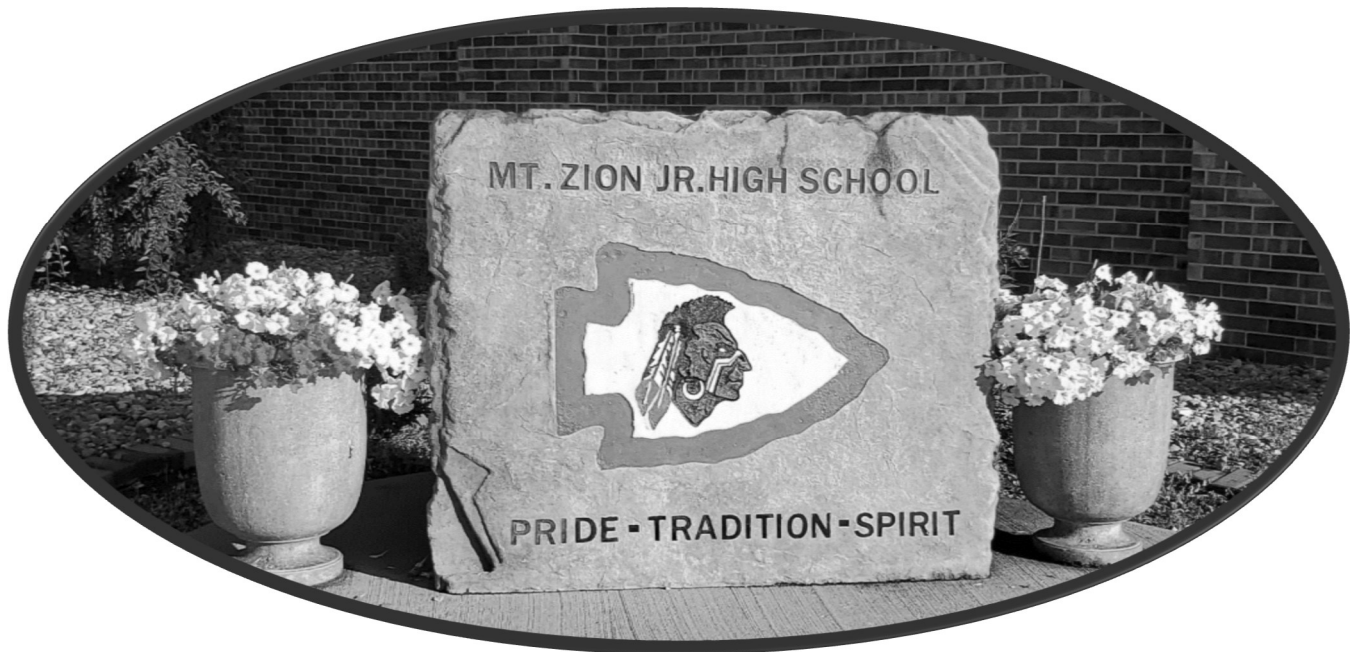


# Mt. Zion Junior High School

Mt. Zion, Illinois



## Student Course Planning Handbook

## **INTRODUCTION**

The administration, faculty, and staff of Mt. Zion Junior High School strive to promote the development and growth of all students. Our goal is to provide students with the skills and critical thinking capabilities that are necessary for success in their future educational opportunities.

This handbook is only a summary of courses and programs. The intent of this handbook is to serve as an academic planning guide for students during their time at the Junior High School.

This handbook may be changed during the year without notice. The classroom curriculum and supplies may evolve throughout the year and this document is not intended to limit teacher instruction.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Mt. Zion Community Unit School District: “A Great Place to Learn”...working with families to fully develop every child’s ability to be a life-long learner and contributing member of society.

## **MOTTO**

*Pride – Tradition – Spirit*

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## **STUDENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

The Student Services department is comprised of our student services assistant, social worker and administration. The team works with students, parents, and staff to address the needs of our students.

- Academic
- Social/Emotional
- Career Development

Special Programs include:

- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation (March)
- Open House (September)
- Parent Teacher Conferences (October)
- Social Emotional Program, “Appropriate Social Interactions”
  - Bullying Prevention, cyberbullying, Erin’s Law, Digital Smarts
- Awards Night (by invitation only - May)
  - Students receiving at least 3 A’s and 1 B in a given class for the year.

*Check the District calendar for exact dates and times.*

Services available to students include:

- Social/ Emotional Support Services
- Academic Support
  - Individual Teacher Tutoring
  - “EXTRAS” after school tutoring program, (After school, October-May)
  - Mastering Math tutoring program, (Before and after school, October -May)
- Resource Referrals
- Academic Advisement /Scheduling
- Eligibility and Academic Support
- Letters of Recommendation
- Transcript Requests

### **Testing Schedule\* (March/April)**

Grade 7 - Illinois Assessment Readiness, IAR

- Math – Reading

Grade 8 - Illinois Assessment Readiness, IAR

- Math – Reading - Science

## **IESA ATHLETIC/ACTIVITY ELIGIBILITY**

Mt. Zion Junior High School students/athletes who plan to participate/compete must meet certain minimum eligibility requirements set forth by the IESA. Students must be passing all classes to participate in any after school athletic/activity. Eligibility is taken once a week on Thursdays and coaches/sponsors are notified on Fridays. Athletic eligibility for the week runs Sunday through Saturday. Students who have not met academic eligibility for a total of 4 weeks will be removed from the activity to focus on academics.

## **GRADES**

- A - Superior (90%-100%)
- B - Above Average (80%-89%)
- C - Average (70%-79%)
- D - Below Average (60%-69%)
- F - Poor (0%-59%)

*Report cards are available Quarterly in Skyward Family Access, and live grades are updated on a weekly basis.*

JH students will be required to take semester exams twice a year (the last two days of the semester) in December and May.

## **RETENTION POLICY**

Students are required to pass 4 out of 5 classes with a study hall or 5 out of 6 class with an elective class.

## **SCHEDULE CHANGE POLICY**

Students with administration and parent approval are permitted to make schedule changes only when they are clearly warranted.

- Schedule changes can only be made within the first five full days of Quarter 1, 2, or 3. After the first five full days of a quarter, schedule changes can only be made with approval of the principal or a designee.

Despite this policy, it is recognized that circumstances exist which do warrant a legitimate change of schedule. These circumstances include the following:

- 1) A change from one level to another. Such a change may be made with written approval of the teacher and principal.
- 2) A change for reasons of health. The approval of the principal is required along with a written statement from the physician.

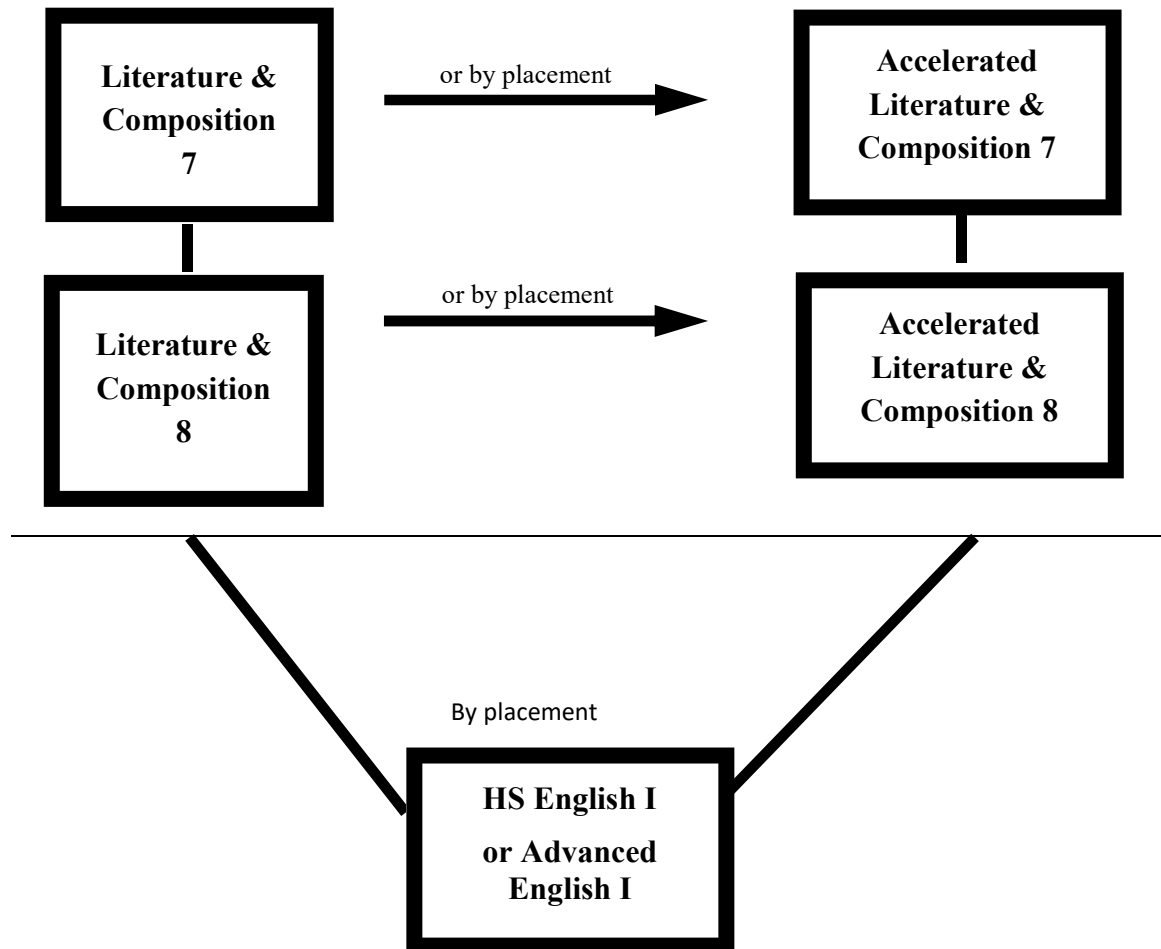
## **JH Student Schedules will include:**

- Literature & Composition
- Math
- Physical Education/Health
- Science
- Social Studies
- Elective

The following courses are high school courses taught at the Junior High level.

- Courses:
  - Spanish I & II
  - French I & II
  - Algebra
  - Geometry
- A student enrolled in these courses **will not** receive high school credit and their grades **will not** be included in their high school GPA.
- These classes **will** count towards a student's progression through the course and it **will** appear on a student's high school transcript.

## LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION COURSE FLOW CHART



## **LITERATURE & COMPOSITION**

### **LITERATURE & COMPOSITION 7**

Grade 7

1 Year

Prerequisite: none

Aim of Course: To build literacy skills and improve speaking/listening ability through a variety of literary genres and experiences.

Course Description: This course includes the study of grammar, vocabulary, and writing as related to literature. Genres included are short stories, plays, poetry, novels, and nonfiction. Writing for a variety of purposes and improving speaking/listening skills will be emphasized.

Supplies Needed: 1.5 in binder, composition book (not a spiral notebook), notecards, highlighter.

### **ACCELERATED LITERATURE & COMPOSITION 7**

Grade 7

1 Year

Prerequisite: Benchmark screening tools, language arts grades, and teacher recommendation are used to determine placement in this course.

Aim of Course: To provide a more rigorous pace for building literacy skills and improving speaking/listening through a variety of literary genres and experiences.

Course Description: This course works at an accelerated pace and offers a more in-depth study of short stories, plays, poetry, novels, nonfiction, listening/speaking, and the writing process. The curriculum follows much of the 7th grade literature/composition course but with more rigor.

Supplies Needed: 1.5 in binder, composition book (not a spiral notebook), notecards, highlighter.

Miscellaneous: Accelerated placement in 7th grade does not guarantee placement for 8th. Accelerated students must maintain acceptable grades for the year and continue to perform well on benchmarks and comportment.

*To remain eligible for Advanced English, the student must earn a "C" or better average, and score above the 65<sup>th</sup> percentile on the STAR 360, unless administrative permission is granted.*

## **LITERATURE & COMPOSITION 8**

Grade 8

1 Year

Prerequisite: Literature & Composition 7

Aim of Course: To expand skills in grammar, writing, speech, and literature.

Course Description: This course emphasizes a continuation of grammar, theme writing, speech, and literary technique. Specific grammar concerns will be the phrase, the clause, correct subject-verb agreement, pronoun usage, and effective sentences. The study of literature should include short stories, poetry, drama, the novel, and nonfiction. Interpersonal communication, listening, and public speaking skills will be developed throughout the course, as well as vocabulary expansion.

Supplies Needed: 1.5 in binder, composition book (not a spiral notebook), notecards, highlighter.

## **ACCELERATED LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION 8**

Grade 8

1 Year

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Advanced English 7 with a B average or administrative recommendation.

Aim of Course: To enable students to understand and intelligently discuss the different genres of literature and display above average knowledge in oral and written work.

Course Description: The literary aspects of the course include the study of short stories, poetry, drama, and novels. Also included in the course will be a review of grammar, the organization and development of various kinds of essays, the research report, and vocabulary expansion. Oral activities will be included in literature and writing units.

Supplies Needed: 1.5 in binder, composition book (not a spiral notebook), notecards, highlighter.

*To remain eligible for Advanced English, the student must earn a "B" or better average, and score above the 65<sup>th</sup> percentile on the STAR 360, unless administrative permission is granted.*



## **MATHEMATICS COURSES**

Students will be placed in a math course based on grades, STAR 360 scores and/or teacher recommendation. Junior High Algebra and Geometry courses are high school curriculum classes taught at the JH level. Students in all junior high math classes should expect homework in math every night.

### **GENERAL MATH**

Grade 7 or 8

1 Year

Prerequisite: Placement by 6th grade math teacher.

Aim of Course: To solidify the most important basic skills needed to find success in subsequent math classes.

Course Description: General Math is a review of basic skills that include the four basic operations of fractions and decimals, conversion of decimal-fraction-percent, rates/ratios, basic statistics (mean, median, mode, and range), basic geometry, and learning to write and solve expressions, equations, inequalities, and an introduction to integer operations.

### **PRE ALGEBRA**

Grade 7 or 8

1 Year

Prerequisite: A grade of C or above in General math or recommendation by 6th grade math teacher.

Aim of Course: To review basic math skills, introduce and practice basic algebra I concepts, preparing students for more advanced algebra I concepts.

Course Description: This course consists of a review of basic math skills including operations involving whole numbers, integers, rational numbers, conversion of measurements, percentages, area, and volume. Students are also introduced to basic algebra concepts of solving, and graphing equations and inequalities. The concepts are applied in the development of introductory algebraic skills including operations with signed numbers, roots and powers, equations, and using slope to graph linear functions.

## **ALGEBRA I**

1 Year

Grade 7 or 8

Prerequisite: A grade of C or above in Pre-Algebra or administrative recommendation.

Aim of Course: To serve as a first course in a college preparatory curriculum, and to extend the development of numbers and logical thinking.

Course Description: Algebra I is the study of sets, operations, properties, equations, inequalities, factors, polynomials, linear sentences, systems rational expressions, radicals, and quadratics.

## **TRANSITION MATH**

1 Year

Grade 8

Prerequisite: A passing grade in General math and a recommendation by 7th grade math teacher.

Aim of Course: To cover Pre-Algebra concepts at a slower pace. This class provides students with an opportunity to do more hands-on activities, projects, and group work.

Course Description: This course consists of a review of basic math skills including operations involving whole numbers, integers, rational numbers, conversion of measurements, percentages, area, and volume. Students are also introduced to basic algebra properties of solving equations and basic graphing of linear functions.

## **GEOMETRY**

Grade 8

1 Year

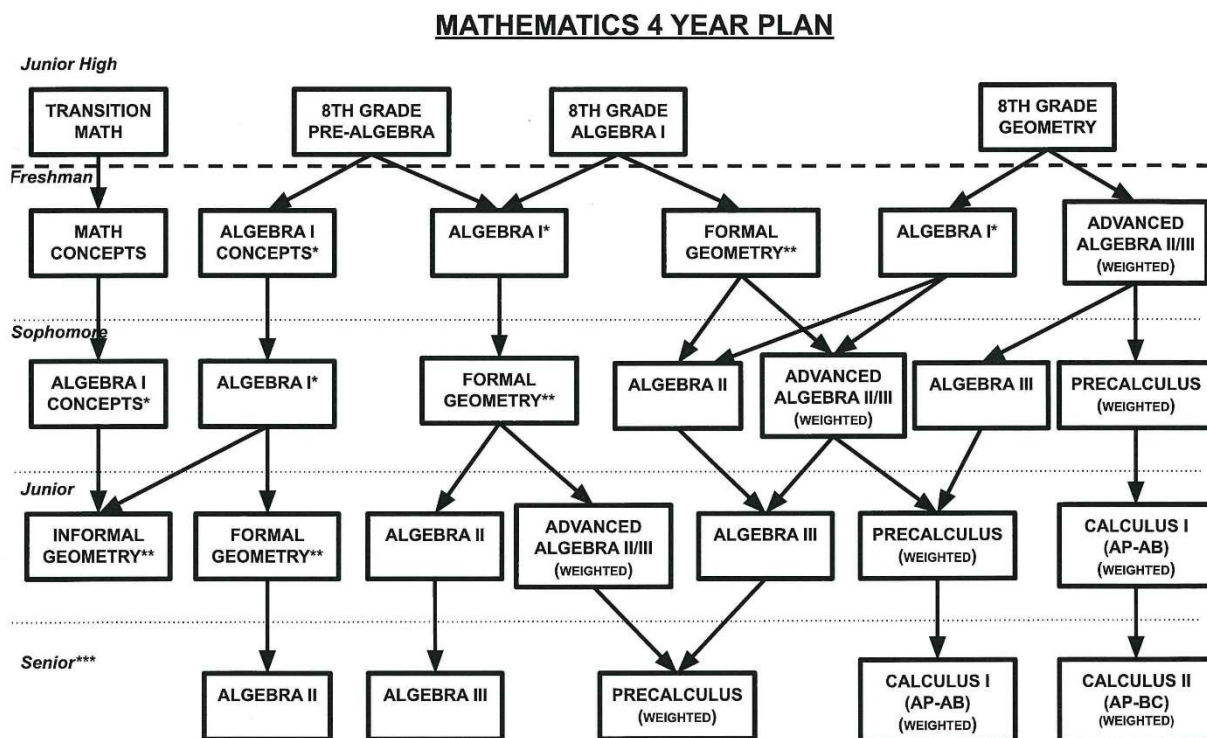
Prerequisite: Algebra I with a grade of C or above and administrative recommendation.

Aim of Course: To improve practical geometry skills and to improve logical thinking skills.

Course Description: Geometry is the development of a mathematical system involving definitions, postulates, and theorems in developing proofs. Concepts developed include congruence, similarity, and the special properties of parallelograms, circles, and right triangles. Coordinate geometry, transformations, constructions, trigonometry and the areas and volumes of plane and solid figures are also studied.

Below is a copy of the HS Course Handbook Flow Chart for planning. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Junior High office, 217-864-2369. Students must have at least a “C” average to advance with administrative recommendation in the higher-level courses.

(In high school, "A" students may take Formal Geometry and Algebra II simultaneously in order to accelerate the math sequence.)



**State requirements for graduation include:**

1. All students must have three years of high school math.
2. All students must have one year of Algebra I content. (indicated with \*)
3. All students must have a class with geometry content. (indicated with \*\*)

**\*\*\* PROBABILITY & STATISTICS, QUANTITATIVE LITERACY AND STATISTICS, OR APPLIED STATISTICS (RCC/weighted)**  
 may be taken as a 3rd or 4th year math class as long as student has taken Algebra II  
 Applied Statistics requires meeting RCC entrance requirements.

# **PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH COURSE**

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH**

Grade 7 and 8

3 Quarters Physical Education  
1 Quarter Health Education

Supplies Needed: PE Clothes (solid red shorts and a solid white t-shirt), tennis shoes and a master pad lock.

The Junior High office sells Mt. Zion PE clothes for \$25 a set. PE clothes can be purchased through online through E-funds and picked up in the office.

## **HEALTH**

Aim of Course: To enable students to acquire information, knowledge, and skills necessary to make responsible decisions for their own health and welfare.

Course Description: This course will help students develop the knowledge and skills they need to make healthy decisions that allow them to stay active, safe and informed. The lessons and activities are designed to introduce the student to important aspects of the main types of health: emotional and mental, social and consumer, and physical. Among other topics, students will explore nutrition, understanding and avoiding disease, first aid and CPR, human sexuality, and substance abuse prevention (including nicotine/vaping). Students will learn about the components of a healthy lifestyle and ways to approach making healthy choices and decisions.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Aim of Course: To enhance the overall well-being of students through various activities. Physical fitness is achieved by having the students do various activities with emphasis on cardiovascular endurance, muscular endurance, muscular strength, and flexibility.

Course Description: This course consists of circuit workouts, aerobic and anaerobic interval training, yoga, HIIT, dance cardio, and team-based activities.

## **SCIENCE COURSES**

### **Aim of Courses:**

Using an integrated science approach in both Science I and Science II, the students will gain an understanding in the foundational concepts of Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, and Physical Science. Students will examine different elements of science as it relates to their world. They will experience each area of science through explanation, exploration, experimentation, and discussion.

Major objectives will include:

- Understand, identify and discuss science as it applies to their world
- Collect and analyze data
- Utilize the scientific method to solve problems
- Participate in group discussions and projects--activities to encourage teamwork, good citizenship, and critical thinking skills
- Understand how science is interconnected and relates to real world issues

### **SCIENCE I**

Grade 7

1 Year

Prerequisite: **none**

Course Description: Topics covered include the scientific method, engineering design, measurements, lab safety, what is life, cells, classification, living organisms (including bacteria and viruses), matter, energy/energy resources, heat, weather, and ecology (including environmental problems and solutions).

### **SCIENCE II**

Grade 8

1 Year

Prerequisite: **Science I**

Course Description: Topics covered include a review of the scientific method, engineering design, measurements, lab safety. Then additional topics will include motion/forces, waves, sound/light, the solar system, plate tectonics/the earth over time, heredity/evolution, the atom, chemical bonding/reactions/compounds, electricity/magnetism, and the human body.

## **SOCIAL SCIENCE COURSES**

### **SOCIAL STUDIES I**

Grade 7

1 Year

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Social Studies I focuses on inquiry skills and social studies content. Content for this course includes, but is not limited to United States History from Colonization to Reconstruction as well as topics in work history, geography, civics, economics and current events.

### **SOCIAL STUDIES II**

Grade 8

1 Year

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Social Studies II continues to build on inquiry skills and social studies content. Content for this course includes, but is not limited to United States History from the late 1800's through modern America to Reconstruction, as well as topics in world history, geography, civics, economics and current events.

## **ELECTIVE COURSE OPTIONS**

Junior High students have the opportunity to take one elective during their 7<sup>th</sup> grade year and 8<sup>th</sup> grade year.

### **ART I** 1 Year

Grade 7 and/or 8th

Prerequisite: none

Aim of Course: To introduce students to a variety of art materials and techniques while examining and practicing the elements of art.

Course Description: Art is a hands-on course that acquaints students with many forms of art, media, and artists. Students will study the following skills/topics: basic drawing, color theory, design, painting, sculpture, and art history.

Supplies Needed: 1 roll of masking tape, 1 handheld pencil sharpener, 1 pink pearl eraser, 1 kneadable eraser, 3 plastic shopping bags (Walmart or Kroger for example) black permanent markers (regular and fine point).

### **COMPUTER CONCEPTS & TECHNOLOGY** **Input Technologies & Computer Applications**

Grade 7 or 8

Aim of Course: The aim of this course is to prepare students to operate a keyboard with good techniques and reasonable speed. To acquire skills in using Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, Web Design, Digital Imaging, and skills in accessing information from the Internet.

Course Description: Input Technologies & Computer Applications uses project-based learning to teach practical computer skills that can be applied to all courses across the curriculum. Instruction includes units in proper keyboarding techniques, computer components, operating systems, presentation tools, spreadsheets and charting, word processing, web design, HTML, digital imaging, desktop publishing, integration, Internet research tools, and computer ethics.



# **MUSIC**

## **EARLYBIRD SPANISH I or II**

Students enrolled in a Music class, will be given the opportunity to take early bird Spanish I or II. Early bird Spanish I or II meets from 6:50 – 7:41 AM, 5 days a week. Transportation to early bird class is not provided.

## **BAND**

Grade 7 and/or 8

1 Year

Prerequisite: Previous musical training on one's chosen instrument or permission of instructor.

Aim of Course: To develop a high level of musicianship, both individually and as a large ensemble; including a basic appreciation and understanding of band music.

Course Description: The course emphasizes performance in a concert band setting and provides a basic introduction to marching band. When you assume the responsibility of being a band member, you must agree to be present for all scheduled activities of the band such as concerts, homecoming parade, and Band Night football game pregame performance. Students participating in the program are a very enthusiastic group who, through their music, extend the positive attitude of Mt. Zion Junior High School to our community, state, and region. Grades and awards are based upon the student's music achievement, efforts, participation, attendance, and attitude.

## **ORCHESTRA**

Grade 7 and/or 8

1 Year

Prerequisite: Previous musical training on one's chosen instrument or permission of instructor.

Aim of Course: To develop musicianship, both individually and as an ensemble, including a basic appreciation and understanding of string/orchestra music.

Course Description: The course emphasizes individual development through performance with limited exposure to solo and chamber music (most attention is paid to the concert settings). Students' progress through fundamental concepts of basic musicianship. The orchestra is a very enthusiastic group that through music, extends the positive attitude of Mt. Zion Junior High School to our community, state, and region. Grades and awards are based upon the student's musical achievement, effort, participation, attendance, and attitude.

## **Sound System (MIXED SHOW CHOIR)**

Grade 7 and/or 8

1 Year

Prerequisite: Selected through Auditions

Aim of Course: To develop individual and ensemble skills /technique in vocal, dance and performance. Students will have the opportunity for performances and competitions throughout the year. Development of basic to intermediate skills in vocal pedagogy, choral techniques, sight reading (both harmonic and melodic) along with dance skills, staging methods, performance techniques and proper stage/audience etiquette.

Course Description: This course will emphasize the ensemble singing and performing. Performance shows are learned for both non-competitive and competitive venues. The philosophy of this course is to expose students to a variety of musical styles/genres in both vocal and choreographic techniques. Performance value will be strongly emphasized and practiced through experiences in performance. This course will include: knowledge of musical style/cultures/and historical contexts, development of the knowledge and skills necessary to live performance, demonstrating knowledge and understanding by creating, producing and performing; and promoting personal identity, positive self-worth, and group interaction.

Supplies Needed: Student Participation Fee - This helps offset expenses for program needs along with costuming, arrangements, travel, competitions, choreography, etc.

Miscellaneous Notes: Parent Involvement is Encouraged. Fundraising opportunities are available throughout the year. Information is given each year through digital and in-person contact.

### **IMPORTANT**

All class changes must be done within the add/drop time frame set by the Mt. Zion Jr. High School. Any junior high show choir class change must be completed within the first 5 days of the first quarter. Anyone who drops after the first 5 days of the first quarter will be required to pay for student accounts in full.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Aim of Course:** The students will gain a basic understanding of the life skills they will utilize throughout their lifespan. These skills include: clothing construction and simple mending; the management of household duties and interior designs; nutrition and food handling; and child supervision, first aide, and care.

**Course Description:** Students will sew simple projects such as stuffed animal pin cushions, apron, and a tote bag. Simple mending and sewing safety will be practiced. Interior and exterior design will be studied and implemented. Household management will be addressed throughout each interior/exterior application. Students will examine healthy living and eating habits while experiencing hands-on labs. Child safety, supervision, and care will be examined and practiced.

**Supplies Needed:**

**Apron:**

- 1 spool of all-purpose thread that matches the exterior fabric
- 1 yard cotton fabric for exterior (**print or solid color**)
- 1 yard cotton fabric for lining (**solid color**)

**Tote:**

- 1 spool of all-purpose thread that matches the exterior fabric
- 3/4 yard cotton fabric for exterior
- 3/4 yard cotton fabric for lining

**Other Supplies:**

- 1 box of straight pins (the long pins are easiest to use)
- Sewing shears (scissors)

Each student will be given the opportunity to borrow the following supplies (you may supply these if you choose):

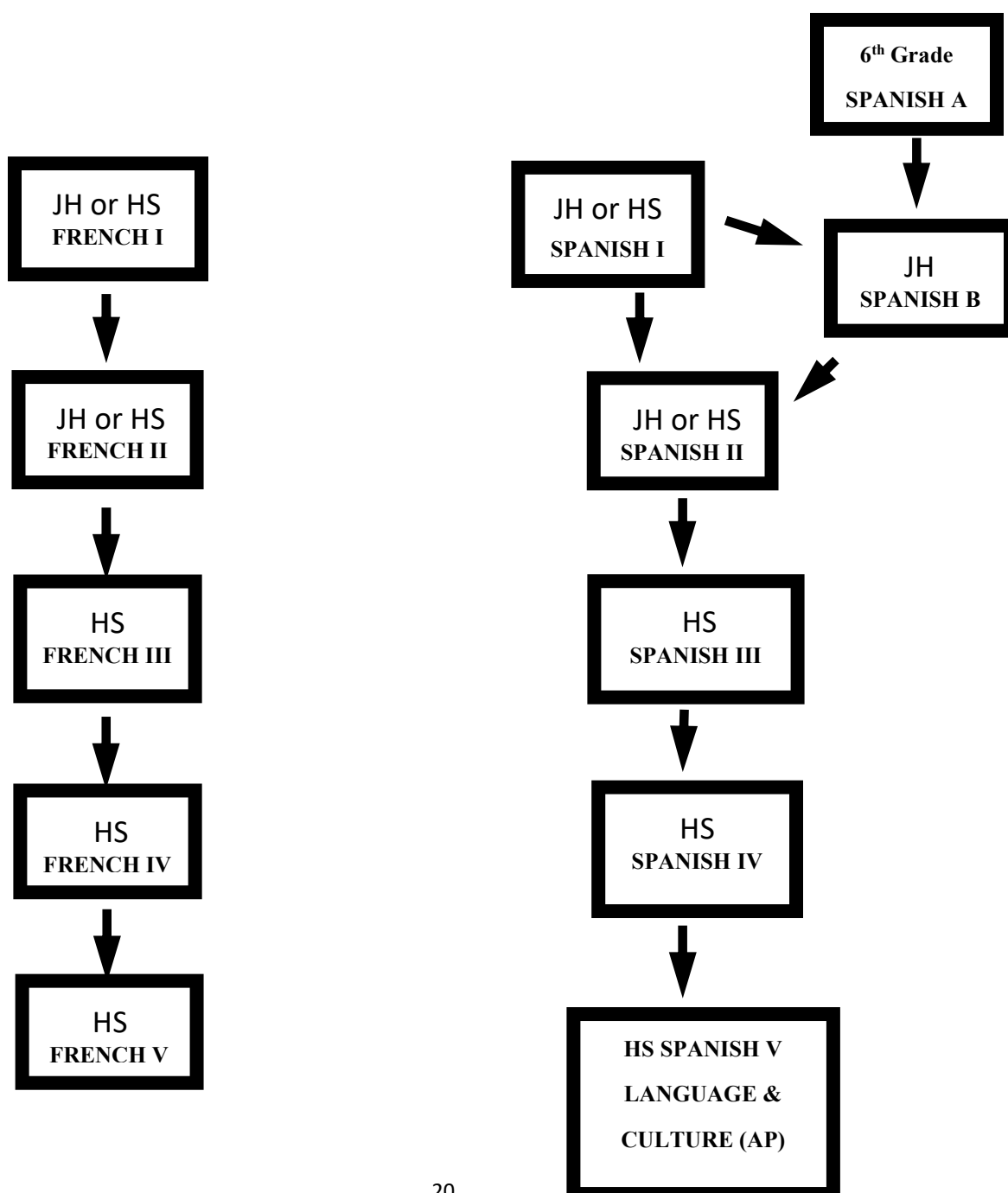
- Paper Scissors
- Seam ripper

***Miscellaneous Notes:*** Sewing supplies can be made cheaper by shopping at Walmart, using coupons (JoAnns: mailers, email, phone app, and text coupon to 562-66. Hobby Lobby: phone app and newspaper coupon), borrow equipment from a sewer (Grandma?), and by utilizing three-day holiday weekends and Black Friday sales. Also, licensed fabric such as Disney, sports, etc..costs more than generic fabric.

# FOREIGN LANGUAGE

## FLOW CHART

The Mt. Zion School District offers HS foreign language classes to JH students. These classes will not count for HS credit or be included in a students HS GPA. The classes are an opportunity for students to take 5 years of Spanish or French.



## **FOREIGN LANGUAGE COURSES**

### **EARLYBIRD SPANISH I or II**

Students enrolled in a Music class, will be given the opportunity to take early bird Spanish. Early bird Spanish I or II meets from 6:50 – 7:41 AM, 5 days a week. Transportation to early bird classes is not provided.

### **SPANISH B**

Grade 7 or 8

1 Year

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish A or Semester 1 of Spanish I.

Aim of Course: To provide a careful balance among basic listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in Spanish.

Course Description: This course emphasizes the cultural concepts of Hispanic countries through the use of dialogues, narratives, and videos. Grammatical concepts are approached clearly and logically through a variety of exercises and oral activities.

### **SPANISH I**

Grade 7 or 8

1 Year

Prerequisite: None

Aim of Course: To provide a careful balance among basic listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in Spanish.

Course Description: This course emphasizes the cultural concepts of Hispanic countries through the use of dialogues, narratives, and videos. Grammatical concepts are approached clearly and logically through a variety of exercises and oral activities.

### **SPANISH II**

Grade 8

1 Year

Prerequisite: C in Spanish I or Spanish B

Aim of Course: To continue to provide a balance in the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in Spanish.

Course Description: This course provides a complete review of the first year's work with a greater emphasis on speaking Spanish. The content is student-centered and the grammar sections feature varied exercises and activities. The vocabulary is practical and the cultural units expand the student's knowledge of Hispanic civilization.

## **FRENCH I**

Level 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

1 Year

Prerequisite: none

Aim of Course: To enable students to communicate in the target language and help them develop an appreciation of a foreign culture.

Course Description: Through reading, writing, and oral/aural practice, students gain ability in pronunciation, basic conversation, fundamental grammar principles, and vocabulary practice. Through informal discussion students gain knowledge of French culture and civilization.

## **FRENCH II**

Level 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

1 Year

Prerequisite: C or better in French I

Aim of Course: To enable students to build vocabulary, make use of more sophisticated grammatical structures, and communicate more in oral French.

Course Description: More complex sentence structures are emphasized, incorporating more verb tenses. Dialogues for conversation are generally lengthier and more sophisticated than in French I. Cultural units of study include such topics as French cuisine, dining customs, famous monuments in Paris and the top 5 historical men and women of France.

## **STUDY HALL**

Grade 7 and/or 8

1 Year

Course Description: Study hall is a time for students to work quietly on homework, study for upcoming Tests or Quizzes, work on Accelerated Math, Accelerated Reader, or go to the library (with teacher permissions).

## **YEARBOOK**

Grade 7 and/or 8

1 Year

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English from the previous year with grades of B or above.

Aim of Course: To acquaint students with the publication process and to successfully publish a yearbook.

Course Description: This course is the study of the publishing process. Students are involved in the production of the book from the planning stages through the completed product. Students are involved in composition, producing photography, copywriting, editing, completion of various layout designs, and proofreading. Students will also help with the potential designing of a video to commemorate the school year as well.

Supplies Needed: Great attitude with new ideas.

# Mt. Zion Junior High School

315 South Henderson  
Mt. Zion, Illinois

Student Course  
Planning Handbook  
Reviewed 3/2023