**Lincoln Memorial Middle School**

**Course Description Guide**

**2025-2026**

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##### OVERVIEW

It is important for students to be enrolled in courses that will challenge them, but also allow for academic success. That balance is achieved by considering FAST scores, report card grades, work ethic, course pre-requisites and teacher recommendations.

Textbooks are purchased, the Master Schedule is created, and teachers are hired based on student registration in classes. Schedule changes are NOT made after the school year begins, unless there has been a clerical error, or a student has been misplaced. Students and parents need to carefully select classes based on course descriptions, teacher recommendation and counselor advice.

We make every effort to honor students’ elective choices, but Class Size Amendment which limits the number of students in core courses does have an effect on our master schedule This may mean that it is not possible to balance classes and give all students their first or second choice of electives. Students with below proficiency FAST scores will be in remediation classes instead of electives.

Teacher recommendations for the level of classes are important because the teacher observes the student’s work ethic, organizational skills, and maturity. Advanced and honors classes require extra time and commitment on the part of the student.

##### ADVANCED/HONORS CLASSES

**Advanced and honors courses** have several FAST and course pre-requisites and have an expectation of considerable homework, class participation, good behavior & attitude, required outside projects, and outside-of-class preparation.

**High school classes** have higher FAST pre-requisites, an expectation of nightly homework to include projects, and expectations of good behavior & attitude. ***Comprehensive semester exams comprise at least 30% of the semester report card grade. Students must pass a state End-of-Course Exam in math classes to receive credit for the class, regardless of grades.***

Dual enrollment classes establish the student’s high school Grade Point Average (GPA) and will appear on high school transcripts. Students and parents should discuss the number of dual enrollment classes a student can handle at one time because of the daily out-of-class-time required to prepare for these classes. Grades of an A or B in Dual Enrollment courses indicate success. A “C” average means the student would carry a 2.0 GPA on the high school transcript. Students earning a quarter grade of D or F will be removed from the class.

##### ELECTIVES:

**ART**

**M/J Two-Dimensional Studio Art 1 (0101010)**

Students explore media and techniques used to create a variety of 2-D artworks through developing skills with variety of art materials. Students practice sketching and Right brain techniques to improve art skills through visualizing. When creating art projects students explore the elements and principles of Design. Students explore different cultures and create projects incorporating culture or style they learned. This course incorporates hands-on activities and consumption of art materials.

**M/J Two-Dimensional Studio Art 2 (0101020)**

Students explore media and refine techniques used to create a variety of 2-D artworks through developing skills with variety of art materials including drawing, painting, and other media. Students practice sketching and Right brain techniques to improve art skills through visualizing. When creating art projects students explore the elements and principles of Design. Students explore different historic art styles and create projects incorporating components of what they learned. This course incorporates hands-on activities and consumption of art materials.

**M/J Two-Dimensional Studio Art 3 (0101026)**

Students use advanced level techniques used to create a variety of 2-D artworks through developing skills with variety of art materials including drawing, painting, and other media with increasing independence to promote creative risk-taking. Students practice sketching and Right brain techniques to improve art skills through visualizing. When creating art projects students explore the elements and principles of Design. Students explore different historic art styles and create projects incorporating components of what they learned. This course incorporates hands-on activities and consumption of art materials.

**AGRICULTURE**

**Introduction to Agriscience**

The purpose of this course is to educate students on the significance of Agriscience. Students will learn the importance of agriculture safety skills, how plants and animals play a key role in our society and begin to develop their leadership and communication skills. Those enrolled in this course will also be introduced to the National FFA Organization

**Exploration of Agriscience**

The purpose of this course is to explore a variety of agriscience topics including plant science, forestry, biotechnology, animal science, and natural resources. Student will also dive into the rich evolution of the agriculture industry and hone in on their communication and leadership skills as we go deeper into many FFA Career Development Events.

**Introduction to Ag, Food and Natural Resources**

##### The purpose of this course is to explore a variety of career pathways including plant systems, animal systems, natural resource systems, environmental systems, and agribusiness systems. Students also gain a variety of leadership and communication skills that they may apply to their future careers.

**BAND**

**Band 1 – Beginning Band (6th & 7th grade)**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the fundamentals of music. Students will have the opportunity to try out available band instruments (flute, trumpet, saxophone, tuba, etc.) before being placed on the instrument that fits them best. Students will learn to read musical notation, count simple and complex rhythm, and develop a good tone on their selected instrument. They will have 2 major concerts per year (Fall and Spring) that will showcase all that they have learned and accomplished. The goal of this course is to prepare students for the classical ensemble-style rehearsal and performance, which they will experience in Intermediate and Advanced Bands. Along the way, students will develop skills such as teamwork, leadership, responsibility, self-confidence, independence, critical thinking, and problem solving.

**Band 2 – Intermediate Band (7th & 8th grade)**

The purpose of this course is to refine the fundamentals of music and expand upon what was learned in Beginning Band. This class is for 7th and 8th grade students who were in band previously (at LMMS or a different school) for at least 1-2 year but still need to develop their fundamentals. Students will improve their ability to read musical notation, count simple and complex rhythms, and produce a good tone on their selected instrument. They will have the opportunity to explore more high-level music and get to work with other music educators from across the district, who occasionally come into class to help rehearse our music. This group will get experience playing in a traditional concert band setting, which will prepare them for future music opportunities in high school and college. They will have 2 major concerts per year (Fall and Spring) that will showcase all that they have learned and accomplished, and they will have the opportunity to participate in district-wide music competitions and events. Along the way, students will hone skills such as teamwork, leadership, responsibility, self-confidence, independence, critical thinking, and problem solving.

**Band 3 – Advanced Band (7th & 8th grade)**

The purpose of this course is to expand upon the fundamentals learned in Beginning Band and/or Intermediate Band and refine students’ playing skills. This class is for 7th and 8th grade students who have been in band previously (at LMMS or a different school) for at least 1-2 year. Students will improve their ability to read musical notation, count simple and complex rhythm, and produce a good tone on their instrument. They will have the opportunity to explore more high-level music and get to work with other music educators from across the district, who occasionally come into class to help rehearse our music. This group will get experience playing in a traditional concert band setting, which will prepare them for future music opportunities in high school and college. They will have 2 major concerts per year (Fall and Spring) that will showcase all that they have learned and accomplished, and they will have the opportunity to participate in district-wide music competitions and events. Along the way, students will hone skills such as teamwork, leadership, responsibility, self-confidence, independence, critical thinking, and problem solving.

**Instrumental Technique – Percussion/Drumline Class (7th & 8th grade)**

This is a limited-enrollment course that students must try out for in order to participate. The primary focus of this course is to teach students the basics of both concert band percussion and marching band percussion on a wide variety of instruments. This will also help prepare them for musical opportunities in high school and college, such as joining the marching band. Class time is split evenly between working on drumline music and classical music throughout the week. Our students will have the opportunity to play with the Intermediate and Advanced Bands at all concerts, and they will be able to participate in local community events and school fundraisers. Students will develop skills such as hand coordination, learning by ear, reading complex music and rhythms, leadership, teamwork, responsibility, and problem solving. Everyone is welcome to try out for our Trojan Thunder Drumline; a background in playing drums/percussion is not necessary.

**HEALTH SCIENCE**

**Introduction to Health Science and Career Pathways**

This course targets incoming 6th-grade students- topics covered include- the history of medicine, hand hygiene, the skeletal system, the muscle system, basic medical terminology, introduction to vital signs

**Orientation to Health Science and Career Pathways**

This course is for 7th grade- topics covered include- anatomy and physiology of major body systems, mental health, career pathways exploration, infection control and prevention, CPR and First aid

**Exploration of Health Science Professions**

This course is for 8th grade, topics covered include major healthcare advances, types of degrees for healthcare careers, health law, communication skills, medical math, structure and function of the human body, CPR and First Aid, vital signs and occupational safety

**Medical Skills and Services**

8th Grade Only- this course gives students a full high school elective credit. Topics covered include communication, medical math, CPR and First Aid, career exploration, infection control and prevention, whole body wellness, mental health, resume writing, and Robot-Assisted Medicine.

**JOURNALISM**

Journalism is open to seventh and eighth grade students. It is a multimedia elective course focusing on the production of the daily announcements as well as the production of the annual yearbook. Students will produce the morning news show using studio equipment. They may also complete special video projects throughout the year. Students will also be responsible for taking pictures, completing interviews, writing and editing stories, and designing pages for the yearbook.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**M/J Individual/Dual Sports GD8**

The purpose of this course is to develop the physical skills necessary to competent in many forms of movement, knowledge of offensive and defensive strategies and tactics, and appropriate social behaviors within both competitive and noncompetitive activity settings. The integration of fitness concepts throughout the content is critical to student success in this course and in the development of a healthy and physically active lifestyle. Students will be able to compete in individual/dual sports such as badminton, pickleball, basketball, Kan Jam etc. Students will learn the importance of sportsmanship and integrity. Students will be able to identify skills used in individual/dual sports that can be also utilized in their everyday lives.

**M/J Team Sports GD7**

The purpose of this course is to establish an understanding of a variety of team sports while promoting while promoting a healthy lifestyle through physical activity. Students will learn about origins of different sports around the world. Students will learn defensive and offensive strategies while competing in various games. Students will learn and demonstrate sportsmanship and integrity. Students will use this course to develop techniques utilized in fundamental skills for team sports. Students will discover the history of team sports such as, basketball, badminton, soccer, football, volleyball, handball, and how the sport has evolved over the years. Students will participate in tournament style modified games that will assist in critical thinking and problem-solving skill building.

**6th Grade Physical Fitness**

This course applies the principles, practices and the importance of lifelong fitness. Students will focus on rules, etiquette, and skill technique for a variety of sports and recreational activities. Fitness test will be completed to determine fitness goals with the goal of improving overall fitness and health. Students will be able to apply the connection between health and regular physical activity after completing this course.