



Durand Middle School Course Catalog 2026-2027

All courses in this catalog have been approved by the Durand Area Schools Board of Education.

Mathematics

Self-Contained 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Mathematics

These courses are designed for the individual student based on their Individual Education Plan. In Math, we will be strengthening the student's math skills by having a better understanding of numbers. The foundation to all math is Multiplication and Division. Goals include each student knowing their multiplication facts, multiplying numbers, fraction operations, and understanding place value. Often, students from multiple grade levels will be in the same class based on ability level.

6th Grade Math Power Hour

This nine week course is a supplemental math course designed to help students fill in any gaps in understanding and/or to help them move beyond the classroom instruction. It uses the program ExactPath which allows students to work at their own pace and ability level.

7th Grade Math Power Hour

This nine week course is a supplemental math course designed to help students fill in any gaps in understanding and/or to help them move beyond the classroom instruction. It uses the program ExactPath which allows students to work at their own pace and ability level.

8th Grade Math Power Hour

This nine week course is a supplemental math course designed to help students fill in any gaps in understanding and/or to help them move beyond the classroom instruction. It uses the program ExactPath which allows students to work at their own pace and ability level.

6th Grade Mathematics

This course does a short review of the objectives learned in 5th grade and prepares students for more abstract thinking in order to prepare the student for algebra. This course also sets the foundation for geometric understanding. Students are taught the 6th grade Common Core Standards adopted by the State of Michigan.

7th Grade Mathematics

In Math 7, instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples. Students are taught the 7th grade Common Core Standards adopted by the State of Michigan.

Honors 7th Grade Mathematics

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

Students in Honors Mathematics 7 should have a proven record of success in previous Mathematics courses and also meet the criteria set forth by the administration. Honors 7th grade mathematics focuses on the same concepts as 7th grade mathematics, but will move at a faster pace. This allows for time to delve deeper into some of the concepts taught. In Math 7, instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples. Students are taught the 7th grade Common Core Standards adopted by the State of Michigan.

Pre-Algebra

In Math 8, instructional time will focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. Students are taught the 6th grade Common Core Standards adopted by the State of Michigan.

Honors Pre-Algebra

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

Students in this Honors Pre-Algebra course should have a proven record of success in previous Mathematics courses and also meet the criteria set forth by the administration. Honors Pre-Algebra focuses on the same concepts as Pre-Algebra, but will move at a faster pace. This allows for time to delve deeper into some of the Algebraic concepts. Students are taught the 6th grade Common Core Standards adopted by the State of Michigan.

Mathematics Exploration

Students in any grade 6-8 may be recommended for this self-contained, special education class based upon their IEP needs. Students will complete grade level curriculum, accommodated as needed to meet their needs.

Science

6th Grade Science

Using the Michigan K-12 NGSS science standards, sixth grade science introduces concepts in physical, earth, and biological sciences. Students learn about the scientific method and related measurements, transformation of energy, the Earth's systems, introduction of matter, the Earth's weather, rocks and minerals, and living things. The course is enriched by the use of videos, interactive activities, demonstrations, and laboratory experiences.

7th Grade Science

Using the Michigan NGSS K-12 science standards, seventh grade science introduces concepts in physical, earth, and biological sciences. Students learn about the human body and its systems, the function of cells, growth, ecosystems, natural resources, environmental impacts, electricity, magnetism, energy resources, waves, and electromagnetic energy. The course is enriched by the use of videos, interactive activities, demonstrations, and laboratory experiences.

8th Grade Science

The 8th grade year continues with developing basic scientific skills. Students will also be introduced to the periodic table and the structure of the atom. Basic chemical reactions will be covered focusing on what properties of atoms are causes for certain reactions. Force and motion will be studied by looking at Newton's three laws of motion. Other topics are simple machines, electricity, and magnetism. This class will also work

on student developed lab procedures as well as increasing higher level thinking and questioning skills. Topics covered will be aligned with the NGSS and NSTA proven lessons.

Science Exploration

Students in any grade 6-8 may be recommended for this resource room, special education class based upon their IEP needs. Students will complete grade level curriculum, accommodate as needed to meet their needs.

English Language Arts

Self-Contained 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade ELA

These courses are designed for the individual student as indicated by their Individualized Education Plan. Grade level Common Core state standards are addressed for ELA at the pace and level appropriate for students in the course. Often, students from multiple grade levels will be in the same class based on ability level.

6th Grade ELA Power Hour

This nine week course uses various intervention materials and follows the Common Core State Standards. Students will be challenged to expand their knowledge and understanding of reading and language skills at various levels. This course is designed to enable students the opportunity to gain skills needed to be proficient in reading and language areas.

7th Grade ELA Power Hour

This nine week course uses various intervention materials and follows the Common Core State Standards. Students will be challenged to expand their knowledge and understanding of reading and language skills at various levels. This course is designed to enable students the opportunity to gain skills needed to be proficient in reading and language areas.

8th Grade ELA Power Hour

This nine week course uses various intervention materials and follows the Common Core State Standards. Students will be challenged to expand their knowledge and understanding of reading and language skills at various levels. This course is designed to enable students the opportunity to gain skills needed to be proficient in reading and language areas.

6th Grade ELA

This 6th grade English Language Arts class uses the Reading Street curriculum and follows the Common Core State Standards. Students will focus on comprehension skills and strategies, building a strong vocabulary, expanding on grammar and conventions skills, strengthening personal writing ability and stamina, and analyzing words and word parts. This course offers many added features including interactive videos and activities to guide student learning.

7th Grade ELA

This 7th grade English Language Arts class uses the My Perspectives curriculum and follows the Common Core State Standards. Students will focus on comprehension skills and strategies, continue building a strong vocabulary, expanding their convention skills, and strengthening their personal writing ability and stamina. They will be focusing on units of study that incorporate mentor texts of different genres that will allow students to analyze text, cite evidence, respond critically about what they are learning, and apply that learning to their own lives.

8th Grade ELA

This 8th Grade English Language Arts course uses Genre Units and follows the Common Core State Standards. This course will challenge students to expand their knowledge and understanding of genre units by closely reading and analyzing a variety of novels, articles, and mentor texts. Students will build on their grammar, usage, and mechanical skills, as well as expand on their vocabulary. There will also be work that enables students to gain skills needed to be proficient writers.

8th Grade Honors ELA

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

Students in this Honors 8th Grade English Language Arts course should have a proven record of success in previous English Language Arts courses and also meet the criteria set forth by the administration. This course will challenge students to expand their knowledge and understanding of genre units by closely reading and analyzing a variety of novels, articles, and mentor texts. Students will build on their grammar, usage, and mechanical skills, as well as expand on their vocabulary. There will also be work that enables students to gain skills needed to be proficient writers. In addition, this course supports PSAT preparation. Honors English students should expect additional independent work and more elaborate assignment expectations compared to regular 8th Grade English Language Arts.

Social Studies/History

6th Grade Social Studies

This course covers the types of governments, forms of economics, the history, and the geography of the countries of the world. The students learn to use geographical tools like maps, graphs, charts, and globes to analyze geographical information. The students read about and or watch the news to stay informed on current world events. This course covers the Michigan content standards of Geography G1 The World in Spatial Terms: Geographical Habits of Mind , G2 Places and Regions, G3 Physical Systems, G4 Human Systems, G5 Environment and Society, G6 Global Issues, Civics and Government, C1 Purposes of Government, C3 Structure and Functions of Government, C4 Relationship of United States to Other Nations and World Affairs, Economics, E1 The Market Economy, E2 The National Economy, E3 The International Economy, Public Discourse, Decision Making, and Civil Participation.

7th Grade History

Students will review the tools and ideas used by historians and geographers. They will develop an understanding of World History, Eras 1-4. Geography, Civics/Government and Economics content is also incorporated throughout the year. Students will also conduct investigations about past and present global issues. Using their content knowledge, research and investigative skills, they will propose a plan for the future. Throughout the year students will compose civic and persuasive essays using reasoned arguments.

8th Grade History

This course covers American history from the first American crossing the land bridge from Asia, the exploration of the New World by Europeans, and the founding of the American Colonies. Next, it focuses on the American Revolution and the founding of our government. Then the class moves to the Westward Expansion of America. The course culminates with the American Civil War and the Reconstruction of American society after the Civil War. The students use tools like maps, graphs, charts, and timelines to interrupt historical information. The students read about and or watch the news to stay informed on current world events. This course covers the Michigan Content Standards of Integrated US History, Organized by ERA (USHG), F1 Political and Intellectual Transformations, USHG ERA 3 – Revolution and the New Nation (1754-1800s), 3.3 Creating New Government(s) and a New Constitution, USHG ERA 4 – Expansion and Reform (1792-1861), 4.1 Challenges to an Emerging Nation, 4.2 Regional and Economic Growth, 4.3 Reform Movements, USHG ERA 5 – Civil War and Reconstruction (1850-1877), 5.1 The Coming of Civil War, 5.2 Civil War, 5.3

Reconstruction, USHG ERA 6 – The Development of an Industrialized Nation, Urban and Global United States (1870-1898) , 6.1 America in the last half of the 19th Century, and 6.2 Policy Issues in USHG Eras 3-6 (P2).

Exploratory Offerings

*Grade levels are often combined in electives to give students more choice. There may be students of another grade enrolled in an elective class. There are also split grade level elective classes. When this occurs, content for both grade levels will be addressed.

6th Grade Physical Education

This course focuses on skill development as well as rules and regulations of competitions and contests. This course will promote physical fitness, cleanliness, sportsmanship, as well as healthy habits. This course will teach basic sport skills and introductory competitive elements once basic skill mastery is achieved. Any mixed physical education class will combine elements of both grade level classes.

7th Grade Physical Education

This course focuses on skill development as well as rules and regulations of competitions and contests. This course will promote physical fitness, cleanliness, sportsmanship, as well as healthy habits. This course will teach basic and intermediate sport skills and feature intermediate competitive elements once intermediate skill mastery is achieved. Any mixed physical education class will combine elements of both grade level classes.

8th Grade Physical Education

This course focuses on skill development as well as rules and regulations of competitions and contests. This course will promote physical fitness, cleanliness, sportsmanship, as well as healthy habits. This course will teach advanced sport skills and feature competitive elements once advanced skill mastery is achieved. Any mixed physical education class will combine elements of both grade level classes.

Quest

During this nine week course, students will be working on multiple projects throughout the marking period. The projects will be student driven.. Students will choose their topic and conduct the necessary research to complete their desired goal. Students will also

be presenting their findings to the class. In addition to individual projects, students will be working on various community projects during the second half of the marking period. Students will be taught leadership skills.

Band 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade

6th grade band will see students continue their musical education as they strengthen the foundations laid in their first year of instrumental music. This is a yearlong ensemble and performance driven course. We will expand the range of our knowledge of our instruments and the music we read and play. All aspects of music- prepared performance, sight-reading, rhythms and notes, alternate fingerings and intonation will be covered. We will also study the context of the music we play, in terms of history and meaning. Students will also develop their ability to work alone and with others in small and large groups, especially performing alone in front of others. Students can expect to participate in at least two public performances per school year. This course follows the NAFME standards for music education. For both in person and online students, we will also be focusing on many other standards, including composition, history and theory.

7th and 8th grade bands will see students grow even stronger on their instrument and increase their knowledge base. They will also have their first opportunity to compete for ratings at band festival in the spring, and solo and ensemble in the fall. All aspects of music- prepared performance, sight-reading, rhythms and notes, alternate fingerings and intonation will be covered. We will also study the context of the music we play, in terms of history and meaning. Students will also develop their ability to work alone and with others in small and large groups, especially performing alone in front of others. Students can expect to participate in at least three public performances per school year. This course follows the NAFME standards for music education. For both in person and online students, we will also be focusing on many other standards, including composition, history and theory.

Chorus 6th and 7th Grade

This is an ensemble driven course based on musical repertoire from a variety of time periods and genres. Instruction will build on the general music curriculum taught in 5th grade and will include a well-rounded sampling of musical topics, such as music theory, aural skills and sight singing, and music history. This course is offered as a quarterly rotating course, but students may elect to participate for a full year. Public performances have historically been presented 4 times a year. Students will be required to purchase or fundraise for performance attire for performances. Other required materials include a three-ring binder and pencil. This course follows the NAFME standards for music education.

Chorus 8th Grade

This is an ensemble driven course based on musical repertoire from a variety of time periods and genres with a greater emphasis on choral performance and musicianship. Instruction will build on the topics taught in 6th/7th grade chorus and will include a well-rounded sampling of music theory, aural skills and sight singing, and music history. In addition, students participating in this course will have the opportunity to perform at District 3 Choral Festival in the 3rd marking period. This course is offered as a quarterly rotating course, but students may elect to participate for a full year. Public performances have historically been presented 4 times a year. Students will be required to purchase or fundraise for performance attire for performances. Other required materials include a three-ring binder and pencil. This course follows the NAFME standards for music education.

Honor's Chorus

This is a year-long ensemble driven course based on musical repertoire from a variety of time periods and genres with a greater emphasis on choral performance and musicianship. Instruction will build on the topics taught in 6th/7th grade chorus and will include a well-rounded sampling of music theory, aural skills and sight singing, and music history. In addition, students participating in this course will have the opportunity to perform at District 3 Choral Festival in the 3rd marking period. Public performances have historically been presented 4 times a year. Students will be required to purchase or fundraise for performance attire for performances. Other required materials include a three-ring binder and pencil. This course follows the NAFME standards for music education.

Introduction to Ukulele

This course provides a marking period long, general music experience that is accessible, developmentally appropriate, and aligns with existing district instruments and curriculum materials that we already have on site. Ukulele is a research-supported entry point into harmonic instruments: the typical 4-string soprano uke has a limited number of accessible chord shapes that make success rapid, visible, and hearable for students — leading to high musical self-efficacy early in the course.

Exploration of American Sign Language

This course introduces the basics of American Sign Language (ASL). This course is designed for students with no or minimal sign language skills to develop basic skills in use of ASL and knowledge of Deaf culture. Emphasis is upon acquisition of comprehension, production and interactional skills using basic grammatical features.

ASL will be taught within contexts and related to general surroundings and everyday life experiences.

7th Grade Woodtech

7th Grade students will have the opportunity to begin working with common woodworking hand tools, power tools and machinery to advance their skills. The course focuses on how to safely and successfully use the common woodworking equipment like band saw, disc sander, scroll saw, and power sanders, etc. Then students begin to read their project plans and prepare to build an introductory project.

8th Grade Woodtech

8th Grade students will have the opportunity to begin working with common woodworking machinery, hand tools, and power tools to further advance their skills. The course focuses on how to safely and successfully use the bandsaw, disc sander, power sanders, table saw, compound miter saw, etc. Then students begin to read their project plans and prepare to build an introductory project, with a couple of choices.

Yearbook

Yearbook is a quarterly rotating course that students can opt to take again if they would like and with instructor approval. During the course of the school year, students will learn many workplace and other helpful skills. They will be required to work together to complete tasks and assignments, meet deadlines and set specific goals and self-reflect. They will also have to work on cooperative goal setting, cooperative research and writing, journalistic writing and research, managing several tasks, organization and layout planning. They will also be taking photos and using editing software to rearrange or enhance them. This will be both an independent and cooperative classroom, with teacher guidance, but students will also need to be self-motivated and able to work under some pressure occasionally. I will be using the Journalistic Learning common core standards to address needs and instruct them, as well as standard practices in the field of journalism, article writing and photography. Students use a chromebook everyday.

Art

In this course students will work with a variety of mediums. Each project will be assessed using a grading rubric. The components of the rubric include: attitude and effort; creativity; following directions; craftsmanship and neatness; and daily preparedness, clean-up, and work habits.

Handicrafts

In this 9 week course, students will work with a variety of materials to produce practical and/or decorative items by hand. These are life long skills that the students will explore such as textile and fiber crafts, paper crafting, jewelry making, and crafting with found objects.

Animals 101

Animals are all around us; in fact, scientists estimate there are between 1 to 8 million species of animals. Each type of animal has an important role in the environment. As a class, students will explore various animals' eating habits, behaviors, and structures that help them survive in their environment. Through group discussions, explorations, and observations, students will be able to describe various fascinating characteristics of an animal that they choose to research.

Credit Recovery/Study Skills

Students who fail a core course (mathematics, ELA, social studies, or science) during any marking period will be required to take credit recovery during the next marking period. Students will work with a teacher to learn the content they missed in the core class that they failed. Teachers use a balance of online learning platforms and small group instruction during this nine week course. Students who have not mastered their grade level content standards may be assigned this course to help them achieve success through tutoring and online learning platforms.

ZAP

Students with missing work from any class will attend this class to get caught up on their work.

Photography

This elective course will focus on the art of photography including composition and the principles of design. Students will learn the art of digital editing to enhance the purpose of the photo. They will also learn how to take photos that convey the art principle being studied such as line, negative space, and contrast.

The Science of Gaming

This elective course will allow students to explore the engineering and computer science basis of digital gaming. Students will learn the basics of coding and use their knowledge to create games of their own. Students will also use other practical applications of coding.

STEM

This elective course will allow students to science, technology, engineering, and math using fun, hands-on methods. Students are able to utilize the county-wide shared maker space materials including robots, virtual reality, and other hands-on resources. Students learn to code, model, and 3D print among other STEM challenges and activities.

Advanced STEM

This course is offered to students who are needing more challenges in the STEM areas and have consistently demonstrated proficiency in mathematics and reading. These students do not qualify for participation in Power Hour and require more tailored, challenging activities and topics.