



Lakeshore Middle School Grades 6-8

1459 W. John Beers Road

Principal: Jonathan Swegles

Assistant Principal: Allison Arend

This program of studies contains information about curriculum for Lakeshore Middle School. It is subject to change in whole or in part by direction of the Superintendent of Schools and the Lakeshore Public Schools Board of Education.

Core Curriculum

Middle level learners participate in a core curriculum as well as exploratory experiences, commonly referred to as elective classes. Core curriculum comes from the State of Michigan standards expected in Michigan public schools with development from Lakeshore teachers and administrators. For a complete view of these standards, please visit the following links:

[Michigan K-12 English Language Arts Standards \(click here\)](#)

[Michigan K-12 Math Standards \(click here\)](#)

[Michigan Science Standards \(click here\)](#)

[Michigan Social Studies Academic Standards \(click here\)](#)

Sixth Grade

Language Arts 6

1 full year - Required

This course centers around a workshop model, where we will focus on fostering critical thinking, as well as writing and reading skills. Choice reading book clubs will include realistic fiction, historical fiction, and nonfiction. Writing units will include realistic fiction writing, argument writing, and informational writing. These reading and writing units go hand-and-hand as students develop independence through choice with coaching from teachers and peers.

Science 6

1 full year – Required

Sixth-grade science incorporates the three main branches of science: Physical, Life, and Earth sciences. Science skills and concepts taught in the sixth grade, which are introductory in each science area, will be built upon in the seventh and eighth grades. A scientific method approach will be emphasized and incorporated through the use of hands-on experimentation, integrated projects/activities, and assessments to test understanding of basic science information. Higher level thinking processes and problem-solving techniques will be integral to classroom instruction.

World Geography and History 6

1 full year - Required

Sixth-grade Social Studies introduces students to the physical and human geography of the world. Beginning with a spatial perspective, students explore different ways in which the Earth has been represented and investigate patterns of natural and human characteristics. In this course, students will examine a variety of global issues such as population change, migration, urbanization, culture, and cultural diffusion, resource use, increased networks of trade and economic interdependence, and the interactions among nations. Students investigate how local, national, and international governments and organizations respond to a variety of contemporary issues. The curriculum emphasizes how evidence from a myriad of social studies fields collectively provides a broad and detailed picture of our world.

Math 6

1 full year – Required

The four operations and their application to fractions, integers, decimals, and percents are presented. Students will develop an understanding of algebraic reasoning including solving multi-step equations using variables. Geometry will be covered by studying the key concepts and how they relate to each other.

Math 6+

1 full year – Required

This course introduces students to a basic foundation of algebraic principles while stressing the

four operations and their application to fractions, integers, and decimals. Students will be exposed to basic and advanced equation solving techniques and the simplification of expressions. Problem-solving will be stressed along with key geometry principles and how they relate to each other.

Students will be informed via letter in early June of their 6th Grade Math placement.

An important part of our decision making for students' success in math is using their NWEA MAP Math scores. There is a strong correlation between students who score at the 85th percentile on this test and their success in Algebra. Students that score at or above the 85th percentile on the spring test will be scheduled in Math 6+ and students that score below the 85th percentile will be scheduled in Math 6. We will also offer two summer dates (to be determined) for students that would like an opportunity to retake the test. (Please see the flowchart in the back of the Course Guide.)

Reading

1 full year – Required

This course will meet the expectations of the Common Core Curriculum by modeling reading strategies for comprehension of both fiction and informational text. Texts will be chosen from the core subject areas; thus creating a connection between the students' classes. In addition, students will explore a variety of genres and authors in order to understand the structures, themes, and purposes of text. Finally, students will set independent reading goals and meet those goals on a weekly basis. Interventions for reading instruction, strategies, and skills through researched-based best practices to increase reading fluency, vocabulary and comprehension will also occur for students in need.

ELECTIVES

Physical Education 6

1 full year – Elective

Physical Education is based on a common core of learning experiences planned on a sequential arrangement appropriate to sixth-grade stages. We will focus on social, emotional, intellectual, and psychomotor development. Skill work, social interaction, cooperation, teamwork, and sportsmanship are also emphasized.

6th Grade Wheel

1 full year - Elective

Sixth graders will rotate every 9 weeks, experiencing each of these topics:

Art 6

Introduces students to the elements and principles of design and provides experiences with a wide variety of art materials and techniques. Students will build skills through drawing, clay, and the exploration of other media while learning about art history.

Design Thinking 6 (formally known as Industrial Technology)

This is a project-based course where students will learn about the engineering design process and develop solutions to solve problems. Using the engineering design process, students will collaborate in teams to design and build Lego Mindstorm EV3 robots. Teams will then make improvements based on their observations and data. Students will develop their coding skills using Lego Mindstorm EV3 software. They will also learn about sensors, inputs and outputs, and how to code commands for specific tasks. Finally, students will design and compete in two different design challenges using the concepts already covered in this course.

Technology 6

This course will teach students how to effectively use Google products and services for educational purposes. Students will learn how to use their Google account and learn its many benefits for the classroom. Students will practice navigating through the general interface of Google products. The searching, organizational, communication, and collaboration components of Google products will be highlighted to help students develop a deeper understanding of how Google can enhance learning among and between students. Students will learn to utilize the basic tools of many educationally-relevant Google products and, with the use of such products, will help students learn in an efficient, effective, and engaging manner.

Skills 6

Skills class is part of the delivery system for the Lakeshore Schools' Comprehensive Guidance Curriculum. This non-graded class assists 6th graders in a better understanding of self. A major focus of the class is character education. Topics include goal setting, decision making, bullying, communication skills, and conflict resolution.

Choir 6

1 full year - Elective

This course is open to all 6th-grade students. It is the introductory course for vocal music (choir). While learning a variety of music, 6th Grade Choir emphasizes choral tone, teamwork, and beginning music reading skills. The choir performs at four choir concerts as well as Choral Festivals. There is no audition, prerequisite, or fee for this choir. The 7th & 8th Grade choirs build on the learning and experiences from 6th Grade Choir.

Band 6

1 full year - Elective

In sixth-grade band students meet as two separate groups 1 - woodwinds, 2 - brass/percussion where they will receive sectional pull out instruction and large group instruction. They will perform in the holiday collage concert in December as these groups. The second semester the groups will be reformed to make two complete bands. Students will continue to receive sectional pull-out instruction as well as full band instruction. They will perform in the spring concert in May in these groups. 6th-grade students have the opportunity for instrumental Solo & Ensemble

experience. Students may opt to play a solo, duet, trio, etc. and will receive a 'rating' from area band directors who will give them feedback.

*If students would like to participate in sixth-grade band, but have not been a part of the fifth-grade band program, we would love to have them join us. Parents should contact the directors to schedule an instrument 'fitting'. These students would also need to take private lessons during the summer in order to catch up to their peers who participated in band.

Contact information:

Lori VonKoenig - lvonkoenig@lpslancer.net / 269-428-1402 ext. 2050 or 269.428-1408 ext. 3050.

Seventh Grade

Language Arts 7

1 full year - Required

This course centers around a workshop model, where we will focus on fostering critical thinking, as well as writing and reading skills. Choice reading book clubs will include realistic fiction, historical fiction, and nonfiction. Writing units will include realistic fiction writing, argument writing, and informational writing. These reading and writing units go hand-and-hand as students develop independence through choice with coaching from teachers and peers.

Science 7

1 full year - Required

This course is a combination of three types of science. Life Science will focus on cells and the human body. Earth Science will concentrate on rocks and minerals. Physical Science will primarily cover Newton's Laws and chemistry. The students will also review the scientific method and metric measurements. The Engineering Design process will be introduced and explored.

World History and Geography 7

1 full year - Required

The seventh grade social studies curriculum focuses on early world history and geography with a deliberate focus on content literacy. In this grade, students investigate human history from the beginning until around 1500. They explore major and significant changes in each era through a chronological organization. Students learn about the earliest humans and explore early migration and settlement patterns. Students examine how the emergence of farming set the stage for the development of powerful empires, trade networks, and the diffusion of people, resources, and ideas. The rise and fall of empires, as well as the nomadic groups in Afro-Eurasia, generated new zones of cultural and commercial exchange that linked regions across the world and enabled ideas to spread. Students also examine the development of belief systems in their historical context. In studying the precursors to the meeting of the "Three Worlds," students expand their view of human history and begin to see the story of the United States in a more global context.

The course concludes with students analyzing global patterns of continuity and change over time, and using evidence to construct historical arguments about the past.

Math 7

1 full year – Required

This course introduces students to a basic foundation of Algebraic principles while stressing basic skills. Students will be exposed to basic and advanced equation solving techniques, graphing, and the simplification of expressions. Problem solving will be stressed along with rational numbers, proportions, probability, percents, and basic geometry principles such as area and volume.

Math 7+

1 full year – Required

This course introduces students to the basic principles of Algebra and requires a deeper level of thinking and commitment to working hard and studying. This class involves in-depth study of topics such as linear equations, functions, and quadratic equations. Students will be exposed to a variety of problem solving methods and will extensively graph equations and linear functions. Students must be independently motivated, prepared to take extensive notes, have excellent attendance and will be required to study above and beyond completing homework. Prerequisites: Successfully completing Pre-Algebra with a B average or higher and scoring at/or above the 85th percentile on the Spring NWEA Math Test. *Students who are interested in Math 7+ and took Math 6, should refer to the Math Flow Chart at the back of this Course Guide.*

Reading

1 full year – Required

This course will meet the expectations of the Common Core Curriculum by modeling reading strategies for comprehension of both fiction and informational text. Texts will be chosen from the core subject areas; thus creating a connection between the students' classes. In addition, students will explore a variety of genres and authors in order to understand the structures, themes, and purposes of text. Finally, students will set independent reading goals and meet those goals on a weekly basis.

ELECTIVES

Choir 7

1 full year – Elective

This course is open to all 7th grade students. While learning a variety of music, this class emphasizes: choral tone, teamwork, music reading skills, and music theory. This choir performs at four choir concerts as well as Choral Festivals. Additional opportunities such as Solo & Ensemble, Vocal Workshops, and Choir Invitational are available to choir members. A trip to Chicago in alternating years provides added performance, cultural, and social opportunities.

Band 7

1 full year – Elective

This is a continuation of Band 6. The group continues to work on the fundamentals of playing while having many opportunities to perform. This group performs at a Varsity Football Game, three concerts during the year, District Band and Orchestra Festival, and the Blossomtime Parade. These students will march in the Stevensville Memorial Day Parade alternate years. Band 7 also offers a special opportunity to participate in two District Solo & Ensemble festivals. Students in this group may choose to participate in an overnight trip to Mackinac Island alternate years. 7th grade band students have the opportunity to audition for the Michigan All State Band and may be nominated for several honor bands.

Physical Education 7

1 full year – Elective

The co-educational class will provide students with fun and innovative developmentally appropriate activities. It will enhance their physical, personal/social, and knowledge base skills by focusing on instilling a positive attitude conducive to physical activities across their lifespan.

Art 7

1 Semester - Elective

This course will explore drawing, painting and sculpture. Students will learn techniques to improve drawing and seeing, learn about color mixing, color theory, and painting processes, and use clay and other materials to create both functional and non-functional art. These projects will help students to better recognize and understand the art elements and principles, and how to make their work more successful. Art students are eligible to have work displayed in area art competitions.

Technology 7

1 Semester - Elective

This course will build on the 6th grade Tech Class. The 7th Grade Tech class will expand students' knowledge of Google products and services for educational purposes, and teach additional educational technology tools for creation and collaborative learning. Google products enabling search, organization, communication, and collaboration will be highlighted. Students will also participate in video production using green screen technology, create projects using the Learning Center Maker Space iPad apps, and conduct research using digital tools.

It is recommended that students interested in taking our Language Arts 8+ class during their 8th grade year take this semester course.

Design Thinking (formerly Industrial Technology)

Design Thinking II (one semester course)

This course will build upon the skills from Design Thinking I. Students will learn how to become problem solvers and critical thinkers by learning skills commonly used in the field of engineering. Using the engineering design process, students will design and build balsa wood trusses which

are tested for critical load. After analyzing the results, students will make design improvements and attempt to build a more structurally efficient bridge. Students will be introduced to the different materials, machines, and processes used to manufacture everyday products. The class will then collaborate in teams to design and engineer a marble roll tower made from sheet metal. They will also explore coding concepts through lessons using Micro:bit technology. The introduction of two dimensional and three dimensional design will also be addressed.

Eighth Grade

Language Arts 8

1 full year - Required

Language Arts 8 emphasizes the study of basic literary genres, including novels, short stories, drama, and poetry. Students practice their writing through narrative essays, research reports, argumentative essays, literary analyses, and creative writing. Students study grammar concepts in the context of written assignments. Students will be required to complete independent reading throughout the school year and to respond to their reading through independent reading responses. Speaking skills are developed through presentations and oral interpretation.

Language Arts 8+

1 full year

Students will be challenged to higher levels of critical thinking in their study of grammar, literature, writing, and speaking. Students will read classic and contemporary works of many genres including the novel, the short story, drama, poetry, and non-fiction. In the context of these, students encounter universal themes that deepen their understanding of the human experience and push them to think deeply, globally, and critically. Speaking and listening skills will be developed through student-led discussion seminars and student presentations. Writing skills are developed through narrative essays, formal research reports, argumentative writing, creative writing, and literary analysis, with an emphasis on rational logic and fluid expression. Students will study grammar concepts in the context of written assignments. Students will be required to complete independent reading throughout the school year, and must also complete assigned reading during the summer before the course begins. **Prerequisites:** It is required that students read at a minimum Lexile Level of 1100. This score comes from their 7th grade Spring NWEA MAP Test. The 1100 Lexile Level is reading at approximately the 9th grade level. It is also required that students have an "A" average in 7th grade Language Arts. **Students interested in enrolling in Language Arts 8+ must also complete an application. Students may pick-up an application in the Guidance Office.**

Science 8

1 full year - Required

The course will focus on three main scientific disciplines: Earth science, chemistry and physical science. We will spend approximately 12 weeks on each discipline. Topics to be covered include chemistry of matter, heat, work, power, simple machines, energy, dynamic earth and weather.

American History 8

1 full year - Required

This is a required general survey course of American History from the French and Indian War through 1898, with special emphasis on the American Revolution, formation of government, westward expansion, the Civil War, and the Industrial Growth of the late 19th century. Tenth grade U.S. History will cover 1898 to the present.

Math 8

1 full year

This course introduces students to the basic principles of Algebra. Students will be exposed to a variety of problem solving methods that pertain to individual needs and expose students to everyday uses of material.

Algebra I

1 full year

This course allows students to develop their full potential and to explore new areas of knowledge. It includes an in-depth treatment of basic math content, extensions of basic content, and enrichment. A higher degree of cognitive thinking and level of reasoning skills is required. **Prerequisites:** Successfully completing Algebra Concepts with a B average or higher and scoring at/or above the 85th percentile on the Spring NWEA Math Test. Students who are interested in Algebra 1 who took Pre-Algebra should refer to the Math Flow Chart at the back of this Course Guide.

This course fulfills the requirement for Algebra I at Lakeshore High School. ***Upon successful completion of this course, students will have fulfilled the Algebra I requirement for graduation at Lakeshore High School. Students may be required to retake it in 9th grade if skills are not attained. Algebra I students are eligible to apply for admission to the Lakeshore High School Mathematics & Science Center.***

ELECTIVES

8th Grade: Design Production

1 or 2 semesters- Elective

Students will immerse themselves in everything FabLab. Students will enhance skills gained from previous engineering courses by working with a wide variety of technology. This course will incorporate individual and teamwork opportunities within the engineering design process. Students will engage in product development and design through community support and input.

8th Grade Art Foundations

1 or 2 semesters– Elective

This course is open to all 8th grade students. Four weeks each semester will be spent exploring graphic

design techniques and other art projects. The remainder of the semester projects will mirror those presented in Art Foundations at the high school level (at least one project each in the different mediums taught as whole semester classes will be completed.) All art projects will help students to better recognize and understand the art elements and principles, and will help them make their work more successful. Students will be given the same exam as the high school students. Art students are eligible to have work displayed in area art competitions.

Students choosing to take the class for two semesters: The second semester class will cover the same mediums as the 1st Semester, at the same rigorous level, but with different project outcomes. See above.

***Completion of this class will not fulfill the high school art credit, but it will count as a prerequisite for students to pursue other areas of visual arts classes at the high school.

Physical Education 8

1 or 2 semesters – Elective

This class may be selected for one or two semesters. The co-educational class will provide students with fun and innovative developmentally appropriate activities. The course focuses on advanced skills following the 7th grade curriculum. It will enhance their physical, personal/social, and knowledge base skills by focusing on instilling a positive attitude conducive to physical activities across their lifespan.

Choir 8

1 full year - Elective

This course is open to all 8th graders. This course is a continuation of 7th Grade Choir, with additional opportunities for extra choir related events. While learning a variety of music, this class emphasizes: choral tone, teamwork, music reading skills, music theory, and a more advanced understanding of musical concepts. This choir performs at four choir concerts, as well as Choral Festivals. Additional opportunities such as Solo & Ensemble, Vocal Workshops, and Choir Invitational are available to choir members. A trip to Chicago in alternating years provides added performance, cultural, and social opportunities. *Students joining choir in 8th Grade, who have not been in choir before, please see Mrs. Conrad before signing up.*

Band 8

1 full year – Elective

This full year course is a continuation of Band 7. The group continues to work on the fundamentals of playing with an emphasis on preparing them for high school band. This group performs at a fall football game, three concerts during the year, District Band and Orchestra Festival, and the Blossomtime Parade. These students will march in the Memorial Day Parade every other year. Band 8 also offers a special opportunity to participate in two District Solo & Ensemble festivals. Students in this group may choose to participate in an overnight trip every other year. 8th grade band students have the opportunity to audition for the Michigan All State Band and may be nominated for several honor bands.

Jazz Studies

1 full year – Offered during Extended Advisory (***Teacher signature required.***)

This class is open to 8th grade Band students and is based upon teacher recommendation and instrumentation needs. The LMS Jazz Band performs at school and community functions throughout the year. This group also performs at the District Jazz Festival.

2 options for 8th Grade World Languages

French I and Spanish I are offered as full year electives to 8th graders and fulfill the first year of the Michigan Merit Curriculum Graduation Requirements. In order for students to complete the MMC, students will either need to continue with a second year of that same language or request a Personal Curriculum. Students going to a 4-year college need to have two to four years of the same language for college entrance.

French I

1 full year – Elective (Fulfills MMC 1st year language requirement)

French 1 will introduce students to the French language using four basic communication skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will be provided with instruction that teaches basic understanding of the French-speaking world's culture, vocabulary, and grammatical concepts. The key to successful language learning is spending about 20 minutes every day practicing and exploring the language. ***Upon successful completion of this course, students will have fulfilled the French I course required for graduation at Lakeshore High School. Students may be required to retake it in high school if skills are not attained.***

Spanish I

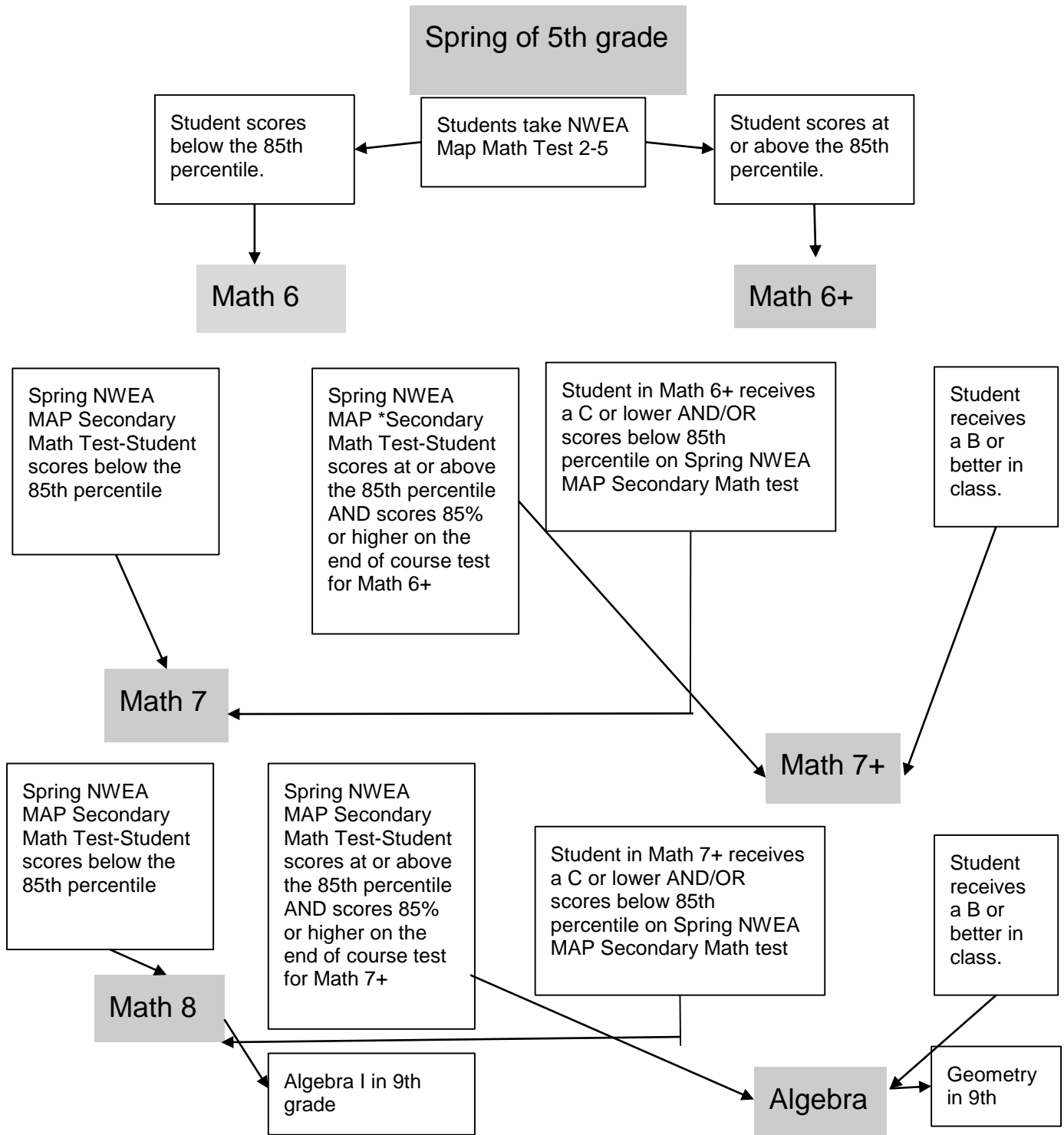
1 full year – Elective (Fulfills MMC 1st year language requirement)

Spanish 1 will introduce students to the Spanish language using the four basic communication skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will be provided with instruction that teaches a basic understanding of Hispanic culture, vocabulary, and grammatical concepts. The key to successful language learning is spending about 20 minutes every day practicing and exploring the language. ***Upon successful completion of this course, students will have fulfilled the Spanish I course required for graduation at Lakeshore High School. Students may be required to retake it in high school if skills are not attained.***

The Positivity Project

All students will be engaged in The Positivity Project to address the five core competencies of social emotional learning: self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision making, relationship skills, and social awareness. Students take the Values in Action (VIA) survey to determine their top 5 positive character strengths that have been determined by decades of research on the topic of positive psychology. Then during the year character strengths are discussed weekly in their "P2" class along with information regarding the other people matter mindset, a phrase coined by the late Dr. Chris Peterson of the University of Michigan.

Lakeshore Middle School Math Progression



*NWEA Secondary Math Test is also known as Math 6+ Test