

## **Required/Core Courses:**

### ***What is a core class?***

*These are the classes that are mandated and tested by law.*

#### **Math**

In this class, students will develop an understanding of basic techniques used in high school Algebra and Geometry. Emphasis will be placed on being proficient in the following areas: adding, subtracting, multiplication, and division of whole numbers, decimals, and fractions. Students will also work on developing math vocabulary, problem solving skills, use of real and rational numbers, patterns, linear and non-linear functions as well as measurement.

#### **Reading and Language Arts**

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Reading and Language Arts block combines aspects of reading, writing, word study, (root words/prefix/suffix/spelling), and vocabulary into a combined 84 minute section each day. This block is required of all students. The following is brief list of the concepts covered throughout the year: Grammar, 6-Trait Writing and the 3 Modes of Writing, Writer's Notebooks, Genres, Poetry, Persuasion, Historical Fiction, Story Elements, Literary Terms, Public Speaking, Book Talks and Projects, and Independent Reading.

#### **Science**

This is an activity-based course that focuses on the major topics in world of Earth Science. Relevant topics and concepts will be explored by using laboratory investigations, hands-on activities, and multimedia resources. Some main themes of study include: Scientific Investigation, Physical Structure of the Earth, Earth's Changing Surface, Astronomy, and Weather and Climate. Students will use the following skill sets to study these themes: Problem-solving, Experiment Set-up and Evaluation, Data Accumulation and Analysis, Measurement, Mapping, Role-playing, and Cooperative Learning.

## ***Core Classes Continued***

#### **Social Studies**

Throughout the year we study the geography of the eastern hemisphere and look at world events and how these topics affect our lives. To accomplish this we read, research, discuss, observe, present, and write about different aspects of each topic. There is individual work, group assignments, and class projects that are evaluated based on the objectives for each unit.

#### **Technology Literacy and Careers**

(1 semester) This is a required 8th grade course. The focus of this course includes working with technology, researching careers, and exploring entrepreneurship. Students will evaluate their skills, values, interests, job preferences and employability skills as they relate to a career choice. Students will use various forms of technology including: the Internet, computers, Office 2007, scanners, digital cameras, video cameras, and web 2.0 tools. Technology literacy will be assessed through this course, as required by the Department of Public Instruction.

#### **Physical Education**

(Full year, Alternating days)  
In physical education, students will set fitness goals based on their fitness measurements in the fall of the year. They will also work on the five components of fitness, nutrition concepts along with basic skeletal and muscular structures, pedometers and pulse sticks. Activities will include: soccer, flag football, volleyball, badminton, basketball, snowshoeing, floor hockey and various cooperative games.



## **Denmark Middle School 8th Grade Curricular and Co-curricular Offerings**



# **8th Grade**

**Denmark Middle School  
450 N. Wall Street  
Denmark, WI 54208**

**Tel: 863-4100**

## **Encore Options:**

### ***What is an encore class?***

*These are the classes that are not considered to be core. Eighth graders are allowed to select their encore classes.*

### **Agriscience** ( 9 weeks )

In middle school agriscience, students learn and participate in a variety of hands on learning activities where they will learn about animals, plants, natural resources, wildlife and careers. Students utilize the newly built greenhouse to conduct experiments with plant growth where they can learn about new research techniques. Students also have the opportunity to learn about the many diverse applications of agriculture in their everyday lives.

### **Spanish I** (Full Year Course)

Spanish I is a **full year** course equivalent to the Spanish I course taken at the high school level. Students will engage in even more speaking and listening activities, continue to learn the mechanics of the Spanish language, and extend their understanding of the Spanish culture. Students who earn a final grade of B or better all 4 quarters will pass into Spanish II at the high school as an incoming freshman.

### **Foods & Nutrition** ( 9 weeks )

The Foods and Nutrition class will continue to expand student's knowledge and understanding of foods and their nutritional value learned in earlier grades. Students will learn about the importance of reading food labels as well as study about the nutritional value of various foods. Students will learn to prepare simple dishes. Specific units of instruction are subject to change based on teacher decision. A course fee of \$5.00 will be charged for general food supplies needed for various units.

### **Sewing & Textiles** ( 9 weeks )

This FCE course will explore the world of fashion, clothing and textiles. Students will learn the parts of the sewing machine, how to handle the machine, construct a simple pillow and one other simple sewing project. Specific units of instructions are subject to change based on teacher decision. A course fee of \$5.00 will be charged for general sewing supplies, pillow fabric and stuffing. The 2<sup>nd</sup> project will be financed by the student's family.

### **Manufacturing and Engineering**

Do you enjoy working with your hands and being in the **workshop**? Then this course is designed for you. This course is designed to give you the opportunity to explore Manufacturing, Engineering and Assembly Lines. Students will as a whole class, use woodworking equipment to mass produce a product that they will sell for a **profit**. Students will also be able to creatively engineer a beam and a package. (9 weeks)

### **Building and Construction**

( 9 weeks )

Do you enjoy **hands-on** projects? Then this is the course you want to take. This course is designed to give you the opportunity to explore different areas of construction including: alternative energy and bridges. In addition, students will use woodworking equipment to build **CO2 racecars**, with the top car receiving a trophy.

### **Encore Lab Assistant**

A student in 8<sup>th</sup> grade may be asked by an encore teacher to serve as an encore lab assistant for one quarter. This can only be done with the approval of an encore teacher. Students selected by teachers will be responsible for activities which may include: independent study assignments, clean up, maintenance, set up and removal of classroom displays, lab set up, cutting paper, duplicating handouts, etc. Lab assistants will have the opportunity to further develop work related skills.

### **Sculpture and Ceramics** ( 9 weeks )

This course will explore art in 3-dimension. The student who likes to get messy will have the chance to learn the ins and outs of working with clay. Students will make functional hand built pottery and throw pots on the potter's wheel. You will also explore other sculpture materials and techniques.

### **Drawing and Design** ( 9 weeks )

This course is designed for the art student who loves to draw. It is a chance for students to explore a variety of drawing materials, such as pencil, pastels/chalk, scratch board, pen and ink, and colored pencil. Some of the techniques you will learn include pencil shading, blending with color, hatching, and perspective. You will also develop skills in observation to help you draw animals and other difficult subjects.

### **Painting and Printmaking** ( 9 weeks )

This is your chance to develop your own style. After reviewing color theory and exploring the effects you can achieve with different paints, students will create original acrylic and watercolor paintings. You will also learn the art of printmaking. There may be some additional costs for supplies. (\*The skills obtained in Drawing and Design, another 8th grade course, would be beneficial for this course, but they are not required to enroll in this course.)

### **Arts and Crafts** ( 9 weeks )

If you like to work with your hands, this class gives you the chance to make and take your own products. You will learn about the weaving process and create woven samplers, make a dream catcher, and weave or coil a basket. Craft activities require patience but increase your ability to follow directions and problem solve. Some jewelry making activities may be explored as time allows. There will be some cost for materials as needed.

## **Music Offerings:**

### **General Music**

(1 semester alternating days)

General music is a study of music appreciation, music theory, music history and music performance. Students will be introduced to basic music notation and theory, and will learn performance basics on keyboards and guitars. Students will also be introduced to famous musicians and their related styles of music. General music meets two days a week and alternating Fridays for one semester.

### **Chorus** (all year alternating days)

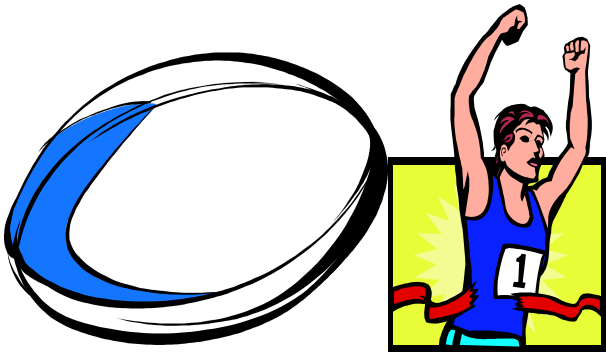
Students enrolled in chorus have the opportunity to enhance their vocal singing ability by concentrating on what is needed to produce a quality vocal sound. To meet Wisconsin State Standards students will focus on learning music keys, notes, signs, symbols, rhythm and vocabulary. Chorus students are required to perform in two concerts every school year (winter and spring) and participate in the May conference choral festival. Chorus meets two days a week and alternating Fridays.

### **Band** (all year alternating days)

Students in band have two rehearsals each week and on alternating Fridays. Students are required to attend weekly lessons and work from their lesson book, solo/ensemble music and concert music. Time is also spent at the beginning of the school year on parade marching. Band students are required to perform in required concerts throughout the school year and are required to wear black pants and black shoes for performances.

## Athletics:

- Football: Aug. (1 week before school) - Oct.
- Cross Country: Sept - Oct.
- Girl's Volleyball: Sept. - Oct.
- Girls Basketball: Jan-Feb.
- Boys Basketball: Jan - March
- Wrestling: Jan. - Feb .
- Boys' and Girls' Track: March - May
- Cheerleading—Tryouts 3rd Week of April



## Clubs /Organizations/Activities:

### **What else can an eighth grader do?**

*Co-curricular activities are extra opportunities for students that are sponsored by the school district and usually take place outside of the regular school day.*

#### **Battle Of The Books**

A reading competition that encourages students to a friendly quiz bowl style competition. Each team reads 40 books and then they compete against each other in elimination battles. Students answer questions about the books by giving the correct title and author. At the end of the competition, the top team goes on to compete at the interscholastic battle against teams from Ashwaubenon, Mishicot, and Howard-Suamico.

#### **FFA**

The largest youth organization, with over 500,000 members nationwide. FFA is not just for students from farms. It prepares students for success with a wide range of academic and leadership opportunities and scholarships. Members can participate in leadership conferences, community service activities, travelling, meetings, and contests. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Handrich at 863-4134 or [handrichm@denmark.k12.wi.us](mailto:handrichm@denmark.k12.wi.us)

#### **Forensics**

The word "forensic" is an adjective meaning "of public debate or argument." In this extra-curricular activity, students work on building their communication, leadership, cognitive, and presentational skills. In December, students prepare a speech and/or debate activity to perform at two levels of competition in February. This activity is open to all students in grades 6-8. Practices takes place during the school day (at lunch-time), but coaches are also available for after-school practices upon request. If you are looking for a challenge in which you improve your public speaking skills, come and join us!

#### **Yearbook**

An extra-curricular organization available to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who are interested in formatting, editing, and taking pictures for the school's yearbook. Most often, yearbook meetings take place every other week after school from October through March. This organization accepts a limited number of students, so listen to the announcements in early Sept. for when applications can be picked up

#### **Newspaper**

Open to all middle school students. The goals of the school newspaper are to provide students with a unique way to express themselves creatively and give a voice to the student body. The newspaper is very focused on the happenings within our building and sharing student writing by the students with the students!

#### **Student Council**

Made up of elected members that plan many activities and promotes school spirit. Some activities that student council plans or pay for are: Dances, Homecoming Week Dress-Up Days & Activities, Spirit Days, Field Trip Expenses, Holiday-o-Grams (Candy Canes, Valentine's Day Flowers), Bring Your Parents to School Day, Pennies for Patients, End of the Year Field Trips, Fall Spirit Wear Sale, School Store. Students who are interested in running to become a student council member should see Mrs. Dowling in May for their nomination form and campaign materials.

