



# 2014-15 GRADE EIGHT REGISTRATION MUSIC AND GLOBAL LANGUAGE PLYMOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

|                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| For Office Use Only: |                   |
| Last Name _____      | First Name _____  |
| MCA Reading _____    | MAP Reading _____ |
| MCA Math _____       | MAP Math _____    |

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Grade 7 Family,

It is time to help your child select from among the music and global language opportunities available to grade 8 students at Plymouth Middle School. Grade 8 students make two choices--one for *Music* and one for *Global Language*. **Please indicate your choice from the list below and return the completed form to your child's 1<sup>st</sup> period teacher by Friday, February 7.**

**MUSIC SELECTION**

Grade 8 students have the opportunity to include music in their schedules. While many students choose one music option, some students choose a combined music option. Students choosing this option should be strong musicians who exhibit good practice habits and organizational skills. Both parents and students should recognize that participating in two performance groups means that students will have only half of the rehearsal and class time that students taking only one performance group will have. *Although students in a single instrumental section may be able to drop music at the end of first semester (as space allows), students choosing combined choir and band or orchestra must remain in both classes all year long; they will not have the option of dropping just one of the classes midyear.*

**GLOBAL LANGUAGE SELECTION**

Grade 8 students who have met district benchmarks on standardized assessments (MAP and MCA) may select French or Spanish. Students in need of reading, EL or special education support may be placed in a course other than global language.

| <b>GLOBAL LANGUAGE</b>  | <b>MUSIC OPTIONS</b>  | <b>ALLIED ARTS</b>  |
|---|---|---|
| <p>(Select one):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> French</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Spanish</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Continue in Spanish Immersion</p> <p>If applicable, please indicate the language studied in 6<sup>th</sup> grade: _____</p> | <p>(Select one):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Band</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Choir</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Orchestra</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Combined Band and Choir</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Combined Orchestra and Choir</p> <p>Instrument: _____</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> My child prefers to participate in other Allied Arts options rather than music (see reverse for details)</p> | <p>Students whose Allied Arts periods are not filled with music, Extended Math, AVID or Special Education supports will be registered for Allied Arts classes based on availability. Scheduling priority will be given to students who have not yet experienced a particular Allied discipline. Review the list below and place a check next to any class your child <b>did not have</b> during 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grades:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Art</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tech Ed (Woodworking)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tech Ed (Gateway to Technology)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FACS (Foods)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FACS (Sewing/Life Skills)</p> |
| <p>I understand that if my child is selecting band or orchestra, he/she should have experience with the instrument (such as grade 6 band or orchestra, or a series of private lessons) by the time school opens in September.</p>                           |   |   |
| <p>Parent/Guardian Signature _____</p>  |   | <p>Date _____</p>   |

# FEATURES OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

## Plymouth Middle School

### A 7-period day with coursework in the Core and Allied Arts curriculum

#### *The Core Curriculum*

There are five Core periods per day that include mathematics, science, social studies, English, reading and/or global language. Core curriculum described in more detail below.

#### *The Allied Arts Curriculum*

There are two Allied Arts periods per day. Options include music, physical education, health, art, technology education and family & consumer science. Some students may be enrolled in extended math classes in place of allied arts.

#### *The Core Curriculum*

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <i>Reading</i>           | Reading students will use fiction and nonfiction materials to broaden their understanding of context clues, comprehension strategies, sight vocabulary and improve reading fluency. Testing practices and preparation for the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) will be offered.  |
| <i>English</i>           | Students in eighth grade English will study novel structure and other literary elements. Units of study include creative writing, short stories, poetry, nonfiction, introductory speech and multicultural novels. Students will spend a unit on the Holocaust and examine issues of racism and prejudice.   |
| <i>Math</i>              | Eighth grade students take <i>Linear Algebra</i> . Topics include solving multi-step equations and inequalities, properties of real numbers, rules of exponents, right triangles, data analysis and probability, and graphing linear equations and inequalities, and sequences and patterns. Students not demonstrating proficiency will be scheduled into an additional math support class ( <i>Extended Math</i> ) during the allied arts block.   |
| <i>Earth Science</i>     | Eighth graders will study the nature of science, what matter is, how it changes and how it is conserved. Students will also study: a layered Earth and how its surface changes; Earth's place in the Universe; and the impact of the atmosphere, Sun and oceans on weather patterns.   |
| <i>Social Studies</i>    | Grade 8 Social Studies features geography as its lead discipline, with a strong secondary emphasis on contemporary (Modern Times) World History. Content will be drawn from citizenship and government, as well as economics, and will enrich the study of world regional geography. Skills to be developed include civic skills, economic reasoning skills, geographic inquiry and geospatial technology skills, and historical inquiry skills. Four specific themes will be addressed, including: 1) Cultural Characteristics, Technology, and Ideas, 2) Economic Development and Trade, 3) Population and Migration, 4) Human Interaction with the Environment. |
| <i>Spanish Immersion</i> | Students enrolled in Spanish Immersion will take Spanish Social Studies and Spanish Science in addition to continued instruction in Advanced Spanish.  |
| <i>Global Language</i>   | Students scoring above district benchmarks on standardized tests will be enrolled in a year-long Global Language Course. This course is a continuation of Language study from 7 <sup>th</sup> grade. Students new to the school will have an opportunity to take Global Language, if they meet the required criteria.  |

### **An honors level option for academically motivated students**

Plymouth Middle School offers Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) courses. The honors level option requires an application, entrance review and standards to maintain once students are accepted.

### **Options for accelerated mathematics placement**

Scores from the MCA, MAP and a district test are used in combination to place students in mathematics.

### **Academic support**

Students with reading or math needs are provided additional instructional time via reading and/or math classes in place of allied arts courses or during core curriculum.

### **Questions about registration?**

Please call the Guidance Office at 763-504-7119 if you have any questions or concerns about your child's registration choices and options.