

8th Grade Course Selections

All general education students must complete the following:

Required Courses – Year Long

- Science (Foundations of Science II) – This is the second in a series of 3 courses designed to offer students a strong foundation in all the science disciplines. This course focuses on the interactions between living organisms and the physical environment as it explores the life, physical, earth, and environmental sciences.
- American Studies – The goal of this course is to provide students with an in-depth survey of early American History, focusing on the United States and its creation, development, people, and events. As a springboard into high school studies of American history, 8th graders will conclude their study with reconstruction and reform following the civil war.
- Language Arts – The mission of this course is to help ensure that students become life-long, independent,, and interdependent learners who can use language to communicate, to stimulate the imagination, and to construct meaning. A variety of activities help students maintain and strengthen their thinking, speaking, reading, and writing abilities.
- Math – Students continue to the next math course based on their understanding and performance in their 7th grade math class. Full course descriptions can be found in the program of studies on the NWJH web-site. Math courses available are Math 8A, Pre-Algebra , Algebra, and Geometry.
- Physical Education – A course designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to engage in a physically active, healthy lifestyle throughout life. Areas of focus include health related fitness, lifetime physical activity, and health/wellness concepts and skills.

Required Courses – One Trimester only

- Personal Development – This course provides information to help students make positive decisions about their own health and wellness. Areas of study include, community service, wellness and health, nutrition and fitness, physical, mental, and social health, violence prevention, substance abuse, growth and development, and sexually transmitted diseases.
- Applied Technology – This course exposes students to technology utilized in today's high-tech industries. Students rotate through units in ten-day intervals using videotapes, textbooks, computer software, and practical hands-on activities. Areas of study include research and development, computer animation, engineering, drafting, robotics, electronics, computer aided drafting, materials and processes, and aerospace.

8th Grade Course Selections - Electives

Please refer to the on-line Program of Studies (www.iccsd.k12.ia.us/schools/nw/courses/index) for more information regarding the following electives:

Year Long Electives

- Foreign/World Languages – meets everyday
 - French 1B
 - German 1B
 - Spanish 1B
- Fine Arts – meets everyday unless students are enrolled in two or more music courses
 - Symphony Band
 - Choir
 - Symphony Orchestra
- Other Electives
 - Seminar (alternate day class) – must meet entrance requirements

Trimester Length Electives

- Fine Arts – one trimester only
 - Studio Art
 - Drama
 - Rock Band
- Communication Arts – one trimester only
 - Book Club
 - Media Workshop
 - Writers Workshop
 - Intensified Grammar
 - Leadership (alternate days)
 - Video Production (alternate days)
- Practical Arts – one trimester only
 - Family Consumer Science II
 - Food for Fitness
 - Sewing and Clothing
 - Industrial Tech Workshop
 - Computer Applications
- Other Electives – one trimester only
 - Volunteer/Office Runner (alternate days)