

LITTLE MIAMI JUNIOR HIGH

“HOME OF THE PANTHERS”

www.littlemiamischools.com



COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE

2018 – 2019

ADMINISTRATORS

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COUNSELORS

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Dear Students and Parents,

The purpose of this booklet is to introduce and describe the educational programming available at Little Miami Junior High School. Our course offerings provide both academic challenge and the opportunity for success for all students. These junior high years are important years of transition for students and their parents.

You will see from the enclosed descriptions of requirements and electives that students have decisions to make about their school experience at Little Miami Junior High School. We have designed this booklet to help you make these decisions. Of course, there are basic requirements, but students have some choices to make concerning their schedule of classes. Courses reflect increased levels of critical thinking, problem solving and teamwork required of the student on his/her journey toward the 21st century workplace.

We encourage each student and parent to study the information contained in this course guide. The best schedule is developed through careful consideration of present interests, future plans, and teacher recommendations. Feel free to contact your child's current teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

The faculty and administration of Little Miami Junior High School look forward to working with you to develop a schedule that appropriately challenges your child's interests and abilities and prepares them on their journey toward high school, college, and career.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Cherry".

Ryan Cherry
Principal

GENERAL INFORMATION

The staff and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Little Miami Junior High. This is a very exciting time in any child's life and we here at Little Miami Junior High love to be a part of that excitement. The staff and I have very high expectations for every student that enters our building. We are dedicated to helping every child reach his/her fullest potential.

The activities that we have planned for the school year will ensure that every child receives the highest level of education that we can provide. With that being said, we understand that we are only a part of your child's education and recognize that we can accomplish more for your student as a team. We encourage parents to contact any one from our staff with any questions or concerns that you may have. Remember, the doors at Little Miami Junior High are always open.

LITTLE MIAMI JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

As the students transition through their Junior High experience, Little Miami provides students the opportunity to become better tomorrow than they are today through excellence in education. Students and staff collaborate to maintain strong relationships within the school and the community through team teaching.

Our rigorous programs provide a smooth transition from the intermediate school to the junior high and on to the high school; in addition we assist students in developing individual career plans. The staff is committed to ensuring a nurturing and safe learning environment where parents continue to be active participants in their child's education.

ACADEMIC TEAMING

Academic teaming is a major part of the junior high experience. Little Miami Junior High has six academic teams that create a "school within a school" experience for our students. We have three teams at each grade level that consist of five teachers; math, science, social studies, and language arts for two teams and one team of 3 teachers, math, science/social studies, and language arts. Students and staff alike, take great pride in the part their team plays in our overall building success.

CLASS FEES

Each spring the Board of Education establishes student fee schedules for the next school year. By custom, fee levels are established in June and take effect that next school year. Students and parents are therefore advised that the fees referenced in the 2018-2019 Junior High School Course Description Guide are approximate amounts and subject to small changes based on supply prices as they are purchased.

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

Here at the junior high we are able to kick start your student's high school career by offering credit in Honors Geometry*, Algebra I, French, Spanish, 8th Grade Band, and 8th Grade Choirs. Students are able to gain a high school credit in these courses enabling them to advance further into these subjects during their high school career. High school class selections are final. If a high school course is **dropped** after the start date it will be a **withdraw/fail** on your high school transcript.

***HIGH SCHOOL WEIGHTED CLASSES:** Honors Geometry courses are weighted courses. Students earning credit for a weighted course will receive a .10 "add-on", to be added to the high school cumulative grade point average upon successful completion of each weighted course. Grades of A, B, or C will receive the add-on.

ELECTIVE COURSES

As you will see in the course descriptions that follow, we offer a few choices to students during a particular part of the academic day. The type of elective will vary from student to student depending on their interest.

2018 – 2019

- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Physical Education and Health
- Music
- Computer Applications
- Art
- Gateway (STEM)
- Foreign Language (8th Grade Only)

Core Classes

Language Arts

Language Arts 7

Grade: 7

Course Fee: \$20.00

Course Description: This course emphasizes the fundamental language skills of reading, writing, speaking, listening, thinking, and presenting. An emphasis on vocabulary and composition skills will be an on-going throughout the course. The course includes studies of various literary genres: short story, poetry, novel, drama, and non-fiction. The development of critical reading and writing skills is a major emphasis of the course.

Language Arts 8

Grade: 8

Course Fee: \$20.00

Course Description: Grade 8 English is designed to teach students concepts in the subjects of reading and writing as outlined in the state of Ohio standards for the language arts curriculum. Areas of study include: Literature, Informational Text, Writing, Speaking/Listening, and Language. Students will also be prepared for success on the Ohio state assessments and for the challenging expectations of the high school course work they will encounter as freshman.

Mathematics

Math 7

Grade: 7

Course Fees: \$24.50

Course Description: In 7th grade math we focus on developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships, developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations. We will also be 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 drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

Course of Study: Proportional Relationships, Apply and extend operations with rational numbers, Draw, construct and describe geometric figures, Statistics, and Probability.

Math 8

Grade: 8

Course Fees: \$24.50

Course Description: This course will encompass order of operations, scientific notation, number systems, properties, elementary statistics, probability, converting units of measurement, proportions, transformations, constructions, graphing and solving equations, polynomials, factoring, laws of exponents, and systems of equations.

Accelerated Math 7

Grade: 7

Course Fees: \$24.50

Course Description: This accelerated course combines the standards of both the 7th and 8th grade years. After successful completion of this course, students are prepared for the 8th Grade Algebra I course. The focus is fully understanding the unique aspects of 7th and 8th grade and enriching the learning of the combined skills taught in both grades. Students should expect a rapidly moving course with independent study and rigorous work. Some points of emphasis will be on operations within the real number system, interpreting and using rate, geometric properties of 3 dimensional figures, and statistical analysis of samples and populations. **Students must qualify through assessment on the IOWA placement test.**

Math Lab

Grade: 7, 8

Course Fees: \$0.00

Course Description: Math Lab is a semester course based on raising the skill level for students. Students will also use Accelerated Math to increase his/her math computation skills. This course is a pass/fail course.

Algebra I

Grades: 7, 8

Course Fees: \$20.00

HS Credit: 1 credit

Course Description: Algebra I will focus on Expressions, Equations and inequalities. Students will interpret the structure of expressions and equations. The emphasis will be creating equations and expressions that describe numbers and relationships. Reasoning will influence decision making to perform arithmetic operations on polynomials. **Students must qualify through assessment on the IOWA placement test.** Summer work will be required to be completed by the first day of school.

Course of Study: Expressions, Equations and inequalities, Polynomials, Systems of Equations, Graphing. **THIS IS A HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT COURSE. STUDENTS IN ALGEBRA I WILL TAKE THE ALGEBRA 1 END OF COURSE STATE EXAM.** Once a student enrolls in a high school class, it cannot be dropped. If a student drops a high school course, it will be posted on the high school transcript as a Withdraw/Fail.

Honors Geometry

Grade: 8

Course Fees: \$20.00

HS Credit: 1 credit + Weighted HS Credit: 0.10 (see requirements)

This course covers the geometry curriculum at a faster pace and more in-depth than Geometry. This course will encompass definitions, postulates, theorems, measurements using a ruler, compass, and protractor plus finding measurements using computer software. The coordinate plane will be emphasized with distance, midpoint and slope between two points plus linear equations involving parallel and perpendicular lines. Special properties along with areas, perimeters/circumferences of triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, and circles will be a focus along with an introduction to congruent and similar figures. Trigonometry of right triangles will be taught along with applications of these concepts. Required: scientific calculator. ****Please note: a graphing calculator is permitted within this course and is REQUIRED for Algebra II.** If you choose to purchase a graphing calculator, it is suggested to get a TI-84 or a TI-84 Plus. **THIS IS A HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT COURSE. Once a student enrolls in a high school class, it cannot be dropped. If a student drops a**

high school course, it will be posted on the high school transcript as a Withdraw/Fail.

Science

Science 7

Grade: 7

Course Fees: \$8.00

Course Description: Students in the 7th grade will continue to develop skills of scientific inquiry and apply math skills to evaluate and analyze variables and data from investigations as they draw conclusions from scientific evidence. Students will explore the arrangement of atoms and the classification of elements on the periodic table. Students will investigate electricity through a variety of hands-on-labs and activities. The positions on the earth, sun, and moon will be discussed and modeled to explain natural phenomena such as eclipses and tides. Students will explain how matter can change forms and how energy is transferred through the earth's atmosphere and hydrologic cycle. Students will access knowledge to explain how energy entering the ecosystems, such as sunlight, supports the life of organisms through photosynthesis and the transfer of energy through the interactions of organisms and their environments within the biomes.

Science 8

Grade: 8

Course Fees: \$8.00

Course Description: The three main topics covered in eighth grade science are: The Physical Earth, Forces and Motion, and Species and Reproduction. Students will learn how energy, forces and motion combine to change the physical features of the Earth, how the changes of the physical Earth and the species that have lived on Earth are found in the rock record and that for species to continue, reproduction must be successful. Throughout the year students will enhance their understanding of scientific processes by learning to identify questions that can be answered through scientific investigations, design and conduct scientific investigations, analyze and interpret data, and think critically and logically to connect evidence and explanations.

Social Studies

Social Studies 7

Grade: 7

Course Fees: \$3.50

Course Description: We will be examining various civilizations of the world in order to gain an understanding of how each developed historically, socially, politically, economically and in relation to their environment. World History will cover the time frame of 1000 B.C.E. to 1750 C.E., and will build an intellectual framework from which regions, ideas and events can be critically analyzed and understood. Through our studies, you will be exposed to new ideas and people, and will gain an appreciation of the various peoples and regions of our world. An open mind is required.

Course Study: Ancient Greece and Rome, The Middle Ages: Africa, China, Japan, Mongols & Islamic Civilization, The Middle Ages: Europe, The Renaissance.

Social Studies 8

Grade: 8

Course Fees: \$3.50

Course Description: The historical focus continues of the eighth grade is the study of European exploration and the early years of the United States. This study incorporates all four social studies strands into a chronologic view of the development of the United States. Students examine how historic events are shaped by geographic, social, cultural, economic and political factors.

Course Study: U.S. Studies from 1492 to 1877: Exploration through Reconstruction

Course Electives

Physical Education & Health

Physical Education

Grade: 7, 8

Course Fee: \$1.00

Course Description: The students will be involved in a variety of activities that promote physical growth while taking individual abilities and differences into consideration. These activities will include a variety of fitness activities and testing, individual sports, along with small group and team activities. All students will be required to dress appropriately for class (shorts, sweats, tennis shoes, t-shirt or sweat shirt).

Health 7

Grade: 7

Course Fee: \$1.00

Course Description: Health is based upon a holistic approach to wellness which includes components of physical, mental, and social development. Healthful living is a life-long process, which requires that an individual make responsible decisions based on accurate information, personal beliefs, and an understanding of the consequences of their decisions. Students will study and learn valuable decision making skills, understanding body systems and how they work, personal health, nutrition, healthy relationships, preventing violence, and communication skills. In addition to the healthy skills students will learn the harmful effects that drugs and alcohol have on your body through the D.A.R.E program.

Health 8

Grade: 8

Course Fee: \$1.00

Course Description: Health is based upon a holistic approach to wellness which includes components of physical, mental, and social development. Healthful living is a life-long process, which requires that an individual make responsible decisions based on accurate information, personal beliefs, and an understanding of the consequences of their decisions. Students will study and learn valuable decision making skills, sexual abstinence, understanding body systems and how they work, personal health, nutrition, stress management, how to properly handle emotions, and communication skills.

Music

General Music

Grade: 7, 8

Course Fee: \$0.00

This class has a twofold purpose: (1) to introduce students to the world of musical composition and (2) to learn basic ukulele technique in the process. Learn some of the basic skills used to write a song! This course is designed as an introduction as to how words and music are put together. Students will learn the basics of how to read, play, and write music through practice in pitch, rhythm, rhyme, and poetic forms. Final project is an original song to be played on the ukulele. Bring your own uke or use one of the school-owned instruments. Singing is minimal, but expected.

Choir – Women’s & Men’s

Grade: 7, 8

Course Fee: \$8.00

HS Credit: 1 credit (8th Grade Only)

*Prerequisites**: Open to all 7th & 8th grade boys & all 7th grade girls.

*Prefer 8th grade girls to have at least one year of choral/vocal experience, but not required. Need prior permission of instructor. Private instruction is not required, but encouraged.

Members of the LMJH Choirs will continue to develop their young and changing voices through daily vocal exercises and the study of selected pieces from the choral repertoire. Special focus will be given to good tone production, proper vocal technique, enunciation, intonation, blend, breathing, rhythm, expression and basic music theory practices. A variety of styles and languages will be learned, memorized, and performed. Students will be expected to participate in 3 to 4 out-of-school concerts throughout the school year. There are opportunities, though limited, for performing a solo and in a small ensemble.

Band

Grade: 7,8

Course Fee: \$10.00

HS Credit: 1 credit (8th Grade Only)

Prerequisites: Open to 7th & 8th grade students with ***at least one year playing experience*** on a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument. Private instruction is not required, but highly recommended.

Members of the LMJH Bands will continue to develop their playing skills and musicianship through daily exercises and the study of selected pieces from the concert band repertoire. Special focus will be given to good tone production, fingering/sticking technique, articulation, intonation, blend, breathing, rhythm, expression and basic music theory practices. A variety of styles will be studied, learned, and performed. Students will be expected to participate in 3 to 4 out-of-school concerts throughout the school year. There may be opportunities for performing as a soloist, in a small ensemble, and going to contest in a large group setting.

Computer Applications

Computer Applications 7

Grade: 7

Course Fee: \$0.00

Course Description: Students will develop a firm foundation for building keyboarding skills by learning the operation of word processing activities that will help each of them reach optimal competencies for high school, college and their work profession. Students will increase speed and

accuracy through daily assignments. Students will focus on keyboarding technique and take timed productions to strive for 30 WPM. Students will receive hands on experience in MS Windows, Word, Office 365 and OneDrive.

Computer Applications 8

Grade: 8

Course Fee: \$0.00

Course Description: A semester long introductory course in personal computers using Microsoft Windows and Office Suite applications. The students will receive hands on experience in MS Windows, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Office 365, OneDrive, Outlook, and other programs.

Art

Art

Grade: 7, 8

Course Fee: \$2.00

Course Description: A basic introduction into the Elements and Principles of Art and Design. Students will create artwork that reinforces these concepts that will prepare them to be successful with Art at the high school level.

Gateway (STEM)

Gateway

Grade: 7, 8

Course Fee: \$0.00

Course Description: Students will imagine the world through the eyes of an engineer while exploring STEM ideas and careers. They will explore concepts such as 3D printing, robotics, programming and design using cutting edge computer software. The class uses activity oriented curriculum that applies STEM principals. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) to the projects.

Flight and Space

Flight and Space

Grade: 8

Course Fee: \$0.00

Course Description: The exciting world of aerospace comes alive through Flight and Space. During this unit, students delve into the history of flight and space, discover the science behind aeronautics, and explore traveling and living in space. Students are then challenged to use their knowledge to design, build, and test an airfoil.

Foreign Language

French I

Grade: 8

Course Fee: \$20.00

HS Credit: 1 credit

Course Description: This is a one-year course designed to develop foreign language skills and to prepare students for living in a global society. Classroom instruction is designed to develop the ability to communicate in a second language by involving students in communicative tasks. Classroom instruction includes listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills. Students will learn French in a contemporary cultural context. **This class is pre-assigned to those students who qualified per requirements. THIS IS A HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT COURSE. Once a student enrolls in a high school class, it cannot be dropped. If a student drops a high school course, it will be posted on the high school transcript as a Withdraw/Fail.**

Prerequisite: Maintain an “A” in 7th grade language arts. Course has limited availability. We will also take into consideration overall 7th grade GPA.

Spanish I

Grade: 8

Course Fee: \$20.00

HS Credit: 1 credit

Course Description: An introduction to the Spanish language using basic vocabulary and simple grammar. Listening, speaking, reading and writing skills are also developed. Students will study the culture of Spanish speaking countries. **This class is pre-assigned to those students who qualified per requirements. THIS IS A HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT COURSE. Once a student enrolls in a high school class, it cannot be dropped. If a student drops a high school course, it will be posted on the high school transcript as a Withdraw/Fail.**

Prerequisite: Maintain an “A” in 7th grade language arts. Course has limited availability. We will also take into consideration overall 7th grade GPA.