



*Grounded in Tradition-Committed to
Excellence*

Lakeshore Middle School Grades 6-8

1459 W. John Beers Road

Principal: Susan Toothman

Assistant Principal: Allison Arend

Counselor: Mindy Weaver

This program of studies contains information about the 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. Students will explore the engineering process through implementation of Project Lead the Way.

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.

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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.)

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 "SSR/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.

ELECTIVES

World Cultures and Language Adventures

One semester - Elective

This class will explore the sights and sounds of several different cultures and languages from around the world. Students will be required to actively participate in this multilingual, multicultural class, delving into the geography, languages and traditions of places on nearly every continent. Students will be expected to have an open mind and will be expected to memorize beginning language vocabulary in several languages. Bon voyage!



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Physical Education 6

1 full year or 1 semester – 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.

Art 6

One semester- Elective

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.

Creative Concepts 6

One semester- Elective

Creative Concepts is a semester long elective, taught by a Science and Social Studies teacher from your grade level. Students can expect to be graded on daily positive participation in activities or projects. The course has flexible topics, depending on teacher expertise and student interests. Topics may include: Science Enrichment: science challenges, gardening, and environmental improvement, Social Studies Enrichment: current events, world foods, public speaking, Guest Speakers: Community Organizations and career explorations

Strategy Games: Euchre, Scrabble, or logic puzzles, Technology: Explore video making software, google slides, typing club, Community Service: Projects around LMS or with Community Partners, Life skills: write a letter, sew a button, organization, finances, and sign your name, Physical Activity: outdoor and indoor activities to raise the heart rate and physical wellness, and Seasonal: explore holidays, make gifts, help with projects and initiatives around school



Design Thinking 6

One semester- Elective

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.

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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.

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. Additional opportunities include Solo and Ensemble. No audition, prerequisite, or fee is needed 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 in one large ensemble. The second semester the groups continue to receive sectional and large group instruction. They will perform in the spring concert in May in these groups. Sixth-grade students have the opportunity for instrumental solo and 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 fifth-grade band. (exception: Covid did not allow for 2020 – 2021 5th grade band so all students are welcomed in the 2021 - 2022 school year).

Contact information: Joel Hosey – jhosey@lpslancer.net / 269-428-1402 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

Seventh-grade science is mainly focused on life science. The focus will be on cells and the human body. Earth Science and Physical Science topics will be a small portion of the year. Students will explore the engineering process through implementation of Project Lead the Way (PLTW).

World History and Geography 7

1 full year - Required

The seventh grade social studies curriculum focuses on early world history and geography, from the beginning of human history until around 1500 CE. We start with a mini-unit on how we study the distant past and organize time and events. Then we explore major changes in each era throughout time. Students learn about the earliest humans and explore early migration and settlement patterns. We examine how the start of farming completely changed ways of life and set the stage for the development of civilizations like Mesopotamia and Egypt. Students also examine the development of belief systems in their historical context. Then we look at the rise and fall of empires like Greece and Rome. 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.

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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. Pre-requisites: 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.*

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 “SSR/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.

ELECTIVES

Spanish 1

1 full year – Elective

Please note: This is a two year commitment, by signing up you are committing to Spanish 2 in 8th grade as well) (Fulfills MMC 1st year language requirement)

Spanish 1 will introduce students to the Spanish language and a basic understanding of its many cultures, vocabulary, and to grammar concepts through comprehensible input and storytelling. Successful language learning involves active class participation (Speaking, listening, reading and writing) and an additional amount of time spent outside of class daily reviewing the total structures and stories from class. Upon successful completion of this course, students will have fulfilled the Spanish I course required for graduation at Lakeshore High School. ****prerequisite = B+ in Language Arts or better and a short essay application to show commitment to the class, submitted by May 28. “Why is it important to you to take a language?” Please pick up an application in the Office.***

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Physical Education 7

1 full year or One semester – 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.

Creative Concepts 7

One semester - Elective

Creative Concepts 7 is a semester long elective, taught by a Science and Social Studies teacher from your grade level. Students can expect to be graded on daily positive participation in activities or projects. The course has flexible topics, depending on teacher expertise and student interests. Topics may include: Science Enrichment: nature hike, gardening, forensics, science challenges, career exploration- Social Studies Enrichment: current events, debate, world foods, genealogy, public speaking- Guest Speakers: Health Department or Community Organizations- Strategy Games: Chess, Euchre, Scrabble, or logic puzzles- Technology: Explore video making, website design, create portfolio or yearbook spread- Community Service: Projects around LMS or with Community Partners- Genius Hour: Research and Present a Passion Project, pitch inventions like Shark Tank- What Your Grandma Wishes You Knew: write a letter, sew a button and sign your name- Physical Activity: Yoga, self defense basics, mental health and stress relieving strategies- Life Skills: First Aid course, Babysitting course, basic cooking, or Cyber Safety- Seasonal: explore holidays, make gifts, help with projects and initiatives around school



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 choir concerts as well as Choral Festivals. Additional opportunities such as Solo & Ensemble, Honors Choir, Music Theatre Solo Festival, 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 must have 6 grade band experience. 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, and the District Band and Orchestra Festival. Band 7 offers a special opportunity to participate in two District Solo and Ensembles 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.

Art 7

One 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.

Design Thinking II

One semester- Elective

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.

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, Newton's Laws, forces, astronomy, and the dynamic earth. Students will explore the engineering process through implementation of Project Lead the Way (PLTW).

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 - Required*

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

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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.***

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 “SSR/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.

ELECTIVES

Spanish 1

1 full year - Elective

****prerequisite = B+ in Language Arts or better***

Spanish 1 will introduce students to the Spanish language and a basic understanding of its many cultures, vocabulary, and to grammar concepts through comprehensible input and storytelling. Successful language learning involves active class participation (Speaking, listening, reading and writing) and an additional amount of time spent outside of class daily reviewing the total structures and stories from class. Upon successful completion of this course, students will have fulfilled the Spanish I course required for graduation at Lakeshore High School.

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.

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Creative Concepts 8

1 Semester- Elective

The elective is a semester-long course, consisting of two consecutive 9-week classes taught by a Science and Social Studies teacher from grade 8. The course has flexible topics, depending on teacher expertise and student interests. Classes may include science enrichment, project-based learning, current events, philosophy, communications, yoga and mindfulness, technology skills, community service projects, life skills, and seasonal activities.



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

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.

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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 choir concerts, as well as Choral Festivals. Additional opportunities such as Solo & Ensemble, Honors Choir, Musical Theatre Solo Festival, 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, are asked to please see Mrs. Conrad before signing up.*

Band 8

1 full year – Elective

This is a continuation of Band 7 and must have 6th and 7th grade band experience. The group continues to work on the fundamentals of playing with an emphasis on preparing for high school band. This group performs at a Varsity Football Game, three concerts during the year, and the District Band and Orchestra Festival. Band 8 offers a special opportunity to participate in two District Solo and Ensembles festivals. Students in this group may choose to participate in an overnight trip to Mackinac Island alternate years. 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 * This does not count as an elective. It is an additional opportunity.

1 Full Year – Offered during Lancer Time (**Teacher signature required**).

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

Spanish 2 *This course will be offered the 2022-2023 school year

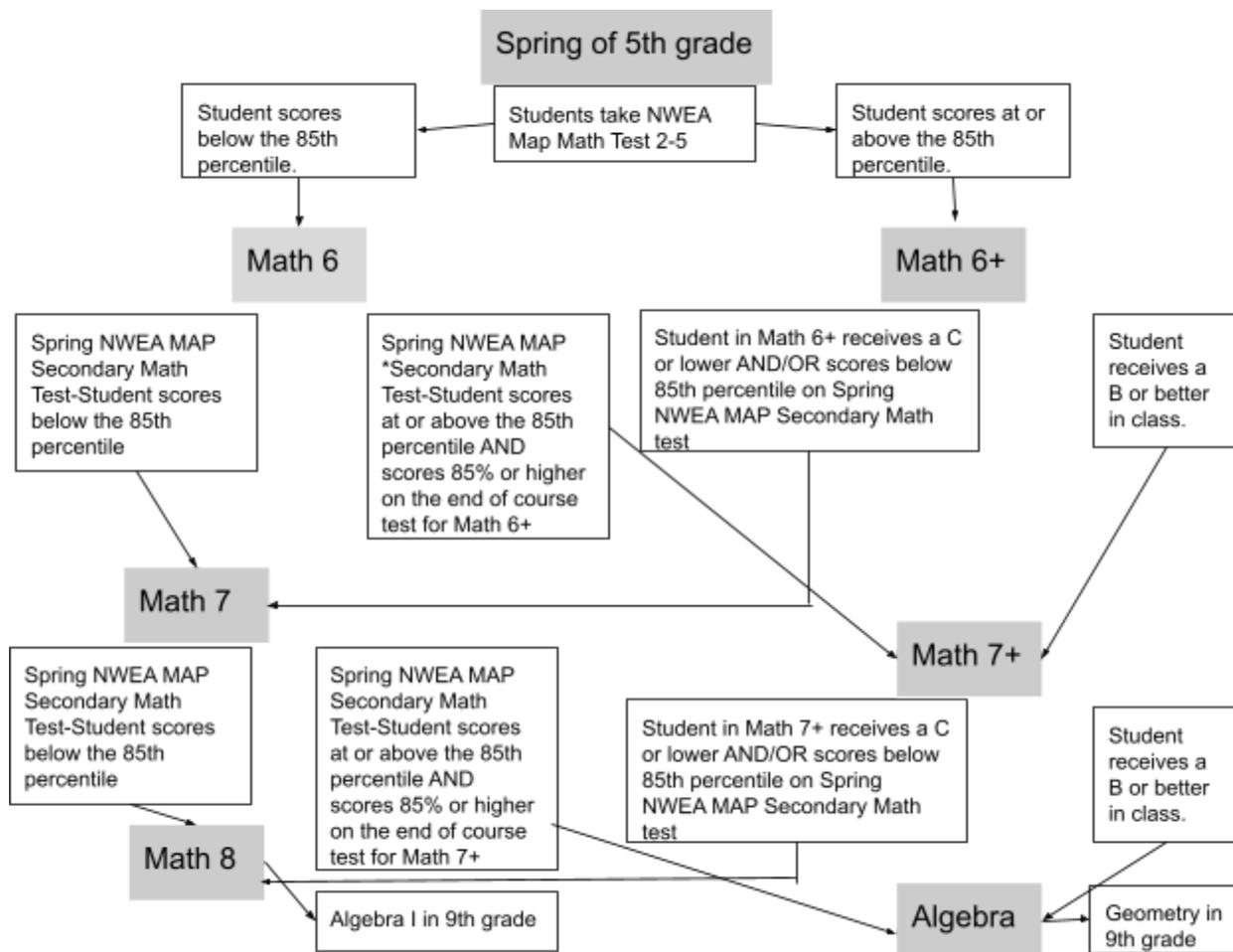
1 full year - Elective **Prerequisite = successful completion of 7th grade Spanish 1 at LMS or equivalent from a previous school and a B+ or better in Language Arts.**

Spanish 2 will be a continuation of Spanish 1, delving deeper into the Spanish language and its many cultures, vocabulary, and more complex grammar concepts through comprehensible input and storytelling. Successful language learning involves active class participation (Speaking, listening, reading and writing) and an additional amount of time spent outside of class daily reviewing the total structures and stories from class.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have fulfilled the equivalent of the Spanish 2 course at Lakeshore High School and with successful completion (C or better) students will continue on to Spanish 3 at LHS.

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Lakeshore Middle School Math Progression



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