



Background: Pleasantdale SD 107 seeks to provide students with a well rounded educational experience that allows for exploration and discovery. This experience goes well beyond classes that would be considered core classes (math, science, social studies, and ELA). The Board of Education has set the expectation that in addition to the required coursework our schools will offer *in kindergarten through grade 8, language arts, reading, other communication skills, science, mathematics, social studies, art, music, and drug and substance abuse prevention.* (Board Policy 6:60) At the middle school we have several course offerings that enhance the student experience. These courses include art, general music, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), World Language (Spanish), Health, and Physical Education. Course content and grade level offerings vary as you can see in the table below.

Table 1: Middle School Specials Outcomes

Course	5th Grade	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Art	Students will create with various media using self-generated solutions and unique applications.		Students will combine components of various media to create a big idea or project.	
Music	Students will perform basic rhythms and melodies on classroom instruments. They will classify and compose music, distinguish instrument families, and apply key terms in musical theater.	Students will perform basic melodies and harmonies on the recorder, perform syncopated rhythms, and outline the characteristics of Baroque music.	Students will create a project that integrates and applies the importance of Jazz in terms of American music and history and will perform simple melodies and chords on the guitar and the harmonica.	
STEM	Students will complete a personal project using basic technology skills.	Students will apply the design process in solving engineering based problems.		Students will learn about automation and robotics and apply basic coding skills.
Health		Students will distinguish between various components of physical, mental, and social health.	Students will analyze factors in their daily lives to determine how these factors influence	Students will analyze the relationship of responsible decision-making to wellness.



			wellness.	
PE	Schools will support and promote an active lifestyle for students. Physical education will include a developmentally planned and sequential curriculum that fosters the development of movement skills, enhances health related fitness, offers direct opportunities to learn how to work cooperatively in a group setting, and encourages healthy habits and attitudes for a healthy lifestyle.			
WL (Spanish)	Students will use vocabulary and grammar from units of study to read, write and converse in sentences and short paragraphs on topics studied.	Students will use previously learned vocabulary and structures and vocabulary and structures from new units of study to read and write short paragraphs in Spanish and to ask and answer questions in Spanish orally and in writing.	Students will use new grammar and vocabulary to understand spoken and written Spanish and to communicate about their daily lives orally and in writing.	Students will use vocabulary and grammar from units of study to write and read multiple paragraphs in Spanish, understand classroom conversations in Spanish, and speak spontaneously in Spanish.

Evolution of World Language: At the May 15, 2019 Board of Education meeting Assistant Superintendent, Jennifer Ban provided the Board with an update on the evolution of our world language program and the direction of the curriculum review. At that time Dr. Ban discussed the philosophy of our program. The philosophy of the program states:

The District 107 World Language program prepares students to become linguistically competent in another language. This foundation enables the 21st century learner to understand, interact with, and appreciate other cultures in our global community. We believe that:

- *Language proficiency is a skill that must be developed over time and is best begun at an early age.*
- *The critical components of communication are reading, writing, speaking, and listening.*
- *Knowing multiple languages is the global standard, not the exception.*
- *Speaking multiple languages is essential to today's learner.*
- *Students make connections to their own language(s) through studying another language.*
- *Second language acquisition develops critical thinking skills.*
- *Authentic practice in the classroom leads to language use beyond the classroom into the community.*

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As part of the World Language curriculum review process that will continue next year, the district looks to implement additional language offerings for students. As a small district we look to be fiscally responsible when implementing additional language offerings. As such, the district is giving special consideration to programs that allow students to learn a language in an environment that blends online and traditional learning methods. This approach allows the district to offer high quality programs without meaningfully increasing staffing levels. The focus for the district when considering additional world language offerings is:

- Offer additional languages to provide students more choice.
- Avoid an increase in staff.
- Utilize one-to-one technology capabilities.

An Opportunity for Alternative Experiences: As we look to implement additional World Language offerings into our program we also have an opportunity to offer alternatives to World Language. While the district fully supports students engaging in a World Language study, we also realize that not all students have the background or the desire for such a study. Therefore as the district considers additional World Languages we will also consider alternatives to students taking a World Language class. These alternative courses may include American Sign Language, technology (coding), executive functioning support, or other courses that will support students' growth and development. In order to continue to be fiscally responsible we will use the same focus as stated above:

- Offer additional opportunities (alternatives to World Language) to provide students more choice.
- Avoid an increase in staff.
- Utilize one-to-one technology capabilities.

By investigating additional World Languages and alternatives to World Language we provide students with varied experiences at school and get closer to achieving our mission *to create a community of inspired learners.*