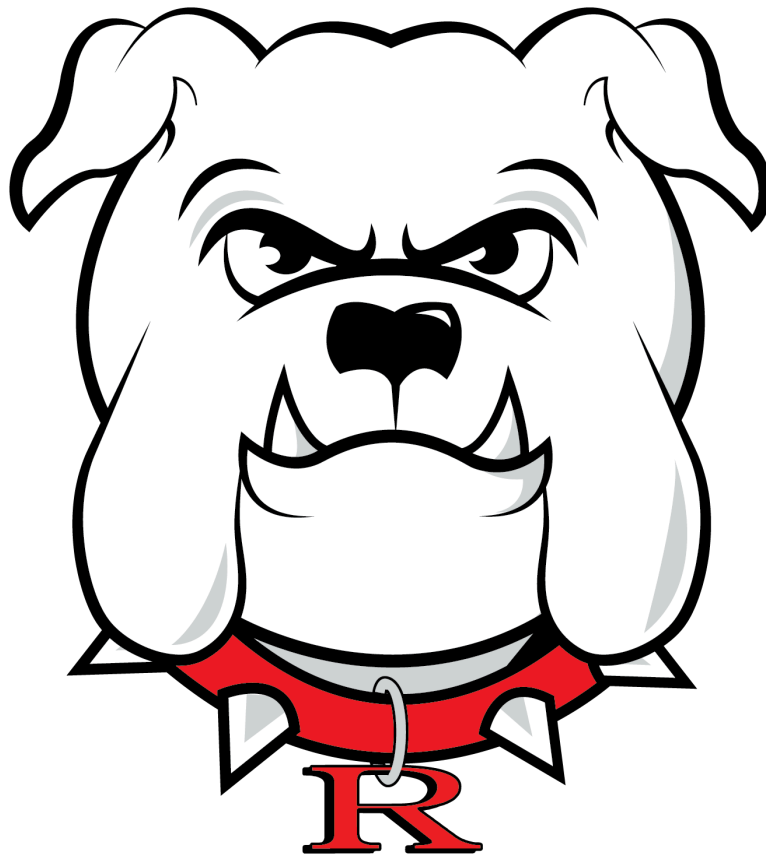


Romeo Middle School



Course Information Guide 8th Grade

“At Romeo Middle School, we believe in providing a safe and caring environment in which we embrace challenges, encourage growth, and empower everyone to make a difference.”

Overview

Daily Schedule

Below outlines a typical day at Romeo Middle School. Students have six classes plus an Advisory period (3rd Hour).

| Romeo Middle School Full Day Bell Schedule | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1st Hr. 8:15-9:10 (55 min) | | |
| <i>5 Minute Passing</i> | | |
| 2nd Hr. 9:15-10:07 (52 min) | | |
| <i>5 Minute Passing</i> | | |
| 3rd Hr. Advisory 10:12-10:42 (30 min) | | |
| <i>5 Minute Passing</i> | | |
| 6th Grade Lunch 10:47-11:17 (30 min) | 4th Hr. 10:47-11:39 (52 min) | 4th Hr. 10:47-11:39 (52 min) |
| 4th Hr. 11:22-12:14 (52 min) | 8th Grade Lunch 11:44-12:14 (30 min) | 5th Hr. 11:44-12:36 (52 min) |
| 5th Hr. 12:19-1:11 (52 min) | 5th Hr. 12:19-1:11 (52 min) | 7th Grade Lunch 12:41-1:11 (30 min) |
| <i>5 Minute Passing</i> | | |
| 6th Hr. 1:16-2:08 (52 min) | | |
| <i>5 Minute Passing</i> | | |
| 7th Hr. 2:13-3:05 (52 min) | | |

****Please note that schedule and times are subject to change.***

Advisory

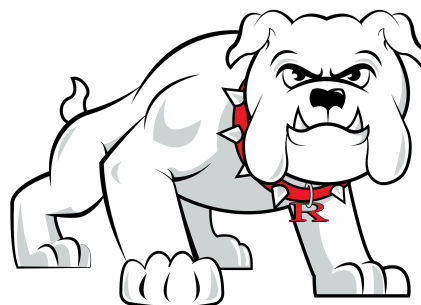
Advisory takes place daily for a period of 30 minutes. Advisory groups are made up of grade level students led by teacher mentors. The goal is to provide a personalized connection within our learning environment where all students will be known by at least one adult advocate. This relationship and connection to school is fostered through intentionally scheduled lessons, group activities, and one-to-one interactions with the advisor. The structure of the program will provide opportunities for character education, bullying prevention lessons, positive behavior support, independent reading, academic modeling, organizational meetings, school wide initiatives, and fun cooperative activities. This is a mandatory year-long class.

Teaming

In an effort to create smaller learning environments within the building, each student is placed with a team of teachers. This means that students within a team have the same teachers for their core classes.

Trimesters

RMS runs on trimesters. Each trimester is roughly 12 weeks in length. Core classes are year long classes whereas most elective classes are a trimester in length.



8th Grade Course Requirements

Eighth grade students are required to take four core courses. Students also have two hours of elective courses. Elective courses vary in length, some being a full year whereas others are a trimester in length.

Required Core Courses

English Language Arts 8

Math 8 or Algebra 1 (Based on Placement*)

Science 8

American History 8

8th Grade Elective Course Offerings

Need two elective hours (three trimesters equals one hour).

| Full Year | Trimester |
|--|--|
| Choose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vocal 8 ● Concert Band 7/8 ● Symphony Band 8 (<i>Audition Required</i>) ● Leadership (<i>Application Process</i>) ● World Language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> German I Spanish I | Prioritize <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Art 8 ● Combined Physical Education 8 ● Computer Technology 8 ● Drama & Musical Theater 8 ● Healthy Living 8 ● Media Broadcasting 8 ● PLTW - Medical Detectives 8 ● PLTW - Robotics ● PLTW - Green Architecture 8 |

Remediation in reading and math may be recommended for students who would benefit from these classes based on standardized test scores and screeners in reading and math.

Algebra 1 placement will be finalized with the successful completion of Advanced Math 7 in 7th grade or criteria met on Advanced placement testing (by teacher recommendation).

8th Grade Course Descriptions

CORE COURSES (REQUIRED)

English Language Arts 8 - Full Year

The eighth grade English Language Arts program will include reading and writing about various literary genres with a focus on literary analysis. Elements of character, setting, plot, and theme are explored. In addition, novels will be read and analyzed for ideas, style, voice, and historical information. Literacy discussion groups, as well as other speaking opportunities are provided. Students will write for specific purposes and audiences. Students are provided opportunities to practice writing narrative, expository, and argumentative text.

MATH 8 - Full Year

Illustrative Mathematics 6–8 Math is a problem-based core curriculum rooted in content and practice standards to foster learning and achievement for all. Students learn by doing math, solving problems in mathematical and real-world contexts, and constructing arguments using precise language. Lessons are designed with a focus on independent, group, and whole-class instruction. The eighth grade math program will have students focus on the following areas within the Michigan content standards:

1. Rigid Transformations and Congruence
2. Dilations, Similarity, and Slope
3. Linear Relationships
4. Linear Equations and Linear Systems
5. Functions and Volume
6. Associations in Data
7. Exponents and Scientific Notation
8. Pythagorean Theorem and Irrational Numbers

Algebra I - Full Year

**High School Credit*

(Teacher recommendation required based on standardized testing and other criteria)

Algebra I aims to deepen and extend student understanding by focusing on developing fluency with solving linear equations, inequalities, and systems. These skills are extended to: solving quadratic equations, exploring linear, quadratic, and exponential functions graphically, numerically, symbolically, and as sequences, and by using regression techniques to analyze the fit of models to distributions of data.

The standard 9th grade college-prep Algebra is offered as a math class for students meeting required criteria including but not limited to NWEA and M-STEP scores. This fast paced course requires high motivation and organization in order to maintain the workload and meet the high school standards issued by the state. Students are expected to complete nightly homework as well as complete a required review during the summer prior to starting the course. Students will receive high school credit after completing the course if they pass the required standards.

Science 8 - Full Year

The Romeo Middle School 8th grade science curriculum follows the Michigan Science Standards, while empowering students to use science and engineering practices to address real-world issues in the Earth, Life and Physical sciences. Major topics of study will focus on Scale, Proportion and Quantity along with Stability and Change. These encompassing topics are designed to use a discovery-based approach to answer a question about specific areas in science. Students will be given opportunities to explore these topics within both a classroom setting using various methods of learning and using various lab equipment in a lab setting.

American History 8 - Full Year

This course is an exploration of United States history from the early development of the nation through the end of Reconstruction in 1877. Students investigate the early nation and how the decisions of its leaders affected interaction with foreign nations, economic development, and the effects of “Manifest Destiny”. Additionally, students will understand the events that led to the Civil War, the Civil War itself, and finally, the policies that worked to knit the nation back together during Reconstruction. Through the use of atlases, primary sources, secondary sources, and other visual and graphic representations, students will compare, debate and decide how those early decisions have affected American citizens today.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Eighth grade students have the option to choose 2 full hours of electives. Every effort will be made to place students into courses they would prefer most, but this will depend on staffing and student selections. Their options include:

- | | |
|--|----|
| 2 Full Year Courses | OR |
| 1 Full Year Course + 3 Trimester Courses | OR |
| 6 Trimester Courses | |

TRIMESTER OFFERINGS

Art 8 - Trimester

Eighth grade students will use previously learned techniques to bring their work to a different level. Creative thinking and problem solving skills are emphasized as students begin to have more choice in subject and materials. The following media will be used: pencils, paint, clay, paper and technology. Careers in art and design are discussed and students will begin to create a digital portfolio of their work, research a specific art career and understand the components of writing a creative resume as a final presentation for the semester.

Computer Technology 8 - Trimester

Students will understand the core functions that go into programming an application. These invaluable skills will help ensure that students are ready not only for a more advanced Computer Science curriculum, but also for learning great strategies to problem-solve and share some real-world solutions with others.

Drama & Musical Theater 8 - Trimester

Join us in a fun and safe environment to develop and refine acting skills and our understanding of the theater. Students will perform in scenes, as well as, begin to understand how to approach monolog and cold reads to prepare for auditions. In addition, students will study techniques and rules for improvisation, while collaborating with others to enhance their performance skills, as well as, learn about and try their hand at directing a scene. Students may have the opportunity to sing, but it is never required of them.

Healthy Living 8 - Trimester

Students will learn skills and information that encourage and promote good health and reduce risk to illness. This laboratory course concentrates on nutrition, food choices, food management skills, and healthy choices throughout a lifetime. Students will cover how to apply nutrition principles to selection of food and evaluate food from different cultures.

Media Broadcasting 8 - Trimester

This course provides students with the opportunity to learn the basics of media broadcasting. Students will learn “hands on” in a project-based setting, gaining knowledge and experience in producing and broadcasting media in a variety of formats for our student population. Student broadcast productions will be presented to the student body.

Physical Education 8 - Trimester

In 8th Grade Physical Education, emphasis is placed on developing the four basic parts of fitness: muscular endurance, muscular strength, cardiovascular endurance, and flexibility, through the use of fitness activities and games. Students will also participate in a variety of skill-related activities designed to improve levels of motor tasks through team and individual sports.

PLTW - Green Architecture 8 - Trimester

The focus of this course is the practice of architecture and environmentally friendly building development. Students explore residential building systems, residential construction and construction costs, site planning, and architectural documentation. They design a tiny house or small home using recycled shipping containers and use fundamental features of 3D architectural software to document their design. Students have hands-on opportunities to create designs that match their own preferences and learn how their design could come to life. Hands on scaled projects of rooms and buildings come to life as students explore architectural design.

PLTW - Medical Detectives 8 - Trimester

Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, examine nervous system structure and function, and investigate disease outbreaks.

PLTW - Robotics - Trimester

Note: This course may be taken one time in 7th OR in 8th grade.

Get ready to explore the world of automation and robotics as you learn about mechanical systems, machine automation, and computer control systems using Vex V5 robotics. After hands-on building of various mechanisms, you will work collaboratively to dream up, design, build, test, evaluate, and program (code) various prototypes to solve real world problems while taking on the roles of three types of engineers: mechanical, electrical, and software engineer. With that knowledge, you will collaborate with others and use the design process to dream up, design, build, test, evaluate, and program (code) your original solutions to real-world problems. A variety of possible tasks await such as creating a prototype to help a toy company offer a new product line, an automated spinning billboard, your own automated dragster to race to the finish line, automated carnival rides, color sensing robotic arms, automated assembly lines and more.

FULL YEAR OFFERINGS

Concert Band - Full Year

Concert Band is for students who have one or more years of experience playing a band instrument. It is open to all 8th grade students, as well as 7th grade students by audition. Students will expand their range of notes, learn more advanced rhythms, key signatures, and time signatures. Students are eligible to play in an optional Solo & Ensemble festival in January. This band will perform at Band Festival in March and school concerts in December, April, and May. 8th graders will also join the Romeo High School Band at two events: a Friday night football game in the fall and a short Memorial Day parade in the spring.

Symphony Band 8 - Full Year / Audition Required

Symphony Band is the most advanced band class, with acceptance by audition only. Students will expand all aspects of their technique to play a variety of challenging music. Regular practice and participation in Solo & Ensemble Festival is expected. This band will perform at Band Festival in March, school concerts in December, April, and May, and join the Romeo High School Band at two events: a Friday night football game in the fall and a short Memorial Day parade in the spring.

Vocal 8 - Full Year

This class is a training course for beginning and intermediate vocalists. Students will continue to build on their knowledge of the basics of music theory, vocal technique, proper choral singing, performance technique, choreography, and sight singing. Choir members will be exposed to and will perform a variety of music styles including: pop, rock, jazz, and classical. Students will participate in a required evening choral performance with extensive choreography at the conclusion of each marking period. Other performance opportunities may be offered.

Leadership 8 - Full Year / Application Process

In this course, students focus around Sean Covey's *Seven Habits for Highly Effective Teens*. Through the study and development of these habits, students prepare and execute school-wide initiatives that address current needs of the building and student body. Students selected for this course will be empowered to lead building initiatives and foster constructive relationships with other building leaders.

**For this course, students are selected based on teacher recommendation and an application process. Students will receive further directions on how to apply.*

World Language- Full Year

German I or Spanish I *High School Credit

Recommendations: Learning a world language is an important decision in today's increasingly global society. World language classes emphasize cultural awareness enabling an increased knowledge of self and a better understanding of cultures previously unknown to them.

In beginning German and Spanish, emphasis is placed on the four skills of language learning: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Listening and speaking are enhanced through paired conversational and whole group activities. Students better their comprehension abilities through a variety of video and audio media, including video and audio recordings, computer games, and online learning platforms. Multicultural awareness is developed through the activities incorporated within the curriculum. The increasing proficiency in listening and speaking provides a smooth transition to beginning reading and writing.

SUPPORT COURSES

Math Support - Enrollment Based on Placement Testing

Math Support provides students with daily fact fluency practice, relearning, learning concepts students have never been taught before, and reviewing core math concepts. Students receive help in a small group setting with an Intervention Specialist. As always, our goal is to prepare all students with the necessary skills to be successful in school and in life. This class uses different research-based strategies to help students find success in math and build confidence in their abilities. Math Support replaces an elective slot in a student's schedule. Students are able to test out of the class, using progress monitoring assessments. Placement in this class is limited, so students are screened by the RMS Math Interventionist using the criteria listed below. (Parents may also request this intervention for their child by contacting the counseling office.)

Placement Criteria:

- Recommendation from math teacher
- Past three NWEA math assessment scores in the below average range
- Not proficient or partially proficient on the most recent Math M-STEP

AARI - Enrollment Based on Placement Testing

AARI is a small-group reading intervention class that focuses on informational text comprehension skills. It is not at all a "how to read" class, but instead teaches students how to think about academic text (such as what they'd experience in science or social studies classes) in a deeper, more meaningful way. Students focus on making inferences, analyzing text structure, and determining main ideas through thoughtful discussion in a positive and engaging learning community. AARI is designed to help improve comprehension and critical thinking skills that are used in *all* areas of learning. Placement in this class is limited, so students are screened and individually assessed by the RMS reading interventionist/AARI teacher using the criteria listed below. (Parents may also request this intervention for their child by contacting the counseling office.)

Placement Criteria:

- Teacher recommendation
- Past three NWEA reading assessment scores in the below average range
- Not proficient or partially proficient on the most recent ELA M-STEP
- Two or more levels below current grade level on **informational text comprehension** on the *Qualitative Reading Inventory Assessment* (one-on-one in-person reading assessment)

Level Up Literacy - Enrollment Based on Teacher/Counselor Recommendations and Assessment Data

Level Up is an academic reading support class that is designed to help improve comprehension and critical thinking skills that are used in *all* areas of learning. Students will learn how to apply specific strategies that will help them tackle the more rigorous text they encounter as they progress through middle school. This one-trimester class is designed to focus on improving the following academic reading skills:

- making inferences using text evidence
- determining main ideas and relevant supporting details
- summarizing
- using multiple strategies to find the meaning of unfamiliar words
- exploring craft to determine author's purpose

This credit/no credit support class will provide students with the opportunity to grow in an engaging, collaborative environment with a smaller group of students. Placement in this one-trimester class is determined by core teacher or counselor recommendation, most recent three NWEA reading assessment scores, grades, and proficiency level on the most recent ELA M-STEP. (Parents may also request this intervention for their child by contacting the counseling office.)

Level Up Academic Language - Enrollment for ELL Students Based on WIDA Scores and Academic Performance

This class supports students in developing their use and understanding of formal academic language when reading and writing. Academic language differs from the everyday language we use with friends and family. Learning how to understand and express oneself in the more complex language of Academic English is necessary for success in school. In this credit/no credit support class, students will learn strategies for comprehending and crafting texts like those seen throughout the content areas, focusing on text structure, complex sentences, and academic vocabulary. As with the other Level Up classes, students will have the opportunity to grow in an engaging, collaborative environment with a smaller group of students. Since academic language is used in every subject area, Level Up will help improve students' learning in all content areas, not just language arts. Students can qualify for this course based on their WIDA scores and academic performance.