

# MIDDLE SCHOOL 2021-2022

ALGOMA  
MIDDLE  
SCHOOL

## COURSE DESCRIPTION HANDBOOK



*It is the policy of the School District of Algoma that no person, on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin (including LEP), ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation or physical disability, mental disability, emotional disability or learning disability/handicap or homeless status, may be denied admission to any school in this district or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, extracurricular, pupil services, recreational or other program.*

*"In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800)795-3272 (voice) or (202)720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."*

## ALGOMA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

<b>Subject</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· 24 Total Credits</li> <li>· Successful completion of the following subject and credit requirements</li> </ul>
<b>English</b>	<b>4 Credits including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ English I (1 credit)</li> <li>○ English II(1 credit)</li> <li>○ Elective(s) (2 credits)</li> </ul>
<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>3.5 Credits including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Social Studies Seminar (1.0 credit)</li> <li>○ US History (1.0 credit)</li> <li>○ Elective(s) (1.5 credits)</li> </ul>
<b>Science</b>	<b>3.0 Credits including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Biology 9/Physical Science 9 (1.0 credit)</li> <li>○ Biology 10/Physical Science 10 (1.0 credit)</li> <li>○ Elective(s) (1.0 credit)</li> </ul>
<b>Math</b>	<b>3.0 Credits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Algebra I</li> <li>○ Geometry</li> <li>○ Algebra II</li> </ul>
<b>Health and Wellness Education</b>	<b>2.0 Credits including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 3 semester electives in P.E.</li> <li>○ Health Education (0.5 credit)</li> </ul>
<b>STEAM/CTE</b>	<b>1.5 Credits including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Electives in Technology and Engineering Education, Business Education, Visual Arts, and/or Family and Consumer Science (1.5 credits)</li> </ul>
<b>Business Education</b>	<b>0.5 Credit</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Employability Skills/Personal Finance (ES/PF)</li> </ul>
<b>Electives</b>	<b>6.5 Credits</b>
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	<b>24 Credits</b>

## COURSES TAKEN IN MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

### **2013 ACT 138: Allowing Credit Earned in Grade 7 or 8 to Count as High School Credit If Certain Conditions Are Met**

Under Act 138, if three conditions are met, a school board may count a credit that a pupil earns in grade 7 or 8 toward the 15 state graduation credit requirements or the 8.5 additional credits that the state superintendent encourages school boards to require from any combination of vocational education, foreign languages, fine arts, and other courses.

- The pupil's performance on a state examination or similar examination approved by the school board must demonstrate that the pupil is academically prepared for coursework that is offered in the high school grades.
- The credit must be earned in a course that is taught by a teacher who is licensed to teach the subject in the high school grades.
- The credit must be earned in a course that is taught using a curriculum and assessments that are equivalent to the curriculum and assessments used to teach the subject in the high school grades.

(adapted from information on the DPI website - [http://cal.dpi.wi.gov/cal\\_8gr\\_algebra\\_hsgrad](http://cal.dpi.wi.gov/cal_8gr_algebra_hsgrad))

## ALGOMA MIDDLE SCHOOL IMPORTANT SCHEDULING INFORMATION

All middle school students will be scheduled for their core courses: Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies.

- **COURSES REQUIRED FOR ALL 7th GRADERS:**
  - MS English/Lang Arts 7
  - MS Math 7
  - MS Social Studies 7
  - MS Science 7
  - MS Preparing for Life/Future (EOD opposite Phy Ed)
  - MS Phy Ed (EOD opposite MS Preparing for Life/Future)
- **COURSES REQUIRED FOR ALL 8th GRADERS:**
  - MS English/Lang Arts 8
  - MS Math 8
  - MS Social Studies 8
  - MS Science 8
  - MS Preparing for Life/Future (EOD opposite Phy Ed)
  - MS Phy Ed (EOD opposite MS Preparing for Life/Future)

## COURSE DELIVERY/LEARNING FORMAT DEFINITIONS

We recognize that learning can happen in many different formats to best meet the needs of our students. To help our students and families understand the options available to them, please reference these definitions of the learning formats and course delivery options available. **Each course in the handbook indicates which delivery options are available.**

**IN-PERSON LEARNING:** Students will be learning within the Algoma Middle/High School building.

**VIRTUAL LEARNING:** Students will be learning from a location *OTHER* than within the Middle/High School building. Virtual learning **MAY** include synchronous learning (meaning students will be logging into their virtual classes at a specific time designated by the teacher) or may be more independent where they work at their own pace at a self-determined time.

**BLEND-ED LEARNING:** This learning format includes **BOTH** in-person learning days and virtual learning days for that particular course (i.e. a course that is BLEND-ED may meet in person on M/W/F and be virtual for T/Th).

**HYBRID SCHEDULE:** This refers to students who spend part of their day *IN-PERSON* and part of their day *VIRTUAL*.

## COURSE OFFERINGS BY DEPARTMENTS

### **ENGLISH**

#### **QUARTER-LONG ENGLISH OFFERINGS**

1 quarter .25 credit Grades: 9-12 (7 & 8 with permission)

**Course delivery: VIRTUAL AND BLEND-ED**

The Quarter-Long English Offerings will provide students with opportunities to create a flexible schedule on the individual level. For each class taken, a student can earn .25 credit. The courses will be independent and must be completed within the confines of the quarter. Students who take these courses must be highly motivated and be able to work well independently.

**VOCABULARY AND ETYMOLOGY** -- number of chapters

1 quarter .25 credit Grades: 9-12 (7 & 8 with permission)

**Course Delivery: BLEND-ED**

One foundation of comprehending any subject area is the ability to understand the terminology associated with it. This course is designed to teach students to identify roots,

suffixes, and prefixes so unfamiliar vocabulary can be understood. The hybrid aspect of this course requires ALL TESTS to be taken at school with Mr. Schmiling. Students who have used this system in the past have found it very helpful in multiple subject areas, especially in science and math. Anyone considering the possibility of working in the medical field should seriously consider taking this course.

### **SHAKESPEARE'S PLAYS BY CATEGORY**

1 quarter .25 credit Grades: 9-12 (7 & 8 with permission)

#### **Course Delivery: VIRTUAL**

William Shakespeare was the premiere entertainer of his day, and one of the most enduring writers of all time. There's a reason for that -- he was good. People from all levels of society found themselves being written about in his plays, and William Shakespeare was excellent at understanding all of them. Another of his amazing abilities was to write in multiple genres. He covered comedies, tragedies, and histories. Additionally, he has allowed his readers to get a glimpse of different cultures and countries. However, many people have a hard time enjoying Shakespeare's stories because of the Elizabethan form of English typically used. In these courses, we will be reading Shakespeare's plays in modern English to allow students to appreciate the plays even more.

If you are a student who enjoys reading and well-written stories, these courses are for you. Aside from reading the plays, students will analyze Shakespeare's works and the experience of reading them through essays and video presentations.

Students will have the opportunity to take any or all of the courses they choose, and .25 credit can be earned for each course.

- **SHAKESPEARE'S COMEDIES**

1 quarter .25 credit Grades: 9-12 (7 & 8 with permission)

- **SHAKESPEARE'S TRAGEDIES**

1 quarter .25 credit Grades: 9-12 (7 & 8 with permission)

- **SHAKESPEARE'S HISTORIES**

1 quarter .25 credit Grades: 9-12 (7 & 8 with permission)

### **INTERDISCIPLINARY WRITING EMPHASIS**

1 quarter .25 credit Grades: 9-12 (7 & 8 with permission)

#### **Course Delivery: VIRTUAL**

The goal of this course is to integrate writing with any one of the other courses on a student's schedule. Essentially, a student who takes this course will simply be adding a writing component to a course in another discipline. For example, if a student is enrolled in Biology, he or she can add Interdisciplinary Writing Emphasis to it. In the course of one quarter, that student will compose several papers about concepts covered in Biology but as part of an English course. Students will use multiple resources to delve into the

topics covered in the Biology course to gain a deeper understanding as well as improve writing skills. This course can be combined with ANY course other than English.

Students will be allowed to take this course twice from seventh grade through senior year and receive .25 credit each time.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **METHODS OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH**

1 or 2 semesters      .5 credit or 1 credit      Grades 7-12

#### **Course Delivery: BLEND-ED**

The Historical Method is a framework for conducting research and then using that research to form an understanding of past events. This course will teach you how to use the Historical Method to learn more about the subjects that interest you by having you design and implement your own historical research project. The class will use the themes and criteria set forth by the National History Day organization. Students who choose to take this class as a year-long elective must commit to competing in the National History Day competition.

## **BUSINESS EDUCATION**

### **JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT**

1 semester      .5 credit      Grades: 7-10

#### **Course delivery: IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL**

Junior Achievement (JA) is the world's largest organization dedicated to educating students about workforce readiness, **entrepreneurship and financial literacy** through experiential, hands-on programs. JA helps prepare young people for the real world by showing them how to generate wealth and effectively manage it along with how to apply entrepreneurial thinking to the workplace. Students put these lessons into action and learn the value of contributing to their communities. *JA Finance Park* allows students to build a foundation for making intelligent, lifelong **personal-finance decisions**. Finance Park combines in-class learning with a hands-on experience in a fully interactive field trip to Appleton for the capstone project. A virtual simulation will be offered for Finance Park as an alternative to the field trip.

### **PREPARING FOR YOUR FUTURE- 7th GRADE**

1 Semester      Meets EOD      Grade: 7 (Required)

#### **Course delivery: IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL**

Establish a foundation for the rest of your life by reflecting on who you are and what you value as it relates to careers, your relationship with money, and how you make decisions around these life events. Explore Academic & Career Planning (ACP) topics such as **career awareness**, **essential job skills**, and building core **personal finance skills** in order to develop an

understanding of yourself and create a vision for your future. Through engaging resources and activities, you will practice these life skills so you can get on the right track to choose a suitable career pathway and effectively manage your personal finances. You will gain insight and learn real-world strategies needed to Prepare for Your Future.

### **PREPARING FOR YOUR FUTURE - 8th GRADE**

1 Semester Meets EOD Grade: 8 (Required)

#### **Course delivery: IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL**

Build on the life skills learned in 7th grade PFYF to prepare for high school and achieve your future career and financial goals. Develop your journey from middle school and beyond by participating in Academic & Career Planning (ACP) activities such as **course planning, career development, and money management**. Explore post-secondary options aligned to career goals and attain personal financial skills in order to be college, career and future ready.

## **FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE**

### **PREPARING FOR LIFE-7th GRADE**

1 semester Meets EOD Grade: 7 (Required)

#### **Course delivery: IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL**

This course is designed to increase students' knowledge of and ability in using the skills necessary for everyday living. You will learn basic life skills such as healthy relationships, personal hygiene, and making healthy choices. You will learn skills that will focus on thinking for yourself, taking care of yourself, and caring for your relationships.

### **PREPARING FOR LIFE -8th GRADE**

1 semester Meets EOD Grade:8 (Required)

#### **Course delivery: IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL**

You will focus on becoming more independent, responsible, and prepared to make rational decisions about important areas of your lives. The course emphasizes topics related to peer pressure, self-esteem, conflict resolution, teamwork, diversity, the family, dating relationships, and other relationships.

### **CREATIVE DESIGN**

1 semester .5 credit Grades: 7-12

#### **Course delivery: IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL**

Are you creative? Do you enjoy doing crafts, sewing, and quilting? During this course we will be creating and designing a variety of projects using recycled materials, sewing using commercial patterns for clothing and learning how to create a simple block quilt. **STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PURCHASING ALL SEWING SUPPLIES.**

## **CULINARY ARTS I**

1 semester .5 credit Grades: 8-12

### **Course delivery: IN-PERSON**

This course will allow students to learn the fundamental skills of culinary arts by applying the principles of food safety and sanitation, quality food preparation such as measuring and food storage. Students will participate in labs and related classroom studies, discuss the how and why of cooking, and gain confidence in skills and techniques. This course was formerly Introduction to Foods.

## **VISUAL ARTS**

### **2D ART**

1 semester .5 Credit Grades: 7-12

### **Course delivery: IN-PERSON**

Students will learn through hands-on experience using a wide range of mediums to exemplify skills and create meaningful art. Materials included but are not limited to: graphite, ink, charcoal, watercolor, paint, and pastels. Art History will be learned along the way! Formal and on-the-spot, in progress critiques will be held in small groups and full class settings. Want to learn how to draw better, join 2D Art!

*Limit: 16 students \$10 Lab Fee will apply*

### **3D ART**

1 semester .5 Credit Grades: 7-12

### **Course delivery: IN-PERSON**

Students will learn through hands-on experience and will use a wide range of mediums to exemplify skills and create meaningful art. Materials include but are not limited to: clay, plaster, paper, and found objects. Relevant historical and modern artists and art pieces will be studied along the way. Formal and on-the-spot, in progress and final critiques will be held in small groups and full class settings to practice vocabulary and talking about art.

*Limit: 16 Students*

### **ADVANCED 2D ART**

1 semester .5 Credits Grades 8-12

### **Course delivery: IN-PERSON**

*\*Students must have earned a C or better in 2D to move onto Advanced 2D Art*

This class builds on what students have learned in 2D Art. Students will continue building on the skills they learned with different and more advanced hands-on projects. Materials included but are not limited to: graphite, ink, charcoal, watercolor, paint, and pastels. Art History will be learned along the way! Formal and on-the-spot, in progress critiques will be held in small groups and full class settings. Want to build on the skills learned in 2D Art? Take Advanced 2D Art.

*Limit: 16 Students*



# **TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING EDUCATION**

## **MS INTRODUCTION TO TECH-ED**

1 semester                      Grades: 7-8

### **Course delivery: IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL**

Students will learn the building blocks of Teched. Basic equipment/tooling knowledge, measurement, and blueprint skills will be explored. This is a hands-on class where students will build and create projects.

*Limit: 20 Students      \$30 Lab Fees will Apply*

## **MS MANUFACTURING**

1 semester                      Grades: 7-8

### **Course delivery: IN-PERSON**

#### **Prerequisite: Introduction to Tech-Ed**

Students will build from the skills and concepts acquired from INTRODUCTION TO TECH-ED and create class based projects. Students will learn about assembly lines, concepts of running a manufacturing business. They will learn about production, resources, and different jobs within a manufacturing setting. They will have to problem solve, work in teams, and think critically and creatively.

*Limit: 24 Students      \$30 Lab Fees will Apply*

## **CAD/CAM Drafting (*Computer Aided Design & Computer Aided Manufacturing*)**

1 semester      .5 credit                      Grades: 8-12

### **Course Delivery: IN-PERSON**

The student will be able to create Orthographic blueprints by hand and CAD. Mechanical and Architectural drawings will be covered during this class. The student will also create a scale model of a house that they draw. The student will apply toolpaths to drawings, learn about tooling, feeds, and speeds. They will understand how the cartesian coordinate system applies to machining. They will then machine class projects on the CNC plasma table, mill, lathe, and wood router.

*Limit: 15 Students      \$30 Lab Fees will apply*

# **FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

## **SPANISH I A (*NCAA Approved*)**

2 semesters      .5 credit                      Grades: 7

### **Course delivery: IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL**

This course provides a foundation for students to comprehend the language through reading and listening as well as produce the language through speaking and writing. The following thematic

units will be covered: personal and public identities, families and communities, descriptions of personality and aesthetics, global issues and challenges, contemporary life, cultural history, communications and media, and career connections. These units empower students to communicate on topics that are universal to the human experience. Comprehensible novice level Spanish is used in instruction.

**Spanish I B (NCAA Approved)**

2 semesters .5 credit Grades: 8-12

**Course delivery: IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL**

**Prerequisite: "C" average in Spanish I A**

This course is a continuation of Spanish IA and provides a foundation for students to comprehend Spanish through reading and listening as well as produce the language through speaking and writing. The following thematic units will be covered: personal and public identities, families and communities, descriptions of personality and aesthetics, global issues and challenges, contemporary life, cultural history, communications and media, and career connections. These units empower students to communicate on topics that are universal to the human experience. Comprehensible novice level Spanish is used in instruction.

## **MUSIC EDUCATION**

**MS BAND**

2 semesters                      Meets Everyday (*EOD if taking MS Chorus or Essentials*)                      Grade: 7 or 8

**Course delivery: IN-PERSON**

The MS Band is a performing ensemble. Students will be required to attend 1 parade and 3 concerts. This ensemble is open to all students with experience playing a traditional concert band instrument (or with permission from Mrs. Massey). Student rehearsals will consist of learning music appropriate for the band's ability. Students will play standard band repertoire and explore challenging music. 7th and 8th grade students will meet a combined ensemble.

**MS CHORUS**

2 semesters                      Meets Everyday (*EOD if taking MS Grade Band or Essentials*)                      Grade: 7 or 8

**Course delivery: IN-PERSON**

This choir is a performing ensemble that participates in at least two concerts a year. Students have the option of participating in one or two festivals a year. Exceptional students have the opportunity of auditioning for "All-State" choirs. Fundamentals of good singing are taught. Good posture, breathing, and good tone are emphasized and reinforced through warm-ups and quality literature. Sight singing, music notation and theory are introduced/reviewed.

## **OTHER OPPORTUNITIES**

### **BETA YOUTH CHANGE AGENTS**

2 semesters                      1 credit                      Grades 8-12

**Course delivery: IN-PERSON**

**Instructor approval required**

Beta is a space “where all students can walk in and, for that... hour, take off the crushing weight of their armor, hang it on a rack, and open their heart to truly being seen...[it] allows students to breathe and be curious and explore the world and be who they are without suffocation. They deserve one place where they can rumble with vulnerability and their hearts can exhale” (Brene Brown- Dare to Lead). This space provides an opportunity to grow in self awareness, understand others, and own our stories. In Beta, we learn with and from each other as we get curious about why we think the way we do and how to be leaders of our own lives. We gain the tools to be resilient through conflict and have hard conversations. The structure of the space is flexible and collaborative with no voice privileged over another.

### **BETA APPLICATION**

2 semesters                      1 credit                      Grades 8-12

**Course delivery: IN-PERSON**

**Instructor approval required**

Beta will be offered for two hours. When you choose Beta, the first portion (Beta Youth Change Agents) is required and will focus on building self-awareness and leadership capacity. The second portion (Beta Application) is optional for those who want to apply the learning. Students will determine their own focus, which could include community initiative, reflection time, English credit, or any other desired path. During this, students need to be self-directed and motivated to make progress toward self-determined goals.