

Monroe County Community School Corporation

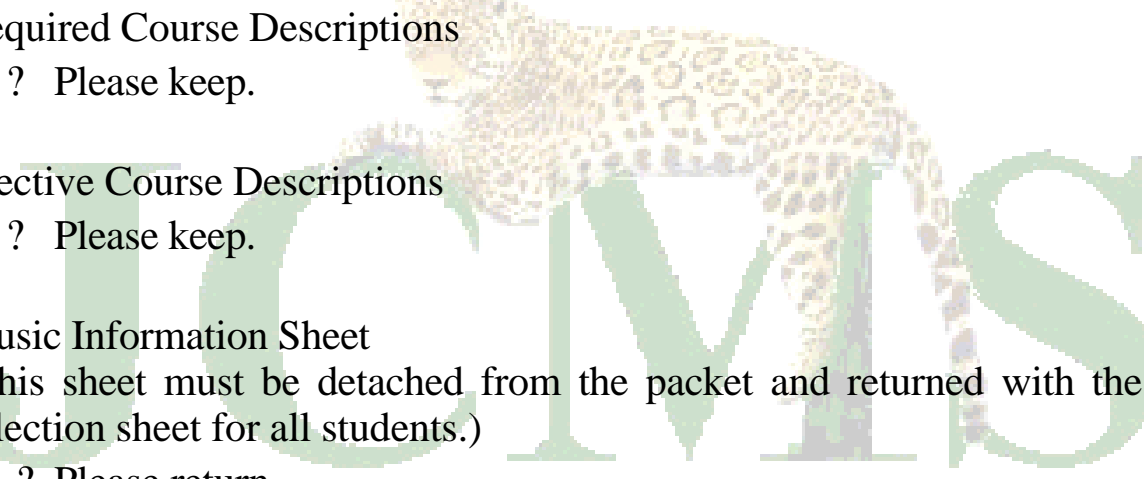
James Harvey, Superintendent

JACKSON CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL – HOME OF THE JAGUARS

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2008-2009 Grade 8 Course Selection Information

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- ? Required Course Descriptions
 - ? Please keep.
 - ? Elective Course Descriptions
 - ? Please keep.
 - ? Music Information Sheet
(This sheet must be detached from the packet and returned with the course selection sheet for all students.)
 - ? Please return.
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Jackson Creek Middle School Grade 8 “Required” Courses

Jackson Creek Middle School integrates information skills, technological skills, reading and writing skills, and critical-thinking/problem-solving skills into the curriculum of every course offering.

EXPLORATORY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Grade 8 students will be assigned to the following four “required” courses:

- ? **Physical Education (semester)** This is a required course which will continue to involve students in activities which emphasize the importance of physical conditioning, physical fitness, and lifelong leisure skills. Students will learn the rules, basic skills, game strategies, sportsmanship, proper etiquette, and teamwork while participating in each unit of study. No matter what the student ability level is at the beginning of a unit, the students are encouraged to do their best to achieve continuous improvement.
- ? **Health Education (six weeks)** This required exploratory course will include units such as wellness and the body systems; alcohol, tobacco, and drug abuse; communicable and non-communicable diseases; and safety and first aid.
- ? **Exploring Music: (six weeks)** This required course is required to help fulfill the State of Indiana’s fine arts curriculum requirement for students who are not enrolled in Band, Choir, or Orchestra. This course explores the connection between music, technology including MIDI basics, computers and digital sampling, synthesis, the physics of sound, multi-track recording and sound system basics. A major outcome of this course will be each student’s creation of a musical composition using music technology.
- ? **Careers: (six weeks)** This required exploratory course is built around eight career clusters. Students will learn to assess their personal skills and interests, explore career options, and the relationship between learning and work. Career planning and research is a key focus throughout the course as students will investigate the characteristics of certain careers. In addition, the importance of resumes and cover letters show students the process in finding jobs.

LANGUAGE ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Language Arts: (two semesters) This required course will expose students to the various components of language arts. The primary focus will be on major skills such as spelling, vocabulary, the writing process, grammar, and literature. Major emphasis will be placed on literary analysis and comprehension.

Humanities: (two semesters) **Placement in this course is based on the selection process of the Accelerated Learning Program. This interdisciplinary course replaces the standard required language arts course, and the Language Arts Humanities students will be enrolled in the Social Studies Humanities course also.** This course will continue to expose students to the various components of language arts. Points of major emphasis in this course include a survey of American literature, speech and presentation skills, drama, and interdisciplinary activities in association with the social studies component of Humanities.

SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Social Studies: (two semesters) This required course is a survey course which focuses on United States history, with emphasis on the period from discovery and exploration through Reconstruction. In addition to the standard specific social studies skills, students will be extensively exposed to research, presentation, reading, writing, and critical thinking skills in the context of United States history.

Humanities: (two semesters) **Placement in this course is based on the selection process of the Accelerated Learning Program. This interdisciplinary course replaces the standard required social studies**

course, and the Social Studies Humanities students will be enrolled in the Language Arts Humanities course also. This course is a topical course which includes several seminars on United States history. In addition to a survey of United States history, the topics covered are government and ethics, immigration, protest and dissent, and popular culture. This course emphasizes student directed learning, participatory activities, critical and creative thinking skills, independent reading, and creative writing.

SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Science: (two semesters) This required course concentrates on the study of physical science and chemistry. Physical science features the study of the forms of energy, the relationship between energy and matter, and the forces of energy. Chemistry features the study of the forms, properties, and changes of matter, atomic structure, compounds and solutions, and the relationship between energy and matter. Hands-on learning is encouraged while students are learning to be good citizens through understanding the impact of science in their lives and the impact of their choices on the environment.

Accelerated Science: (two semesters) **Placement in this course is based on the selection process of the Accelerated Learning Program.** This required course concentrates on the study of physical science and chemistry. Physical science features the study of the forms of energy, the relationship between energy and matter, and the forces of energy. Chemistry features the study of the forms, properties, and changes of matter, atomic structure, compounds and solutions, and the relationship between energy and matter. Hands-on learning is encouraged while student are learning to be good citizens through understanding the impact of science in their lives and the impact of their choices on the environment. Each student will conduct a year-long scientific investigation which includes extensive research and experimentation.

MATHEMATICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Math 8: (two semesters) Students use rational numbers, irrational numbers, exponents, powers, roots, ratios, proportions, and percentages. They solve simple linear equations and inequalities; graph functions and understand the concepts of slope and rate; construct shapes that meet given conditions and apply geometric concepts to solve problems; convert between units of measure and use rates and scale factors to solve problems; collect, organize, represent, and interpret relationships in data sets that have one or more variables; make decisions about how to solve problems and communicate their ideas

Pre-Algebra: (two semesters) **Prerequisite: Prognostic test scores, teacher recommendation, or a combination of both will determine placement in this course. This course replaces the standard required mathematics course.** This course emphasizes exponents, square-roots, irrational numbers, and applications for simple equations and inequalities with rational numbers. Students will also be introduced to factoring, notations, manipulations, and problem-solving techniques necessary for success in Algebra at the high school level.

Algebra I: (two semesters) **Prerequisite: Prognostic test scores, teacher recommendation, or a combination of both will determine placement in this course. This course replaces the standard required mathematics course.** Topics in this course include operations with real numbers; solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities; relations and functions; pairs of linear equations and inequalities; polynomials; algebraic fractions; quadratic, cubic, and radical equations; and mathematical reasoning and problem solving. *This course may be organized in a 6th/7th/8th grade combination format.*

Geometry: (two semesters) **Prerequisite: Placement in this course is based on the selection process of the Accelerated Learning Program. This course replaces the standard required mathematics course.** This rigorous course is for students who successfully completed Algebra I in the 7th grade. This course consists of a study of the undefined terms, the axioms, and the theorems of Euclidean geometry. Emphasis is placed on understanding the deductive processes involved in proofs, numerical

and algebraic exercises and geometric constructions. The topics covered include inductive and deductive reasoning, triangles, perpendicular and parallel lines, constructions, area, the Pythagorean theorem, circles and

Jackson Creek Middle School Grade 8 “Elective” Courses

Band: (two semesters) Band is explored through the study of performance fundamentals on a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument as a soloist, in small ensembles, and with the full band. Placement in a specific band class will be determined by a student’s musical background and ability. Beginners and experienced musicians are welcome. Regular at-home practice is encouraged. Each class performs 2-4 concerts per year with the possibility of performing at annual ISSMA Festivals. Instruments, books, and supplies may be obtained through local music stores. Instruments, not available through the local music stores, may be rented through the school’s music department. Full or partial scholarships for instrument rental are available on a limited basis.

? **Band –** designed for students who want to start playing a band instrument and for those with some experience who strive to sharpen their skills for future inclusion in the Concert Band. No experience necessary.

? **Concert Band –** designed for students who excel in playing their band instruments, read music well and have significant experience playing in ensembles, large and small.

Mixed Choir 8: (two semesters) Choir is explored through the study of a wide variety of choral literature with emphasis being placed on developing vocal techniques, understanding the fundamentals of music, and refining choral performance skills. Choreography is also a major part of the class. Each class will perform 2-4 concerts per year with the possibility of performing at the annual ISSMA Festivals.

Strings 8: (two semesters) Orchestra is explored through the study of the fundamentals of performance on an orchestral stringed instrument - the violin, the viola, the cello, or the bass - as a soloist, in small ensembles and with the full string orchestra. Regular at-home practice is encouraged. Each class performs at least 2-4 concerts per year with the possibility of performing at the annual ISSMA Festivals. Instruments and supplies may be obtained through local music stores. Cellos and basses may be rented through the school’s music department.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE COURSES – Course Descriptions

? **French I 8: (two semesters) Prerequisite: Students must have successfully completed French I - 7 to enroll in this course.** This elective foreign language course is the second year of study in a two-year middle school program designed to prepare students to enter the high school foreign language program at Level II; however, no high school credits are earned. This course emphasizes vocabulary acquisition, pronunciation, and grammar concepts.

? **Accelerated French I: (two semesters) Prerequisite: A Language Arts GPA of 3.0 on a 4 point scale and the recommendation of the grade 7 Language Arts teacher.** This elective foreign language course is the first year of study in a rigorous middle school program designed to prepare students to enter the grade 8 foreign language program at Level II. Successful completion in this particular middle school foreign language course is the equivalent of completing Level I in the high school program; however, no high school credits are earned. Middle school classes meet about four-fifths the amount of time as high school classes, but a student in the accelerated class will be expected to cover the same material as a high school foreign language student. This course stresses the four basic skill areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in a foreign language.

? **Accelerated French II: (two semesters) Prerequisite: Successful completion of Accelerated French I or permission of instructor.**

area, loci, and similar and regular polygons. *This course is organized in a 7th/8th grade combination format.*

This elective foreign language course is the second year of study in a rigorous middle school program designed to prepare students to enter the high school foreign language program at Level III. Successful completion in this particular middle school foreign language course is the equivalent of completing Level II in the high school program; however, no high school credits are earned. Middle school classes meet about four-fifths the amount of time as high school classes, a student in the accelerated class will be expected to cover the same material as a high school foreign language student. This course stresses the four basic skill areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in a foreign language.

? **Spanish I 8: (two semesters) Prerequisite: Students must have successfully completed Spanish I - 7 to enroll in this course.**

This elective foreign language course is the second year of study in a two-year middle school program designed to prepare students to enter the high school foreign language program at Level II; no high school credits are earned. This course emphasizes vocabulary acquisition, pronunciation, and grammar concepts.

? **Accelerated Spanish I: (two semesters) Prerequisite: A Language Arts GPA of 3.0 on a 4 point scale and the recommendation of the grade 7 Language Arts teacher.** This elective foreign language course

is the first year of study in a rigorous middle school program designed to prepare students to enter the high school foreign language program at Level II. Successful completion in this particular middle school foreign language course is the equivalent of completing Level I in the high school program; however, no high school credits are earned. Middle school classes meet about four-fifths the amount of time as high school classes, but a student in the accelerated class will be expected to cover the same material as a high school foreign language student. This course stresses the four basic skill areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in a foreign language.

? **Accelerated Spanish II: (two semesters) Prerequisite: Successful completion of Accelerated Spanish I or permission of instructor.**

This elective foreign language course is the second year of study in a rigorous middle school program designed to prepare students to enter the high school foreign language program at Level III. Successful completion in this particular middle school foreign language course is the equivalent of completing Level II in the high school program; however, no high school credits are earned. Middle school classes meet about four-fifths the amount of time as high school classes, a student in the accelerated class will be expected to cover the same material as a high school foreign language student. This course stresses the four basic skill areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in a foreign language.

PAIRED SEMESTER OPTIONS – Course Descriptions

Arts and Artists: (one or two semesters) This elective course is designed for the student who wishes to refine their skills by creating a variety of visual media in both two and three-dimensions using drawing, painting, and print making to develop and strengthen the skills of observation and imagination. Students will be challenged to find creative solutions to problem solving by using clay, paper mache, and fibers. Students will explore how art history can integrate personal expression with the appreciation of western art. Semester 1 will cover a unit on personal self reflection and portraiture. We also study architecture and create a clay house. Semester 2 covers modern art styles with exercises to help students appreciate the variety of artistic expression. Art

experiences will allow students to acquire the skills, knowledge, and understanding needed to critically view the art and the artifacts of past and present. Students will learn professional criteria for judging, interpreting, and analyzing works of art which will teach students to form a basis for looking and talking about their own art in a critique setting. Each semester is autonomous.

Exploring World Languages: (one semester) This elective semester-long course for eighth grade students who want learn about new languages and cultures. Students will be exposed to the languages available in high school along with a few other languages. The class will also introduce students to other cultures. Cultural studies will include the media, guest speakers, arts, pastimes, foods, and beliefs of various regions. Foreign language study skill will be integrated throughout the class.

Business Technology 8: (one semester) This semester-long elective has two main areas of focus. Business ownership and management spotlights different types of businesses and their functions. Students also work in groups on business and marketing-related projects. Personal finance is the second portion of this class. It focuses on areas such as income, money management, spending and credit, and saving and investment. Students will learn the importance of organizing their finances in order to have successful financial future.

Family and Consumer Science 8: (one semester) Students who choose the FACS 8 elective will be participating in a variety of fun and practical projects and activities. Designed to build on the skills learned in FACS 7, some of the activities include constructing aprons and boxers or gym bags on the sewing machine, and continuing to gain expertise in nutrition and foods through a variety of cooking labs. Students will have a brief introduction to consumer education and will practice managing a

budget based on a randomly selected occupation. A model bedroom will be designed, furnished and decorated during class as part of a housing and interior design unit. Child development and parenting skills will also be included during the semester course. Students will experience working as team members as well as individualized instruction.

ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE – Course Descriptions

ISTEP+ Reading / Language Arts: (one semester) Prerequisite: Referral by ISTEP+ remediation conference. This course is designed for those students who have obtained ISTEP+ scores below the standard for passing in Language Arts.

ISTEP+ Math: (one semester) Prerequisite: Referral by ISTEP+ remediation conference. This course is designed for those students who have obtained ISTEP+ scores below the standard for passing in Math.

Resource 8: (two semesters) Prerequisite: Referral by a case conference committee. This course is designed as an individualized program for students who exhibit various learning difficulties as specified by the case conference committee. The objectives of the student's individualized program are developed by the case conference committee.

English as a New Language: (two semesters) Prerequisite: Students attending schools in the United States for less than 3 years or referral by counselor. This course provides students with instructions in English that will improve their proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Emphasis is placed on helping students learn to independently function in an English speaking school.



Jackson Creek Middle School
2008-2009 Grade 8 Elective Course Enrollment Sheet

Attention Parents: The boxes below allow you to help your child with the selection of his/her elective courses. Every attempt possible will be made to secure primary choices of electives, but no promises can be made. Please return this sheet as soon as possible to help ensure that your son/daughter secures the best possible chance to get his/her first choices of electives.

STUDENT SELECTIONS

Directions: Using the Elective course descriptions in this packet as your guide please rank at least your **TOP FOUR (4) CHOICES** (1 = your first choice, 4 = your lowest choice). (See example)

Teacher Approval: The student is responsible for obtaining the appropriate teacher initials for classes requiring prerequisite approval.

<i>Full Year Options</i>			
Prerequisite Teacher Approval	Code	Description	Rank
X	4428	*# Band *	1
X	4448R5	*Mixed Choir 8 *	
X	4428X5	*Strings 8 *	
	2122X5	*Accelerated Spanish II*	
	2120X5	*Accelerated Spanish I *	
X	2120R5	*Spanish I – 8 *	
	2022X5	*Accelerate French II*	
	2020X5	*Accelerated French 1 *	2
X	2020R5	*French I - 8*	

<i>Paired Semester Options</i>			
Prerequisite Teacher Approval	Code	Description	Rank
X	4948R7 / 4928R7	Business Tech / Family Consumer Science 8	4
X	4108R7	Art & Artist / Art & Artist	
X	4108R7 / 4928R7	Art & Artist / Family Consumer Science 8	
X	4108R7 / 2188R7	Art & Artist / World Languages	3

<i>Academic Assistance Courses</i>			
	1012L5	English as New Language	
	6028R5	Resource 8	
	4208L7	+ISTEP+ Reading (one semester)+	
	4308L7	+ISTEP+ Math (one semester)+	

The offering of all electives is subject to their meeting minimum class enrollment standards.

+ JCMS may require a student to take the ISTEP+ remediation courses if they have failed one or more sections of the ISTEP+ test

* Students will not be enrolled in two music or two foreign language courses

Specific placement based on musical experience and ability

Please sign this sheet and return it to your Math teacher by Friday, January 18, 2008. Teachers will return the sheets to JCMS Guidance office by Monday, January 21, 2008. Elective Requests for students not returning Elective Request forms will be completed by the JCMS Guidance Department. (Please contact the Jackson Creek Middle School "Guidance Department" at 330-2451 for the clarification of any information and/or with any concerns.)

Print Student's Name _____ Student's Signature _____

Print Parent's Name _____ Parent Signature _____

Home Phone _____ Home Address _____

Work Phone _____ Date _____ Present School _____

Contact the JCMS Guidance Office at 330-2451 if you have any questions or concerns.

