

Potterville Middle School

Course Descriptions

2026-27



Potterville Middle School
425 E. Main Street
Potterville, MI 48876
Updated 8.14.26



2026-26 Middle School Course Description

WELCOME TO POTTERVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADES 5 - 8

Grade 5

For the majority of the school day, fifth grade students are in a self-contained classroom with one primary teacher for English Language Arts (ELA), another subject, and support. They will transition to different teachers for math, science, and social studies, depending on their primary teacher. Additionally, students will see elective teachers for physical education, music, and art. Students will be enrolled in the four core academic courses and the following:

Mathematics	English/Language Arts	Science
Social Studies	WIN (What I Need)	Elective

They will also have a WIN (What I Need) teacher. The WIN period provides time for academic interventions and opportunities for students to bond as a group through various activities focused on conflict resolution and social skills.

GRADE 5 ELECTIVES		
ART EDUCATION	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	GENERAL MUSIC
Students will explore various art processes and materials, including painting, drawing, pastels, printmaking, and mixed media, using their imagination and personal experiences to create original works.	This program focuses on developing physical skills in a sequential way that builds a foundation for high school. The goal is to enhance understanding and participation in a variety of physical activities.	Students will learn to perform, create, and analyze music through singing, listening, and understanding musical fundamentals. They will also learn about different instruments and use recorders in class.

Grade 6

Starting in grade 6, students have the opportunity to choose some of their elective classes. All grade 6 students will be enrolled in four core academic subjects: mathematics, English Language Arts, science, and social studies. They will also have a special class called WIN, which stands for "What I Need." The WIN period provides time for students to focus on academic support and work on improving their skills. It's also a time for students to build friendships, participate in fun activities, and learn conflict resolution skills while working together as a group.

Mathematics	English/Language Arts	Science
Social Studies	WIN (What I Need)	Elective

For electives, grade 6 students will have a 1-hour block of time to fill since all students will take Destination Innovation and Health. Students will decide between band or art and physical education. We do encourage students to try one year of band to see if they enjoy playing musical instruments and to learn to read music. Students will need to pay attention to the amount of time the course takes to choose their time blocks.



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Grade 6 Electives

Destination Innovation – Semester - mandatory

In this course you will learn about Industry 4.0 which is the name for the ongoing revolution in the automation of the industry, using smart technology. We will use a variety of tools for calculating data and measurements, learn about the basics of Engineering Design, Electrical Systems, Mechanical Systems, and 3D Printing, and finish the course with a Design Project. This course is a prerequisite for all other STEM/Robotics courses that will be offered in future years.

Health – 9 weeks - mandatory

This course is designed to promote student learning about health issues that affect their immediate and long-term health. Maintaining a healthy way of living requires a balance of physical, mental-emotional, and social well-being.

Art – Depending on if in band Students in middle school art will explore a variety of art processes and materials such as painting, drawing, pastels, printmaking, and mixed media. They will use their imagination and personal experiences to create original artwork.

Physical Education – Depending on if in band The Physical Education program in middle school provides for skill development in a sequential order, which will be carried over in the high school program. The emphasis of this program is to develop understanding and skills to be used through participation in all physical activities.

Band – full year

The daily objective of the course is to foster and promote music growth through the playing of an instrument by the student, at an appropriate level of difficulty. The band is a skilled effort in which each student is expected to show technical and musical growth throughout the course.

Grade 7

In grades 7 and 8, you will start to have more choices in what courses you can take as electives. Students will be signed up for the four core academic courses: mathematics, English Language Arts, science, and social studies along with a WIN (what I need) teacher. WIN consists of a time block to focus on academic interventions and the time to bond as a group while working on different activities and conflict resolution skills. Students will be assigned a WIN teacher.

For electives, grade 7 students will have 4 blocks of time to fill. Students are also required to take health and study skills. Students will need to pay attention to the amount of time the course takes to choose their time blocks.

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9 weeks = 1 block of time Semester = 2 blocks of time Year long = 4 blocks of time 6



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Grade 7 Electives and Choices

Study Skills - 9 weeks - mandatory - 1 block

This course is designed to help students learn how to take notes, organize information, and prepare for assessments in content area courses. Students will learn a variety of skills to prepare for how to be a good student.

Health – 9 weeks – mandatory - 1 block

This course is designed to promote student learning about health issues that affect their immediate and long-term health. Maintaining a healthy way of living requires a balance of physical, mental-emotional, and social well-being.

Art – 9 weeks - 1 block

Students in middle school art will explore a variety of art processes and materials such as painting, drawing, pastels, printmaking, and mixed media. They will use their imagination and personal experiences to create original artwork.

Physical Education – 9 weeks - 1 block

The Physical Education program in middle school provides for skill development in a sequential order, which will be carried over in the high school program. The emphasis of this program is to develop understanding and skills to be used through participation in all physical activities.

Band – full year - 4 blocks

The daily objective of the course is to foster and promote music growth through the playing of an instrument by the student, at an appropriate level of difficulty. The band is a skilled effort in which each student is expected to show technical and musical growth throughout the course.

Sports History - 9 weeks - 1 block

Explore the fascinating story of sports in America and their impact on society in this dynamic 9-week course. Students will uncover how sports have shaped culture and united communities, diving into America's deep passion for athletic competition. Units include the origins and evolution of major American sports like baseball, basketball, and football, along with the founding of their professional associations. The course will also examine modern topics such as the influence of technology, gender equity, and the role of sports in addressing social issues. Through engaging discussions, projects, and media, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of how sports have become a cornerstone of American identity and continue to evolve in today's world.

Intro to CSI - 9 weeks - 1 block

Ever wonder how crime scene investigation works? This CSI elective course will introduce you to the basics of blood spatter analysis, forensic entomology, footprint analysis, blood detection, and evidence processing, fingerprint analysis, bite marks analysis, glass fragment identification, drug testing, and analysis.



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Academic Success - 9 - 18 weeks - 1- 2 blocks

This course is set up to support students who are struggling with their academics and need extra support. Admittance will be based on the student's course performance each quarter for the following quarter. Students who are needing extra support will be placed into this course and removed from an elective to focus on academics.

Life Skills - 9 weeks - 1 block

This course is designed to cover a variety of areas to help students prepare for independent living including cooking, nutrition, sewing, laundry, and basic financial skills.

Survival Skills – 9 weeks - 1 block

Survival skills are essential, even if you will never be stuck in the wilderness! Learning how to cope in an emergency is a skill useful in any situation. Students will be taught basic survival skills including knots, shelter building, map & compass, and more! This elective course will teach you the basics of how to become a wilderness SURVIVOR!

Wildlife and Evolution - 9 weeks - 1 block

Why do animals look and behave the way they do? Learn how different environments support different kinds of life and how plants and animals have changed over time to survive.

Current Events - 9 weeks - 1 block

What's happening in the world right now? This discussion-based class helps students understand major news stories, talk about why they're happening, and hear different perspectives.

Exploratory Language - Semester - 2 blocks

This is a course to prepare students for high school foreign language. It allows them to take 9 weeks in Spanish and 9 weeks in French to determine which language is their preference.



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Grade 8

In grade 8, you will have a choice in what courses you can take as electives.

All grade 8 students will be signed up for the four core academic courses: mathematics, English Language Arts, science, and social studies along with a WIN (what I need) teacher. WIN consists of a time block to focus on academic interventions and the time to bond as a group while working on different activities and conflict resolution skills.

For electives, grade 8 students will have 4 blocks of time to fill. Students are also required to take health and study skills. Pay attention to the amount of time the course takes in order to choose their time blocks.

9 weeks = 1 block of time Semester = 2 blocks of time Year long = 4 blocks of time 10

Grade 8 Electives and Choices

Study Skills - 9 weeks - mandatory - 1 block

This course is designed to help students learn how to take notes, organize information, and prepare for assessments in content area courses. Students will learn a variety of skills to prepare for how to be a good student.

Health – 9 weeks – mandatory - 1 block

This course is designed to promote student learning about health issues that affect their immediate and long-term health. Maintaining a healthy way of living requires a balance of physical, mental-emotional, and social well-being.

Art – 9 weeks - 1 block

Students in middle school art will explore a variety of art processes and materials such as painting, drawing, pastels, printmaking, and mixed media. They will use their imagination and personal experiences to create original artwork.

Physical Education – 9 weeks - 1 block

The Physical Education program in middle school provides for skill development in a sequential order, which will be carried over into the high school program. The emphasis of this program is to develop understanding and skills to be used through participation in all physical activities.

Band – full year - 4 blocks of time

The daily objective of the course is to foster and promote music growth through the playing of an instrument by the student, at an appropriate level of difficulty. The band is a skilled effort in which each student is expected to show technical and musical growth throughout the course.

Academic Success - 9 - 18 weeks - 1-2 blocks

This course is set up to support students who are struggling with their academics and need extra support. Admittance will be based on the student's course performance each quarter for the following quarter. Students who are needing extra support will be placed into this course and removed from an elective to focus on academics.

Survival Skills – 9 weeks - 1 block



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Strength & Conditioning (8th grade only) - 9 weeks - 4th quarter to prepare for sports at the high school level - 1 block. This 9-week course is designed to introduce 8th grade students to the principles of strength training, conditioning, and overall physical fitness. Through a combination of guided instruction and hands-on practice, students will learn proper techniques for bodyweight exercises, resistance training, and cardiovascular fitness. Emphasis will be placed on injury prevention, safe use of equipment, and the development of personal fitness goals. Students will also explore topics such as the benefits of physical activity, nutrition basics, and the role of fitness in mental health and well-being. By the end of the course, students will have built a foundation for lifelong fitness. This class is ideal for students of all fitness levels, with activities tailored to individual needs and progress.

Life Skills - 9 weeks - 1 block

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Intro to CSI - 9 weeks - 1 block

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Current Events - 9 weeks - 1 block

What's happening in the world right now? This discussion-based class helps students understand major news stories, talk about why they're happening, and hear different perspectives.

Exploratory Language - Semester - 2 blocks

This is a course to prepare students for high school foreign language. It allows them to take 9 weeks in Spanish and 9 weeks in French to determine which language is their preference.

Spanish 1 - full year, counts toward high school requirement - and will not be available for band students due to running at the same time. Pre-requisite: Students must have 90% or better attendance and a C or better in English classes for 6th and 7th grade assignments in order to apply. This is a course to prepare students for high school foreign language. It allows them to start on the high school foreign language requirement early. Students will earn .5 credit per semester of high school credit for this course upon successful completion of each semester and final exam. Students must maintain a minimum of a 70% each quarter and on the final exam or will be exited at the end of the first semester.

MS ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS COURSES

5th Grade ELA

This course builds on the foundation of fourth-grade ELA in areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening, while focusing on narrative and informational texts. The students will deepen their understanding of concepts about text and comprehension strategies. Students will use writing as a tool for learning, and write for a variety of purposes, audiences, and apply what they learn through integration with other subjects.

6th Grade ELA

Students will continue to grow in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening in this course. Reading strategies, critical thinking skills, and vocabulary building, will be the main focus of the reading instruction. The writing focus will continue to develop through narrative, informational, and argumentative pieces designed to build off previous grades' content knowledge.

7th Grade ELA

Students will develop in areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening/viewing. They will read, analyze, and discuss informational and narrative texts. Students will also develop and enhance a set of recursive writing skills through a variety of exercises that contribute to the execution of cohesive and detailed process writing pieces.

8th Grade ELA

This course is designed to expand students' reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language skills. Students will read and analyze a variety of narrative and informational texts as well as write narrative, informative, and



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argumentative essays and understand when to use an informal versus formal academic style of writing. Grammar and word study will be incorporated throughout the year.

MS MATH COURSES

5th Grade Math

This course is designed to build off the content understanding of fourth grade while focusing on three major mathematical ideas, dividing whole numbers including two-digit divisors, adding and subtracting fractions and decimals, and two-dimensional shapes and angles. While these are the focus of fifth-grade math other topics will include volume, place value, and multiplying and dividing fractions.

6th Grade Math

In this course, the students will be introduced to concepts such as operations and problem-solving with rational numbers, measurement techniques, number theory, geometric properties and relationships, and algebraic thinking, including the use of mathematical models to represent and understand quantitative relationships.

7th Grade Math

This course focuses on the structure and properties of rational numbers, equivalent representations of numbers, operations, and problem solving with rational numbers, number theory, measurement techniques, geometric terminology, properties and relationships, transformational geometry, algebraic thinking, statistical methods for collecting, organizing and displaying data, and an introduction to probability.

8th Grade Math

This course develops mathematical concepts and skills in major areas of study that include: the Number System, Expressions and Equations, Functions, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. The students will engage in a research-based, problem-centered learning environment to develop proficiency in both mathematical reasoning and communication.

Algebra 1

- Prerequisite: Successful completion of 7th Grade Math and based on winter NWEA test scores for students performing in the top 20% on NWEA • Full-year course (1 credit) – Required for graduation
- This course focuses on linear, quadratic, and exponential relationships. Topics include linear equations, functions, linear transformations, linear data using scatter plots and mathematical models, systems of linear equations and inequalities, operations on polynomials, and quadratic functions
- Students must maintain a minimum of a 70% each quarter and on the final exam to continue to semester 2.

MS SCIENCE COURSES

5th Grade Science

This course will build on previous content while introducing students to new information that will be a foundation for understanding during their academic careers. The focus of this course is structures and properties of



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matter, matter, and energy in organisms and ecosystems, Earth's systems, space systems, and engineering design.

6th Grade Science

This course will build on the knowledge learned in fifth grade and expand the student's understanding of the content. The students will go deeper into the content found in fifth grade while also gaining a foundational understanding of the content for seventh grade.

7th Grade Science

The science curriculum is well balanced between content and process with an emphasis on ecology and human environmental impacts. Main units include ecology and ecosystems, cell functions and heredity, plant processes, fossils, and an introduction to meteorology.

8th Grade Science

This science course explores the properties of matter, atomic structure, particle interactions in the states of matter, the use and value of the periodic table, and chemical bonding. Topics of study in earth science include the composition of the earth, plate tectonics, the dynamics that create earthquakes and volcanoes, and the implications in our lives. In addition, students will understand what creates and influences climate, daily weather changes, and the role of water in changing the earth's landscape and influencing the weather around us.

MS SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES

5th Grade Social Studies - Building upon the geography, civics and government, and economics concepts of the United States and historical inquiry from earlier grades, the 5th grade expectations begin a more discipline-centered approach concentrating on the early history of the United States. Students begin their study of American history with Indigenous Peoples before the arrival of European explorers and conclude with the adoption of the Bill of Rights in 1791. Although the content expectations are organized by historical era, they build upon students' understanding of the other social studies disciplines from earlier grades and require students to apply these concepts within the context of American history.

6th Grade Social Studies - In this course, students will deepen their understanding of geography, civics and government, economics, public discourse, decision-making, and civic participation as they apply social studies disciplines to real-world situations. Using a multidisciplinary lens, students will explore how geographic factors, human interactions, economic structures, culture, and political systems shape modern societies across the globe

7th Grade World History - This course encompasses World History from the beginnings of human society through 1500 C.E. Students will learn geographic, environmental, biological, and cultural processes that influenced the rise



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of the earliest human communities, including the migration and spread of people throughout the world, the rise of world religions, and the causes and consequences of the growth of agriculture. Students will discover the innovations and social, political, and economic changes which occurred through the emergence of classical civilizations in Africa and Eurasia and their impact on our world today. Students combine historical inquiry with spatial analysis to understand how early civilizations emerged, interacted, flourished, and influenced the modern world.

8th Grade U.S. History - This course begins with a review of standards from previous grades and focuses on major themes of 18th and 19th-century American History including the fight for independence and the forging of a new nation. Students will trace the development of the United States from the drafting of the Constitution through the Reconstruction era. Geography, civics, government, and economics are integrated into the historical context. Students will explore the relevance and connections of history to their lives while utilizing inquiry practices to analyze complex issues and communicate their conclusions. Major areas of study include the Revolution and New Nation, Expansion and Reform, and the Civil War and Reconstruction.

SPECIAL EDUCATION COURSES

Middle School Resource ELA: Students who receive special education support may be eligible to take Resource ELA in place of ELA 5, ELA 6, ELA 7, and ELA 8.

Middle School Resource Math: Students who receive special education support may be eligible to take Resource Math in place of Math 5, Math 6, Math 7, and Math 8.

Middle School Resource Science: Students who receive special education support may be eligible to take Resource Science in place of Science 5, Science 6, Science 7, and Science 8.

Middle School Resource Social Studies: Students who receive special education support may be eligible to take Resource Social Studies in place of Social Studies 5, Social Studies 6, Social Studies 7, and Social Studies 8.

Special Education Electives: Interventions Resource: Students who receive special education support may be eligible for Resource Interventions to support their goals.