, preparing them to make informed financial decisions. Key topics include:

- Budgeting: Creating and managing a personal budget.
- Saving and Investing: Understanding the importance of saving and basic investment concepts.
- Banking: Learning about different types of bank accounts and their uses.
- Credit and Debt: Using credit responsibly and understanding debt implications.
- Financial Planning: Setting financial goals and planning for future expenses.
- Consumer Skills: Developing smart shopping habits and understanding consumer rights.

By the end of this elective, students will have a strong foundation in personal finance, ready to handle financial responsibilities confidently.