

John Long Middle School

Grade 7

Course Description Booklet

2018 – 2019



John Long Middle School
700 Hickory St.
Grafton, WI
262-376-5800
www.grafton.k12.wi.us

ACADEMICS AND PROGRAMMING FOR JOHN LONG MIDDLE SCHOOL

Making Course Choices

How can we make the best choices for our child(ren)?

Consider your child's interests, strengths, and areas that need further exploration or work. Consult with your child's current teachers; what do they advise? Don't hesitate to talk with the middle school counselor; the counselor has an excellent overview of the entire middle school program, as well as what is being offered in the high schools. Make the course selection based on your child's interests.

Does what my child take in middle school affect high school?

Middle school courses may help a student identify areas of interest to them that they'd like to pursue in high school, particularly in related arts subjects. The Grafton School District requires that a student have 22 credits to graduate from high school. This includes the following requirements:

1. ENGLISH	4.0
2. SOCIAL STUDIES	3.0
3. MATH	3.0
4. SCIENCE	3.0
5. PHYSICAL ED.	1.5
6. HEALTH	0.5
7. ELECTIVES	remainder__

It's also not too early to consider post-high school plans. Looking ahead can help ensure that students have the flexibility to take the courses that best meet their interests and plans.

Meeting Special Needs

How will children's special needs be met?

The middle school program is designed to provide support within the school for students with special needs. Special education teachers, special education aides, library aides, RISE coordinator, school counselor, and school psychologist are all available.

Are accelerated math classes available?

Yes. All students are eligible for accelerated math by teacher recommendation and multiple data points. When placement is warranted, families will be notified.

What if my child struggles academically?

The first response should be to work closely with your child's classroom teachers to ascertain what the problem is and to develop some steps towards improving achievement. If more help is needed, support in the middle school includes the following:

- **Intervention**
Students scheduled in a math or reading intervention course receive prescriptive instruction based on individual needs. School personnel determine placement in these courses and communicate with parents to notify them.
- **Special Education Needs**
Students with identified special needs, including those with cognitive, physical, speech, learning or emotional disabilities, have individual education plans which outline the types of assistance they need. Special education teachers or aides may work with these students within a class or, at times, in small groups or individually.

What is the grading scale for middle school students?

The following is the grading scale used by our teachers in all subjects

A	93 - 100	C+	77 - 79.99
A-	90 - 92.99	C	73 - 76.99
		C-	70 - 72.99
B+	87 - 89.99	D+	67 - 69.99
B	83 - 86.99	D	63 - 66.99
B-	80 - 82.99	D-	60 - 62.99
		F	59 and below

Middle School Life

How can parents become involved?

The middle school has an active parent group. The John Long Parent Teacher Group (PTG) sponsors a variety of activities including student activity nights and a teacher luncheon. Volunteers are always welcome. In addition, parents are actively involved as volunteers for events like the musical, chaperones on field trips, and help with other school projects. Watch the Falcon Flyer for information on how to volunteer or contact the school principal.

Seventh Grade Course Offerings

Students have an English, social studies, math, and science teacher. Seventh grade students can choose a world language (2-year German or Spanish commitment) for their 7th grade AND 8th grade experience in order to complete German/Spanish 1 for high school credit.

Required Courses

Daily

English Language Arts (ELA)

Math

Alternate Days

Science

Social Studies

Physical Education - *Every other day*

STEM & Digital Communications II – *Every other day opposite PE for one semester each.*

Related Arts Course - Every other day (Choose two)

Art

Band

German

Choir

Spanish

Placement in these courses is determined by school personnel

Math - Advanced 2

Math 7 - Accelerated

Algebra

Math Intervention

Reading Intervention

When will my child register for 7th grade classes?

In February of their 6th grade year, registration materials will go home with your child, paperwork completed, signed by a parent and returned to school.

Course Descriptions for Seventh Grade

CORE OFFERINGS

ELA (English Language Arts)

This course encompasses many aspects including reading, writing, speaking, listening, and thinking. We will read continually. Every day students will have time to read and dig deeper into texts. Throughout the course of the year, students will explore a variety of genres including multicultural fiction, award winners, and non-fiction. As students explore different genres, they will begin to look past what the elements of literature *are* and effectively explain how they *are related* and affect each other throughout a piece of literature. We will also write continually. Much of what we read will drive our writing throughout the year. As we work with different styles of writing, students will practice using the writing process: prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. They will track their writing throughout the year in their Google docs. All students will grow in this workshop-model classroom.

Life Science

Our goal is to move students to becoming independent thinkers, learners, and problem solvers. Our program is designed to help students work toward applying and synthesizing scientific information through the use of technology and hands-on labs while working in collaborative groups, and discuss science careers for the future. Students will begin to identify and communicate individual learning strategies that foster science success. Units include an introduction unit to safety, data, and equipment use, cells and heredity, diversity of living things, the human body, and ecology and the environment.

Math 7

The purpose of mathematics is to build the high levels of mathematical skills, processes, thinking, and problem solving necessary to meet the challenges of the 21st century. In this course, the students will learn from a balanced instructional approach through the *Big Ideas Math* curriculum. Math 7 covers integers, rational numbers, expressions and equations, inequalities, ratios and proportions, percents, constructions and scale drawings, circles and area, surface area and volume, and probability and statistics. This approach probes students to use abstract thought, reasoning, and inquiry to persevere in solving real-world problems, helping them to gain a greater depth of mathematical understanding.

Math 7 - Accelerated

The purpose of mathematics education is to build the high levels of mathematical skills, processes, thinking, and problem solving necessary to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Math 7 Accelerated is a compacted pathway that combines all of the regular seventh and eighth grade standards and is designed as a preparation for Algebra 1 in eighth grade. The topics covered in Math 7 Accelerated are integers, rational numbers, expressions and equations, inequalities, ratios and proportions, percents, constructions and scale drawings, circles and area, surface area and volume, probability and statistics, transformations, angles and triangles, graphing and writing linear equations, real numbers and the Pythagorean Theorem, volume and similar solids, and exponents and scientific notation. In this course, the students will learn from a balanced instructional approach through the *Big Ideas Math* curriculum. This approach probes students to use abstract thought, reasoning, and inquiry to persevere in solving real-world problems, which helps them to gain a greater depth of mathematical understanding.

Math - Advanced 2

The purpose of mathematics education is to build the high levels of mathematical skills, processes, thinking and problem solving necessary to meet the challenges of the 21st century. This Advanced 2 Math course is designed as a preparation for Algebra. The topics covered include equations, transformations, angles and triangles, graphing and writing linear equations, systems of linear equations, functions, real numbers and the Pythagorean Theorem, volume and similar solids, data analysis and displays, exponents and scientific notation, inequalities, constructions and scale drawings, circles and area, surface area and volume, and probability and statistics

Math – Algebra

Algebra is an accelerated math course that covers the same topics as the algebra course at the high school. The topics covered include solving linear equations, graphing and writing linear equations, solving linear inequalities, solving systems of linear equations, linear functions, exponential equations and functions, polynomial equations and factoring, graphing quadratic functions, solving quadratic equations, square root functions and geometry, rational equations and functions, and data analysis and displays. Students who successfully master concepts covered in this course will be placed in geometry for the following year. Students must have a B- average (quarter grades and semester exam) or higher to move on to geometry.

Social Studies

The 7th grade history curriculum introduces students to Ancient Civilizations of the Eastern Hemisphere such as Egypt, Mesopotamia, China, India, Rome, and Greece. Through the study of geography, students learn the locations of these places, explore the cultural and natural features of each civilization, and trace movement of people, ideas, and products within their respective regions. Historical background is provided to help students understand how these civilizations developed from the beginning of history.

RELATED ARTS OFFERINGS

Art 7

At the end of Art 7, students will have an understanding of the elements and principals of art, create meaningful artwork utilizing techniques with a wide range of art mediums. The focus of this course is to explore a wide range of art mediums (painting, drawing, ceramics, etc.) through creativity, practice and collaboration.

Band

Band provides students with the opportunity to study an instrument (brass, woodwind, percussion, string or keyboard) both individually and in a large group setting. This group is open to any student regardless of level of experience; beginners are welcome. Students participate in a variety of performances from formal concerts to parades. Most performances occur outside of the regular school day. The literature used exposes students to a variety of musical genres while paying specific attention to developmentally appropriate musical elements. Students participate in weekly small group lesson instruction in addition to large group rehearsals every other day.

Choir

Choir provides the opportunity for students to study vocal music, with public performance as an end result. The literature used exposes musical styles as well as instruction in musical elements. Concert etiquette is stressed. Students will participate in concerts and performances outside the regular school day.

Digital Communications II

Through this course, students improve their efficiency in using the computer as a writing, editing, and computing tool, increasing their knowledge and familiarity with software applications so they can effectively use the programs in other school courses, as well as in the future. Applications include advanced word processing, spreadsheets and charting, developing effective multimedia presentations, desktop publishing, and software integration. Students will also receive the background needed to effectively purchase a computer or technology device of their choice and an introduction to a coding unit as well. This course also includes activities designed for students that support their Academic and Career Planning (ACP) process using the computer-based platform called Naviance.

German (Required for German in 8th grade)

Students will be immersed in the German Language through a variety of assignments and activities based on National Foreign Language Standards and LinguaFolio checklists. The 7th grade German curriculum will build on introductory concepts and vocabulary skills. Topics include: Foods, sports and free time activities, family and home, geography, holidays and celebrations, seasons and more! Participation is essential and students are engaged actively with each other as they work to improve the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students qualify to take German 2 at GHS upon completion of German in 7th and 8th grade.

Physical Education/Health

In 7th Grade, our primary focus is on skill development & game play. Units are designed so student skills can be better developed. Game play is used to incorporate that development. Students will be assessed daily on their level of participation. Students will also be assessed on their skill development and their level of understanding through performance and written assessments. Physical Education/Health is a blended class where more advanced health topics on self-esteem, peer pressure, nutrition, disease prevention, human growth and development, conflict resolution, substance abuse, group membership and goal setting will be connected within our physical education units.

Spanish (Required for Spanish in 8th grade)

Seventh grade Spanish is a year-long course that meets every other day. It focuses on basic Spanish vocabulary and grammar concepts and topics through listening, reading, writing and speaking activities. Students will be assessed on vocabulary acquisition and grammar application. Topics include classroom expressions, telling time, classroom items, likes and dislikes, describing yourself and others, talking about your school schedule along with cultural aspects including Spanish speaking countries and capitals. Students will receive one free workbook to be used in both 7th and 8th grade Spanish. Students can qualify to take Spanish 2 at GHS upon completion of Spanish in 7th and 8th grade.

STEM 7

This course meets every other day for a semester, and builds upon the introductory applied learning knowledge from STEM 6 to master general safety techniques, with an increased focus on machine specific safety procedures, and linear measurement proficiency. Engineering principles build on applied physics with an emphasis on construction stability and basic electricity. Materials and processes focus on custom furniture design and varied thermoplastics processes. Solid modeling and design-to-product process skills are enriched and deepen both with tasks for accuracy and creative innovation. A \$5 consumables fee, 4 gig flash drive, and appropriate safety gear, including closed-toed shoes and z87+ eye protection is required for this class.