

**2024-2025**



**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Directory**

**Monarchs Get Ready to  
Roar!!**

## McMillan Mission and Vision

The Mission of McMillan Middle School is to academically challenge students and to promote student ownership of learning in a safe, diverse, and respectful environment.

The Vision of McMillan Middle School is to:

- Collaborate with school, family, and community-based partners.
- Provide an innovative, project-based, cross-curricular school setting.
- Integrate components of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math through Project Lead the Way (PLTW).

This directory is designed to help you in planning a program of study that will best meet your needs and interests. Parents, teachers, and counselors will help you select and make decisions regarding courses for your student schedule.

Your directory contains complete information about course requirements and materials needed, as well as descriptions of each course being offered at McMillan. Read and study the course offerings before registering. Course choices become commitments, and it is difficult to make changes. Careful consideration now will help assure you of a program that satisfies your needs and interests.

The curriculum is designed to encourage exploration in a variety of subject areas. The curriculum at McMillan Middle School reflects the infusion of multicultural nonsexist educational material consistent with the philosophy adopted by the Board of Education.

We hope this directory will be an effective tool in selecting your plan of study. The courses you select in middle school are most important to your future goals and endeavors.

Dr. Andrew Walters  
Principal

Dr. Matasha Jordan  
Assistant Principal

Mr. Alex Curran  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade-Assistant Principal  
Mrs. Demetria Ballard-Counselor

Dr. Mathew Coffey  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade-Dean of Students  
Mrs. Jodie Rodriguez-Counselor

Mrs. Jordan Pfeiffer  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade-Dean of Students  
Ms. Stacey Rawlings-Counselor

Before registration, carefully review the program of study and course descriptions in this handbook and plan a program with your counselor and parents. The sequence of required courses has been outlined on the worksheet provided on this page. You will want to add the elective courses you choose. The example below is what a schedule could look like at McMillan:

Block	A-Day	Block	B-Day
Pride	20 minutes every day	Pride	20 minutes every day
1	ELA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ELA 6 or Honors ELA 6</li> <li>• ELA 7 or Honors ELA 7</li> <li>• ELA 8 or Honors ELA 8</li> </ul>	1	Math <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Math 6 or Advanced Math 6</li> <li>• Math 7 or Advanced Math 7</li> <li>• Math 8 or Honors Algebra 1-2 H</li> </ul> *Geometry 1-2 (possibly offered off site)
2	Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Science 6</li> <li>• Science 7 or Honors Science 7</li> <li>• Science 8 or Honors Physical Science 1-2</li> </ul>	2	Social Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Studies 6</li> <li>• Social Studies 7</li> <li>• Social Studies 8</li> </ul>
3	Semester or Yearlong Elective	3	Semester or Yearlong Elective
4	Physical Education/Human Growth Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PE 6</li> <li>• PE 7</li> <li>• PE 8</li> </ul>	4	Chorus/Band/Orchestra <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yearlong every other day</li> <li>• If not in Chorus/Band/Orchestra, then a semester or yearlong elective</li> </ul>
5	Intro to College & Careers 6,7,8	5	A Required Course/Semester or Yearlong Elective

## **SEVENTH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### **\*REQUIRED ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

#### **PLTW Computer Science APP Creators\***

**Length: One Semester**

This required 7th grade course will expose students to computer science by computationally analyzing and developing solutions to authentic problems through mobile app development and will convey the positive impact of the application of computer science to other disciplines and to society. Students will customize their experience by choosing a problem that interests them from the areas of health, environment, emergency preparedness, education, community service, and school culture. Because problems in the real world involve more than one discipline, the unit will introduce students to biomedical science concepts as they work on solutions for the specific problems they choose to tackle.

#### **Physical Education/ Human Growth & Development 7\***

**Length: Year Long**

This course is designed to include a wide variety of sporting activities and teach the qualities of sportsmanship, competition and fitness. It includes learning the rules and regulations for the major sports of volleyball, wrestling, basketball, soccer, and track and field events. Students also participate in a variety of leisure and lifetime activities including badminton, aerobics and more. Students must wear appropriate attire for physical education courses (tennis shoes, T-shirts, sweats or shorts, etc.). Although the physical education locker rooms have showers available for students' use; students are not required to shower for class. This course will use current Physical Education standards and Human Growth and Development pacing.

#### **Intro to College & Careers 7\***

**Length: Year Long**

Students will continue to explore careers using the Nebraska Career Education Model. A focus will be to make connections between personal aptitudes and interests to specific Career Fields and Clusters. Students will have opportunities to practice and develop skills in the Nebraska Career Readiness Standards of Practice. Students will draw from class learning, skill development and activities to begin a Personal Learning Plan to transition into high school with a broad career cluster focus. Prerequisites: None

### **ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

*Students select elective courses to fill their remaining schedule. They may choose 2 full year electives, 8 semester electives or a combination of full year electives, and one semester electives totaling 8 semesters.*

#### **Honors Special Project 7**

**Length: Yearlong**

**Teacher Recommendation**

This course offers a wide variety of experiences that align with gifted and talented programming standards. Learning opportunities meet grade level objectives in problem-solving, critical thinking, creative thinking, inquiry, cultural proficiency, metacognition, and affective skills.

#### **Spanish 1-2**

**Length: All Year**

**Teacher Recommendation**

This course in World Languages at the first-year level stresses interpretive, presentational, and interpersonal communication abilities to develop survival skills in the target language. Students become aware of the personal and economic opportunities that knowing a second language will bring them and how that knowledge will enable them to function better both in the United States and globally. They also begin to develop an awareness and appreciation of the various cultures associated with that language as well as the impact these cultures have made on their own community, country, and world.

## **Art 7**

**Length: One semester**

Throughout this course, students will experience a wide variety of artistic materials and examine the artistic communication and expression of identity by several artists, past and present. Aesthetic theories of Expressionism and Imitationalism will also be studied in depth. As they do so, they will be creating their own artwork about personal identity.

## **Beginning Guitar**

**Length: One semester**

This course is an introductory and beginning course in acoustic guitar for middle school students. The class will focus heavily on guitar in which the student will learn to play melodies and chords. Course materials will be adapted to student advancement. Guitars are provided.

**NOTE: Enrollment in any music class requires mandatory participation in our concerts, which are held in the evening each semester in our auditorium. Additional performances may be scheduled.**

## **Chorus 7**

**Length: One semester**

Chorus 7 is available to seventh grade students who have special interests and abilities in choral singing. Vocal skills are introduced through appropriate unison, two and three-part singing. Musical independence is encouraged through increasing emphasis on musical notation. Performance opportunities are an extension of the classroom experience.

## **Intermediate Band 7**

**Teacher Recommendation**

**Length: All year**

**Materials Needed: Instrument**

This course is offered to seventh grade students who began instrumental music instruction in their respective elementary schools. Instrumental technique and musical understanding focus on the second volume of standard instrumental studies and appropriate band arrangements. Performance opportunities are an extension of the classroom experience.

## **Intermediate Strings 7**

**Teacher Recommendation**

**Length: All year**

**Materials Needed: Instrument**

This course is offered to seventh grade students who have successfully completed several years of study. Instrumental technique and musical understandings focus on standard string method studies and appropriate string orchestra selections. The instrumentation includes violin, viola, cello, and string bass. Students with previous instrumental experience may begin changeover instruction on the low string instruments. Performance opportunities are an extension of the classroom experience.

## **Jobs for America's Graduates**

**Teacher Recommendation**

**Length: All year**

Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) is a graduation enhancement program focusing on personal and career development and future readiness. The class will participate in a variety of classroom activities, assignments, exploration, guest speakers, mentorship, and guidance. Each member will become part of a student leadership organization and have several opportunities to further unlock and enhance their potential. This is the middle-level experience/course that students would be enrolled into prior to high school. **\*\*Requires Parent Permission\*\***

## **Science Scholars**

**Teacher Recommendation**

**Length: One Semester**

Science Scholars directly exposes the student to scientific research. Students will independently and/or collaboratively investigate and develop a science project during the course of the school year. Independent research, problem solving techniques, and the principles of scientific investigation will be studied and applied. Students will also have the opportunity to enter their projects in local, state, and national science competitions.

**Reading Skills 7A****Teacher Recommendation****Length: Year long**

This course is designed for readers who have a foundation in decoding skills but experience difficulty comprehending grade-level material. The curriculum focuses on strengthening fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary skills. Placement is based on standardized test scores and teacher recommendation.

**Reading Skills 7B****Teacher Recommendation****Length: Year long**

Students in this course will improve reading proficiency with explicit, direct instruction in fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Strategies for phonemic awareness and phonics will be taught as needed. Students will read leveled, high interest literature for both academic and recreational purposes. Placement is based on standardized test scores and teacher recommendation.

**PLTW ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS****Music Technology 1****Length: One Semester****Prerequisite: Keyboarding**

This course is designed for students interested in music and its related computer applications. No previous experience in computers or music is necessary. Students will explore electronic musical instruments, computer-assisted instructions, MIDI sequencing and music notation.

**Introduction to Architecture****Length: One Semester**

This pre-engineering course is an introduction to architecture, sketching skills, and drafting tools. Students will learn about the process of architecture, different architectural styles, as well as careers associated with architecture and computer aided design. Students will create virtual three-dimensional models of homes by learning to use computer-aided design and drafting (CADD) software. Students will work together to build a scaled, physical model of a home. This course is recommended for pre-engineering (PLTW) students, or any student interested in applied mathematics and engineering.

**PLTW Science of Technology****Length: One Semester**

This 7th grade pre-engineering course explores the science of electricity, the movement of atoms, circuit design, and sensing devices. Knowledge and skills in basic circuitry design and explore the impact of electricity in everyday life are acquired. Students study the mechanics of motion, the conversion of energy, and the use of science to improve communication.

**PLTW Flight and Space****Length: One Semester**

The exciting world of aerospace comes alive through Flight and Space. Students explore the science behind aeronautics and use their knowledge to design, build, and test an airfoil. Custom-built simulation software allows students to experience space travel.

**PLTW Medical Detectives****Length: One Semester**

Medical Detectives (MD) explores the biomedical sciences through hands-on projects and labs that require students to solve a variety of medical mysteries. Students investigate medical careers, vital signs, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases, as well as human body systems such as the nervous system. Genetic testing for hereditary diseases and DNA crime scene analysis put the students in the place of real-life medical detectives.

## **Course Placement Appeals**

All Secondary Omaha Public Schools offer procedures for appealing course placement (i.e., AP, Honors, IB, etc.). Each building may have specific forms and deadlines; however, the following general procedures shall apply:

**Level One:** Counselor, Curriculum Specialist, Assistant Principal/Data, or Principal

A student or parent with a course placement appeal may first discuss the matter with the counselor, or building administrator involved, with the object of resolving the matter informally.

**Level Two:** Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

If the course placement appeal is not resolved at Level One and the individual still wishes to pursue the appeal, they may formalize the appeal in writing addressed to the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment at 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68131.

**Level Three:** Superintendent

If the appeal is not resolved at Level Two and the individual still wishes to pursue the appeal, he/she may formalize the appeal to the superintendent of schools after receiving a written response from the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.

These steps shall be taken in a timely manner to accommodate the registration of courses for the school year in question.