

**Monadnock  
Middle School  
Program of Studies  
2024-2025**



## **Mission Statement**

The community of Monadnock Regional Middle High School is dedicated to engaging all students in personal, civic and academic growth.

## **Husky Habits**

**Communication** – The transfer of ideas and information

**Problem Solving** - The application of previous learning to new situations

**Technology Literacy** – The ability to locate, analyze, evaluate, manage and synthesize information

**Creativity** – The development of new and innovative ideas and artifacts

**Life and Career Readiness Skills** – The successful navigation of life after Monadnock

### **1. Communication**

- Writing
- Reading
- Speaking
- Listening
- Viewing

### **2. Appreciation for Fine and Performing Arts**

### **3. Problem-solving**

### **4. Information and Technology Literacy**

### **5. Life and Career Readiness Skills**

- Ability to be flexible and adapt to change
- Manage goals and time
- Work independently
- Be self-directed learners
- Interact effectively with others – demonstrate positive interpersonal skills
- Work effectively in a team
- Respect cultural differences
- Respond open-mindedly to different ideas and values
- Manage projects and produce results
- Guide, lead and support others

## **Administrative Offices:**

Lisa Spencer – Principal x 6703  
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Paul Goodhind – Assistant Principal Middle School x 6765  
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Karin Willson – Middle High School Registrar x 6708  
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### **Division Leaders:**

Heather Gigliello – English x 6814

Trevor Blanchard – Math x 6798

Erin Condap – Tech. Education x 6796

Matt Caron – PE/Health x 6743

John Naso – Science x 6767

# Welcome Class of 2030!!



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to Middle School! Monadnock Middle School provides an environment and structure especially adapted for the middle school student.

- Three Teams: In order to provide a supportive student-centered environment, the middle school is made up of three teams of teachers and students. Students belong to a team whose teachers provide the core academic subjects. The team structure enables teachers to personally monitor the progress of the students on their team. Students will learn about their team assignment at our June Step Up Day/Evening.
- Blocked time: Middle school teams are able to make use of blocked team time to schedule longer instructional blocks for labs and projects or to allow for special events.
- Team planning: Middle school teachers have team planning time that allows them to collaboratively develop instructional units, plan team activities, and monitor student progress.
- Elective programs: Middle school offers a variety of career exploration classes. These courses are designed to catch the interest and imagination of the middle school student.

The Program of Studies is designed to assist parents and students with course selections by giving a brief description of the curriculum content of each course. School district-required courses in English, mathematics, science, social studies, physical education, health, art/fine and performing art are required for all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

Please contact us if you have any questions about the curriculum or about your child's progress. We look forward to working together with you, in promoting personal/social, academic and career development of all students here in our middle school.

Thank-you,  
Lisa Spencer  
Principal of MRMHS

**P – Perseverance R – Respect I- Integrity D- Dedication E- Empathy**

**HUSKY “PRIDE”**

## Schedule

School begins at 7:30 am and ends at 2:30pm. There are 7 periods in the day. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders follow the schedule below:

7:30 – 11:00	Core subjects
11:00 – 11:30	Core Applications
11:33 – 11:58	Lunch
12:01 – 12:48	VEX Specials (Career exploration class)
12:51 – 1:16	Activity (outdoors in good weather)
1:20 – 2:30	WIN (What I Need Time on team with teachers)

## Curriculum

The Monadnock Middle School curriculum provides a transitional experience for the student between the elementary and secondary years by combining core academics with opportunities in career exploration and the fine & performing arts. The curriculum is based on the following characteristics:

- A common core of basic skills utilized across the middle school curriculum
- Opportunities for integration across the school curriculum
- Physical education, health, art, music and other elective courses
- Academic support for students needing additional time and support
- Study skills provided to all students in grades 7 and 8

The middle school curriculum includes instruction in the core areas of English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Physical Education, Health, Art and Music. Electives include opportunities in a variety of academic departments; Personal Finance, Graphic Design, World Language, Fine & Performing Arts, Family & Consumer Science, Woodworking and Visual Arts.

## School Counseling Services

The middle school provides school counselors serving both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. School guidance and counseling is committed to providing individual, classroom and consultative services to our middle school students, staff and parents. School counseling services are designed to help students achieve educational, career related and personal & social goals that are consistent with individual interests, needs, and abilities. The program is built upon the belief that each student will continue developing their skills at becoming a self-directed and responsible learner, who is unique and capable of making meaningful contributions to the school community and will be provided every opportunity to reach and create a path for their personal, academic and career goals. The school counselor works closely with students, parents, and teachers. Parent/teacher conferences can be arranged at any time upon request. Parent/teacher conferences are encouraged and may be initiated by the student, teacher, parent, administrator, or support services personnel.



## **Grading**

The following is the grading scale adopted by Monadnock Middle & High School:

Letter Grade Percentages:

- A 90-100
- B 80-89
- C 70-79
- D 65-69
- F 64-below

## **After-School Sports, Clubs & Activities**

Middle school students are given the opportunity to participate in after school organized sports & clubs; Fish & Game Club & Yearbook Club & Beyond the Bell Programming. Late buses are provided to students on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. The late buses line up out front at 4pm. Bus passes from core teachers are required to board the late bus.

## **Attendance**

School attendance is directly related to academic achievement and the development of good school habits and routines which are particularly important in the world of work. The middle school curriculum is built around active classroom involvement, and is much more than the completion of an assignment. A student's presence in the classroom cannot be completely replaced with make-up assignments. We expect parents and students to take an active role in accepting the responsibility for good attendance and classroom participation.

## **Grade 7 – Required Core Courses**

### **English**

**(Full year)**

Grade 7 English classes are heterogeneously grouped in the middle school. The seventh grade curriculum is based on the seventh grade competencies and is aligned with the eighth grade competencies and the Common Core State Standards. Grade 7 English is designed to provide students with a fundamental background in the language arts. Instructional units will be organized around reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing.

Teachers will use a variety of strategies, including differentiated instruction, to reach all students. The material for all English classes will be presented in a variety of ways including teacher lectures, class discussions, readings from novels, textbooks and other reference materials, cooperative learning activities, interactive activities utilizing computer software, audio-visual presentations, and review and reinforcement materials. All students are expected to complete all of their school assignments on time.

**Math****(Full year)**

All grade 7 students will be taught the New Hampshire Frameworks and Math Standards.

Grade 7 math is a rigorous course in pre-algebra designed for those students who have already mastered basic computational skills and who have demonstrated a strong work ethic and aptitude in mathematics. The class emphasis will be on problem solving, mathematical communication, the use of formulas and other algebra skills such as solving and graphing equations.

All math classes will emphasize reinforcing computation skills as related to whole numbers, decimals and fractions. A strong emphasis will also be placed on problem solving, percents, statistics, geometry and many essential pre-algebra topics. All students are expected to complete all of their schoolwork on time and to the best of their ability.

**Science****(Full year)**

All grade 7 students will study Chemistry and Earth Science. Earth Science is a fascinating program which focuses on a more conceptual approach to geology, meteorology and astronomy. Within these topics students work toward the application of and understanding of scientific models and experimental data. During Chemistry the topics of atoms, molecules and the periodic table will be introduced. Students will be asked to solve problems using the scientific method and also to participate in creative problem-solving activities.

The material for all science classes will be presented in a variety of ways. There will be teacher lectures, class discussions, readings from reference materials, laboratory activities, cooperative learning activities, interactive activities utilizing computer software, audio-visual presentations along with review and reinforcement materials.

**Social Studies****(Full year)**

Social Studies in 7<sup>th</sup> grade will begin with basic geographical concepts, like physical features, map and globe skills and cultural geography. This includes latitude and longitude, times zones, economics, major world religions and types of government. Units on the United States, Canada, Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean and South America will follow. These units will focus on the culture, history, economics and physical features of the regions and nations. Additionally, current events (local, national and international) will be covered for students to have an increased knowledge of the world around them. Skills of using graphics and resources, compare and contrast, identifying cause and effect and defending opinions will be developed.

## **Grade 8 – Required Core Courses**

**English****(Full year)**

Grade 8 English classes are heterogeneously grouped in the middle school. The eighth grade curriculum is based on the eighth grade competencies and is aligned with the high school competencies and the Common Core Standards. Grade 8 English is designed to provide students with a fundamental background in the language arts. Instructional units will be organized around reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing.

Teachers will use a variety of strategies, including differentiated instruction, to reach all students. The material for all English classes will be presented in a variety of ways including teacher lectures, class discussions, readings from novels, textbooks and other reference materials, cooperative learning activities, interactive activities utilizing computer software, audio-visual presentations, and review and reinforcement materials. All students are expected to complete all of their schoolwork assignments on time.

### **Math**

**(Full year)**

All grade 8 students will be taught the New Hampshire Frameworks and Math Standards. All math classes will emphasize reinforcing computation skills as related to whole numbers, decimals and fractions. A strong emphasis will also be placed on problem solving, percents, statistics, geometry and many essential pre-algebra topics. All students are expected to complete all of their schoolwork on time and to the best of their ability.

**(Full year, 1 credit)**

**Algebra I Honors** (Grade 8) is a rigorous course in algebra designed for students who have demonstrated a strong work ethic and aptitude in mathematics. Not only will advanced problem solving, mathematical communication and algebraic theory be stressed, but the course will set a solid foundation in working with negative numbers and proceed to introduce algebraic concepts of variables, functions, relations, polynomials, systems of equations and inequalities, rational exponents, and quadratic equations. A recommendation from a 7<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher is required.

All math classes will emphasize mathematical terminology, problem solving, mathematical communication, use of formulas, geometric concepts and many algebra skills such as solving and graphing equations. Students will also be continuing to practice geometric concepts, percents, statistics and an introduction to integers and basic algebraic concepts. All students are expected to complete all of their schoolwork on time and to the best of their ability.

### **Science**

**(Full year)**

All grade 8 students will study Life Science. Grade 8 science is designed to provide students with a fundamental background in the study of living things. Students will learn about classification, cells, viruses and bacteria, protists and fungi, plants, animals, heredity and change, the human body and ecology. Students will be asked to solve problems using the scientific method and also to participate in creative problem-solving activities.

The material for all science classes will be presented in a variety of ways. There will be teacher lectures, class discussions, readings from reference materials, laboratory activities, cooperative learning activities, interactive activities utilizing computer software, audio-visual presentations and review and reinforcement materials.

### **Social Studies**

**(Full year)**

Social Studies in 8<sup>th</sup> grade will begin with a review of basic geographical concepts like physical features, map and globe skills and cultural geography covered in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Units on Europe, Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, East Asia and Australia/Oceania will follow. These units will focus on culture, history, economics and physical features of the regions and nations. Additionally, current events (local, national and international) will be covered for students to have an increased knowledge of the world around them. Skills of using graphics and resources, compare and contrast, identifying cause and effect and defending opinions will be developed.

## **Other Electives & Required Courses**

### **Art**

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade art classes are based on the New Hampshire K-12 Curriculum Frameworks for the Arts. Classes focus on developing skills to safely use and apply appropriate media, techniques, and processes such as painting, ceramics, and sculpture, printmaking and drawing techniques. Students will solve visual problems and communicate meaning through selecting and applying a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas. Students learn to identify and apply the elements of design through hands-on projects. There is an emphasis on encouraging students to do their best work and promoting a positive attitude toward the visual arts.

### **MS Chorus**

Middle School Chorus is designed for students with an interest in singing and musical performance. Students will learn to sing a variety of songs with two and three harmonies. They will learn how to read, understand, and write musical notation. They will experience exercises in musical sight-reading and interpretation. Musical performance and group cooperation will be encouraged.

### **Health 7 & 8**

Health classes are made up of heterogeneous groupings. Students will be required to take Health in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The curriculum is different for each grade and is required of all middle school students. Assessment of student's performance in Health class will be measured through a variety of homework, quizzes, tests and projects, along with class discussion and participation.

### **Musical Keyboarding and Guitars**

The focus of study will be a hands on approach to learning how to play a musical instrument and demonstrate the rudiments of musical notation, rhythm, phrasing, technique, dynamics, and world connections and expression through musical performance on a selected instrument. No previous experience required to participate in this class. Students in this class will have the following instruments available to them to study and perform on: keyboard, acoustic and electric guitar, and bass guitar. At the conclusion of this course of study, students will be encouraged to perform for their peers and family in a quarterly recital.

### **Physical Education 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>**

The purpose of Middle School Physical Education is to expose 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to a variety of physical activities. The course will promote an appreciation for, and an understanding of, the various physical, mental, and emotional benefits derived from physical exercise as it relates to a healthy lifestyle. Additionally, the physical education program will assist in developing an understanding of teamwork, the discovery of individual talents and capabilities, a respect for others, and a healthy appreciation for athletic competition. This course is required for all middle school students each school year.

### **Band - Elective Course**

**(Full year)**

Middle School band is open to all seventh and eighth grade students with prior instrumental experience. Focus is on developing all aspects of ensemble playing and appreciation of music through the large group experience and performing a wide variety of music arranged for band.

Several performances are presented each year and are required of those who enroll in band. Opportunities for honors band and solo experience are available to those who are motivated to pursue them. Middle School Band combines all grade 7 & 8 instrumental students into one class.

### **Drama**

This introductory class is open to seventh and eighth graders. Students will explore basic acting techniques involving the body, voice, and mind by utilizing improvisational tools, and by participating in dramatic games and simple scene work.

### **Genius Hour**

Genius Hour is a project based learning class. The goal of the class is to promote lifelong learning with the potential to find career related interests, work on communication and research skills along with other 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills.

### **Chow Down with Children**

**(Offered every other year)**

Students will gain knowledge of basic nutrition to analyze their own eating habits. An assortment of food labs with a concentration of safety in the kitchen, recipe reading, proper measuring techniques, cooking terms and proper use of various cooking equipment will be emphasized.

### **Fuel with Food**

**(Offered every other year)**

Focus: Basic Nutrition Knowledge and the ABC's of Cooking

Students will gain knowledge of basic nutrition to analyze their own eating habits. An assortment of food labs with a concentration of safety in the kitchen, recipe reading, proper measuring techniques, cooking terms and proper use of various cooking equipment will be emphasized.

### **The Need for Speed**

An exploration and opportunity for students to learn about the processes and knowledge related to technology that is needed to solve problems and extent human capabilities. Through the problem-solving process, students learn to research, study, create and evaluate in technology content areas of transportation Power and Energy through designing, building and racing.

### **Numbers and Notions**

**(Offered every other year)**

The purpose of consumerism is to introduce students to the concepts of consumer responsibility. Students will become aware of advertising techniques, their rights and responsibilities as young consumers and personal financial management.

### **Craft & Career Design**

**(Offered every other year)**

The textiles portion of the course allows students to select a project, read sewing patterns, know and apply the terminology and use the equipment of successful construction of a project. Appropriate safety practices must be followed at all times.

### **Personal Finance**

Personal Finance will teach the fundamentals of financial literacy concepts to help introduce middle school students to personal economics and help prepare students for high school

economics. Various online activities and projects will be used. Most of the work will be done in class using computers extensively. Students will organize and participate in a parent evening.

### **Production**

**(Fall semester)**

The production class is a semester-long, hands-on, active class where students explore and learn about performance elements of musical theater by rehearsing and putting on a production. All students are involved in dancing, singing and acting as they work towards the goal of producing a musical theater performance for the end of the semester. This class is for motivated students who want to work together toward an exciting end.

### **Designing Minds**

An introduction to the design and communications process used in creating photos, logo's, T-shirts and other media or graphic design for visual media.

### **Wood Chucks**

An exploratory, project based, hands on introduction to wood working. General shop safety is stressed when using both hand and power tools. Students will use the tools and techniques taught to make useful objects of wood.

### **Illustrating & Inventing**

An introduction to the design and communication process used in creating all the human-made things we use in our lives; and introduction to technical communications for engineering and architecture.

### **Robotics & Programming**

This class will introduce students to the fundamentals of programming and robotics. No programming experience is necessary. The lessons start with programming games using Scratch from M.I.T. Later students apply their programming skills to command Lego Robots. Finally, working in teams the class concludes with the exciting *Husky Robot Challenge* competition. Prizes are awarded.

### **STEM Connections**

This class will incorporate technology for students to design a variety of projects. Students will use Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in their projects.

## **World Languages**

In order to best prepare students for college and career, the World Language department targets the following communication competencies of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Skills aligned with the CCSS: writing, reading, speaking, listening and viewing. Instruction focuses on the development of the three modes of communication identified by American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL): interpersonal, interpretive and presentational.

### **Spanish A**

**A or B Day**

A cultural introduction to Spanish and offered for a quarter as a vex elective to middle school students in 7th or 8th grade.

(pending staff)

**SPANISH I** (grade 8 only)**1 Year, 1 Credit**

In Spanish I students begin to develop communicative competence in Spanish and to expand their understanding of the culture of the Spanish-speaking people. They learn to communicate in real-life contexts about topics that are meaningful to them, such as themselves, their preferences, activities, and their family. Students develop interpersonal, person-to-person, communicative skills by exchanging simple spoken and written information in Spanish. They develop interpretive communication skills by listening to, viewing, and reading simple Spanish materials presented through a variety of media and based on familiar topics. They develop presentational communication skills by presenting basic information in Spanish orally and in writing, using a variety of familiar vocabulary, phrases, and structural patterns. Students also develop an awareness of the perspectives, practices, and products of Spanish-speaking cultures.

**\*\*This is a high school class for high school credit**  
(pending staff)

## **Alternative Learning**

**April Vacation Academy** – determined by core teacher recommendation, taught by certified core teachers during the mornings of school vacation for core competency recovery. Offered at the building principal's discretion.  
(pending staff)

**Summer School** – determined by core teacher recommendation, taught over four weeks during the summer, by certified core teachers for core competency recovery at the building principal's discretion.  
(pending staff)

**Virtual Learning Academy Charter School** (vlacs.org)

The Virtual Learning Academy Charter School is New Hampshire's first online public middle high school that offers students the opportunity to learn at their own pace. It is free to all New Hampshire students. Registration is online.

**Extended Learning Opportunity (ELO)**

Students may participate and earn credit outside the classroom. A certified teacher in the area for which credit will be awarded must oversee the program. An application for an ELO can be picked up from the ELO Coordinator. Once approved the student can work at their own pace though credit completion must take place within the school year.

**\*\*Middle School electives are subject to change at the discretion of the building principal.**

# Monadnock Regional Middle School

## Course Selections for 2024-2025 School Year

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle School Team: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please refer to the Program of Studies for course descriptions.**

### **Required Courses**

Required Core classes meet every day. They are taught by teachers on your team. All students will be enrolled in these courses automatically.

**Core Courses:** English, Math, Science and Social Studies

### **Other Required Courses**

The following are required classes and will be automatically scheduled for you, allowing for additional electives to be selected and explored during middle school.

PE, Health and Art

### **Elective Courses**

The courses below are elective classes; they are not required but are exploratory. The middle school program of studies is available on the middle/high school website to assist you in making your choices. The program of studies can be found at [www.mrsd.org](http://www.mrsd.org) Middle/High under School Guidance. Please select 5 courses that you are interested in taking for the coming school year. Some courses may only be taken once in middle school. Please # your choices 1 – 5, with 1 being your first choice.

\_\_\_\_\_ Robotics & Programming  
\_\_\_\_\_ Fuel with Food  
\_\_\_\_\_ Personal Finance  
\_\_\_\_\_ Drama  
\_\_\_\_\_ General Music  
\_\_\_\_\_ Designing Minds  
\_\_\_\_\_ Woodchucks  
\_\_\_\_\_ Genius Hour

\_\_\_\_\_ Illustrating & Inventing  
\_\_\_\_\_ Numbers & Notions  
\_\_\_\_\_ Need for Speed  
\_\_\_\_\_ Production (Fall Semester)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Band (Full Year)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Spanish A  
\_\_\_\_\_ Chorus

**Please sign and then have a parent sign. This form needs to be returned to your teacher by Friday, April 19th.**

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Middle School electives are subject to change at the discretion of the building principal.**