

Kohler Middle School

Coursebook
2025-2026

KOHLER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
333 Upper Road
Kohler, WI 53044

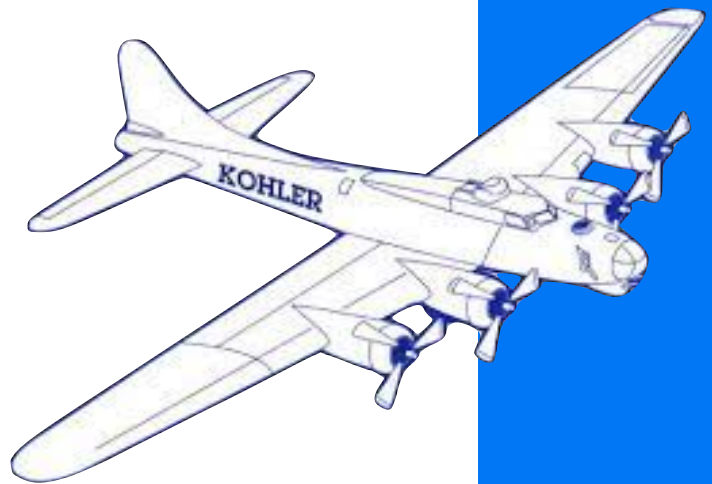


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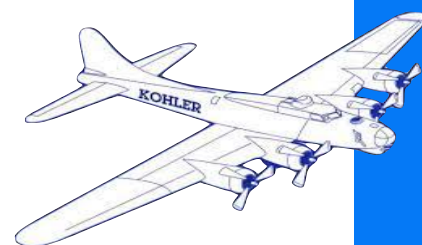
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Our Mission:

Every day at Kohler Schools we **inspire** inquiry; **engage** hearts, minds and bodies; and provide supports to ensure all students can **achieve** success.

This handbook should provide parents and students with important information about sixth, seventh and eighth grade courses. Students in elementary school have many educational decisions made for them; in middle school students are given more responsibility for themselves and for their work. Since students of this age vary greatly in achievement, interests, abilities and maturity, it is important that there is communication and cooperation between the school and parents. Working together with optimism, patience and reason, our students will develop the necessary skills to be successful.



Courses

All of the courses below are required with the exception of music courses beginning in grade 7. Students must choose at least one music course in grade 7 and in grade 8.

GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8
English 6	English 7	English 8
Mathematics 6	Mathematics 7	Math 8 / Algebra 8
Social Studies 6	Social Studies 7	Social Studies 8
Physical Science 6	Life Science 7	Earth Science 8
Physical Education 6	Physical Education/Health 7	Physical Education/Health 8
Art 6	Art 7	Art 8
Advisory	Advisory	Advisory
Spanish 6	Spanish 7	Spanish 8
Digital Citizenship 6	Digital Citizenship 7	Digital Citizenship 8
Junior Achievement	Technology Education 7	Technology Education 8
Band 6	Middle School Band 7/8	Middle School Band 7/8
Choir 6	Middle School Choir 7/8	Middle School Choir 7/8
General Music 6	General Music 7/8	General Music 7/8
	Junior Achievement	

Middle School Advisory

The middle school advisory program is designed to focus on many topics that will help our students become well-rounded individuals and pays attention to our 3 core values of Respect, Responsible and Safe.

Advisory provides an opportunity to promote social emotional growth and character development with themes of: community, relationships, decisions, safety, and celebrations. In addition, this time is also used to address academic needs that support intervention and enrichment opportunities to ensure that all students experience learning success at school.

Career Clusters

There are 16 career clusters. Career Clusters are used to categorize types of work in a related field. The purpose of career clusters is to help students explore different types of careers that may be related to their interests and skills.

- Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
- Architecture and Construction
- Arts, AV Technology and Communications
- Business, Management and Administration
- Education and Training
- Finance
- Government and Administration
- Health Science
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Human Services
- Information Technology
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security
- Manufacturing
- Marketing Sales and Service
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
- Transportation, Distribution and Logistics

Promotion, Placement & Retention

The Board of Education recognizes that personal, social, physical and educational growth of children will vary and that they should be placed in the educational setting most appropriate to their needs at various stages of their growth. It shall be the policy of the Board that each student be moved forward in a continuous pattern of achievement and growth that is in harmony with his/her own personal development. Refer to School Board policy 5410.

Arts

Art 6 and 7 are trimesters courses. Art 8 is a semester course. Visual Arts 6, 7 and 8 are required courses.

Art 6 The standards for grade six continue to emphasize exploration, analysis, and investigation of the creative process. Students develop technical skills that empower them to communicate ideas visually and focus on realistic representations of their environment. They also continue to develop inquiry skills and increase vocabulary as they explore the meaning of works of art through analysis of subject matter, themes and symbols.

Art 7 Seventh grade art class is a continuation of Visual Arts 6 art; however, it goes into more depth and detail. Some of the activities will include drawing, composition and design in three dimensional projects. An overall view of art history will be part of the class.

Art 8 Eighth grade art helps the student to refine his/her technical skills and confidence through the processes of creating original 2D and 3D works of art. Lessons may include painting, ceramics, drawing, printmaking, fiber arts, sculpture, mixed media and art history.

Digital Citizenship

Digital Citizenship is a required course for all middle school students. Students in grade 6 and 7 will have a trimester course; and 8 is a semester course.

Digital Citizenship 6-8 This course is designed around the 6 basic tenets of digital citizenship and is age appropriate. The topics covered include the following:

- Media Balance and Well Being: We find balance in our digital lives - Students go beyond screen time to explore the impact their digital lives can have on their well-being and relationships while learning to balance media in their everyday lives.
- Privacy and Security: We care about everyone's privacy - Students learn how to protect personal information and gain a deeper understanding of their data privacy rights so they can advocate for themselves and others.
- Digital Footprint and Identity: We define who we are - Students consider the benefits and risks of online sharing and explore how a digital persona can affect one's sense of self, reputation, and relationships.
- Relationships and Communication: We know the power of words and actions - Students reflect on how to build positive relationships, avoid risky online talk, and understand why some topics and conversations can best lend themselves to certain mediums.
- Cyberbullying, Digital Drama and Hate Speech: We are kind and courageous - Students take on these tough topics and play the active role of upstander to build positive, supportive online communities and combat online cruelty.
- News and Media Literacy: We are critical thinkers and creators - Students identify credible and trustworthy information sources and reflect on their responsibilities as thoughtful media creators and consumers.

English Language Arts

Middle School students are required to have courses in English. English six, seven and eight meet every day for the entire school year.

ENGLISH 6 is a class that studies literature, daily language, composition, and speech so that a smooth transition can be made when the student reaches the secondary level.

Comprehension skills are reinforced with the study of short stories, drama, nonfiction selections, and poems. Emphasis is placed on parts of speech, parts of a sentence, standard usage, and writing mechanics. Students write to express themselves creatively, to inform, and to persuade.

ENGLISH 7 is a class that studies grammar, composition, literature, and speech so that a smooth transition can be made when the student reaches the secondary level. Particular attention is paid to parts of speech, parts of a sentence, using phrases and clauses, standard usage, and mechanics. Writing well-developed paragraphs is emphasized, and students complete many formal writings. Critical thinking skills are strengthened through the study of nonfiction, short stories, poetry, drama, and novels. Vocabulary development focuses on improving reading comprehension and enhances the oral and written use of language.

ENGLISH 8 furthers the study of English Language Arts through authentic discussion, composition, and reading. As opposed to a one-class-fits-all approach, English 8 Survey focuses on choice readings and skill differentiation, which provides chances for all students to be engaged in learning while showing individual growth. Expert writing models will be analyzed from the artist's point of view to improve students' use of literary techniques in their writing. Close reading and book clubs will help students reflect and evaluate various class readings authentically. Throughout the course, students will read a large range of literature with various levels of text complexity, including argumentative, informative, narrative texts, poetry, and novels.

Health

These courses will introduce students to a holistic approach for developing and maintaining a healthy lifestyle through knowledge, attitudes, and skills acquisition. Middle school health will engage students through a variety of topics that they will encounter in the real world. We will be using a curriculum from McGraw-Hill, titled *Teen Health*.

Providing instruction and learning across all three grades of middle school; reinforcing, supplementing and emphasizing topics covered in other areas such as *Second Step* and *School Counseling* activities/lessons. *Teen Health* teaches the 10 critical health skills that align to the National Health Standards while also exploring up-to-date relative topics such as but not limited to: the COVID-19 pandemic, ATOD, Bullying, MyPlate guidelines, Healthy Relationships, and others. Through a variety of lessons and instruction techniques students will practice and learn to apply health skills in a variety of situations.

Junior Achievement

Junior Achievement and Introduction to Personal Financial Literacy is a required course for sixth and seventh grade students and will be a semester class.

Economics for Success introduces middle school students (ages 11–14) to initial work and career readiness and personal finance concepts. They learn business and economic concepts; explore career interests and opportunities, and develop work-readiness skills through the lens of their own values, skills, and interests. Through JA Economics for Success, students develop an awareness of their individual preferences toward work and financial goals; associate current values, skills, and interests with future success in a dynamic and changing workforce; and think critically to connect today's financial choices with their future in the digital economy.

This course will also explore concepts of Personal Financial Literacy and focus on topics such as:

- Financial Mindset
- Education and Employment
- Money Management

Mathematics

Students in grades six, seven and eight are required to take mathematics daily.

MATHEMATICS 6 will consist of units in various areas of Mathematics. The textbook that will be utilized for this course will be the Reveal Math text. Units of Study will include, but not be limited to:

- Numerical Expressions and Factors
- Fraction and Decimal Arithmetic
- Algebraic Expressions and Properties
- Areas of Polygons and Circles
- Ratios and Rates with Applications
- Equations and Inequalities
- Statistical Measures
- Data Displays
- Integers and the Coordinate Plane

MATHEMATICS 7 will consist of units in various areas of Mathematics. The textbook that will be utilized for this course will be the Reveal Math textbook series. There will be supplemental information included in the course, but that will be the main text. Units of study will include, but not be limited to:

- Surface Area and Volume
- Integers and Order Operations
- Rational Number Arithmetic
- Expressions and Equation Solving and Application
- Writing and Solving Inequalities
- Ration and Proportional thinking and Application
- Percent Problems and Applications
- Angle Relationships
- Statistics Review
- Probability
- Sampling Populations

MATHEMATICS 8 is a yearlong course intended for 8th grade students. The textbook that will be utilized for this course will be the Reveal Math textbook series. Topics in Mathematics 8 will include, but not be limited to:

- Solving Linear Equations
- Transformations
- Angles and Triangles
- Graphing and Writing Linear Equations
- Solving Systems of Equations
- Functions
- Real Numbers and Pythagorean Theorem
- Volume and Similar Solids
- Data Analysis and Displays
- Exponents and Scientific Notation

ALGEBRA 8 is a yearlong course intended for 8th grade students. The textbook that will be utilized for this course will be the Reveal Math textbook series. Topics in Algebra I will include, but not be limited to the following:

- Solving Linear Equations and Inequalities
- Graphing Linear Functions
- Writing Linear Functions
- Solving Systems of Equations
- Exponents and Exponential Functions
- Polynomials and Factoring
- Quadratic Functions and Equations
- Radical Expressions and Equations
- Rational Expressions and Functions
- Data Analysis and Probability

Each Semester will be shown as a letter grade on the high school transcript unless requested for removal. It does not have a GPA or credit impact; but is simply to reflect the course has been completed.

Middle School Music

All middle school students are required to choose at least one music course each year. All music courses are year-long. General music courses must meet a minimum enrollment of 10 students to run each year. If minimum enrollment is not met, students will need to select a band and/or a choir course.

The **6th GRADE GENERAL MUSIC** class will Create, Perform, Respond and Connect with music and align with the Wisconsin Music Educators Association's State Music Standards. Topics covered in 6th grade general music will include but are not limited to the following: music theory, composition projects, elements of music, analysis of music and music performances, exploring various cultures and their musical traditions.

The **6th GRADE CHOIR** ensemble performs a variety of musical genres. The voicings vary from 1 to 3 part singing. Basic music theory and fundamentals of music will also be covered in Choir. Vocal technique will be integrated into the classroom daily. Appropriate breathing, posture and vowel formation will be covered. This ensemble performs as part of the Winter, Mid-Winter and Spring Choir Concerts as a part of the musical learning experience. In addition, students will create, respond and connect with music through music theory, composition projects, study of the musical elements, musical performances of various cultures and traditions.

The registration and orientation of the **6th GRADE BEGINNING BAND** occurs in the spring of the student's fifth grade year, followed by a two-week summer instructional program in August. At the beginning of the school year, students begin classroom instruction every other day as a full band. Small group sectional instruction is given weekly. The Sixth Grade Band performs at the Fall, Mid-Winter and Spring Band Concerts.

NOTE: Pending availability of high school student volunteers, after-school lessons will be offered Monday-Thursday (starting date will be shared with families). Lessons are once/week for each instrument group and run from 3:00-3:25pm. All students are welcome to practice in the band room regardless of if it is their designated lesson day or if their student teacher is present. Should a last-minute lesson cancellation occur, students should stay in the band room until their parent/guardian arrives to pick them up. Lessons are not mandatory, but are strongly encouraged.

The **7th & 8th GRADE CHOIR** ensemble performs a variety of musical genres. The voicings vary from 2 to 4 part singing. Basic music theory and fundamentals of music will also be covered in Middle School Choir. Vocal technique will be integrated into the classroom daily. Appropriate breathing, posture and vowel formation will be covered. This ensemble performs as part of the Winter, Mid-Winter and Spring Choir Concerts as a part of the musical learning experience. Participation in district/state festivals and honors choirs is highly encouraged. In addition, students will create, respond and connect with music through music theory, composition projects, study of the musical elements, musical performances of various cultures and traditions.

The **7th & 8th GRADE CONCERT BAND** provides students in grades seven and eight the opportunity to play an instrument in a large ensemble. Participation in 6th Grade Beginning Band is required (exceptions will be made only with teacher approval). Along with preparations for required concert performances, the Concert Band stresses basic fundamentals of intermediate level music and allows time for proficiency on each student's individual instrument. Participation in the Solo and Ensemble Festival is highly encouraged, but not required. FEES may include: Solo & Ensemble entry fees, misc. instrument equipment, method books (reeds, oils, etc). The 7th & 8th Grade Concert Band performs at the Fall, Mid-Winter, and Spring Band Concerts.

The **7th & 8th GRADE GENERAL MUSIC** class will Create, Perform, Respond and Connect with music and align with the Wisconsin Music Educators Association's State Music Standards. Topics covered in general music will include but are not limited to the following: music theory, composition projects, elements of music, analysis of music and music performances, exploring various cultures and their musical traditions, and playing ukulele.

Physical Education

The sixth, seventh and eighth grade physical education program is designed to give the students exposure to a wide variety of skills. All students participate in the fitnessgram, evidence based fitness test.

Some of the units taught include badminton, pickleball, basketball, volleyball, lacrosse, soccer, tennis, recreational games, kickball, flag football, ultimate frisbee, dance, basic weight training, floor hockey, target sports, and fitness.

Classes in physical education meet every other day for the entire school year.

Science

Middle school science classes are an important part of the science sequence that continues in high school with Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. These required middle school courses meet every other day for the entire school year.

Physical Science 6 is designed to help students develop usable knowledge to explain real-world phenomena in physical science. They will develop and use models, plan and conduct investigations, analyze and interpret data, use mathematical and computational thinking, and construct explanations. Students will use these practices to demonstrate an understanding of the core ideas in the following topics: Structure and Properties of Matter; Chemical Reactions; Forces and Motion; Energy; and Waves and Electromagnetic Radiation.

Life Science 7 is the study of the structure and behavior of living things. This course is designed to prepare students for the challenging new science courses they will encounter as they continue their studies. It serves as an introduction to scientific methods, the nature of science, cells, heredity, evolution, the classifications of life, characteristics of life forms, the various processes that support life, and ecology. Laboratory experiences and activities will involve the students in experimentation, microscopic exploration, learning from and developing models and much more.

Earth Science 8 is the study of Earth and space. In this course the emphasis on scientific inquiry is continued and expanded. Students are introduced to questions and problems that challenge earth scientists. Students are made aware of the extent to which answers to earth science problems may be tentative and incomplete. Students examine hypotheses formulated by scientists and consider some of the evidence on which these hypotheses rest. Laboratories and activities provide students with first-hand experiences covering course topics including space systems, history of Earth, Earth's interior systems, Earth's surface systems, weather and climate, and human impacts.

Social Sciences

Middle School students are required to have courses in Social Sciences. Social Science six, seven and eight meet every day for the entire school year.

The course of study in **Grade 6** is **WORLD HISTORY & CULTURE**. Areas of concentration are primarily the Eastern Hemisphere from Ancient times to the end of World War I. Ancient civilizations of the Early Americas in Central and South America are examined as well. Students will explore and understand the history and ancient cultures and religions of the Middle East, Rome and Greece. European history and culture of the Middle Ages, European Exploration and Discovery and the Industrial Revolution are also covered, as well as World War I. Geography of the various regions is integrated into each area of discussion.

Curriculum at a glance:

- Geography
- The Early Americas: Central and South America (Maya, Aztec, Inca)
- Ancient Civilizations (Greece and Rome)

- Religions (Judaism, Islam, Christianity)
- Europe (The Middle Ages; The Renaissance; Age of Discovery and Exploration)

The course of study in **Grade 7** is **WORLD GEOGRAPHY**. Geography, the study of the spatial aspects of human existence, enables students to find answers to questions about the world around them. A geographically informed person sees, understands, and appreciates the connections among people, places, and environments. Understanding these connections requires an acute awareness of space, which can be identified in terms of location, distance, direction, pattern, shape, and arrangement. With a strong grasp of geography, students will be prepared to understand issues and solve problems in the contemporary world.

Curriculum at a glance:

- Maps and geographic representations
- Mental Maps and spatial organization
- Culture
- Historical Events
- Communication and Literacy
- Population trends and statistics
- Environmental conditions and human existence
- Global Issue
 - Trade and foreign policy
 - Borders
- Limited and unlimited governments
- Economic Development
 - Scarcity
 - Trade

The **Grade 8 AMERICAN HISTORY** course provides a comprehensive exploration of the United States' history from units of study covering a timeline from Native Peoples through the Civil War era. Students will delve into the rich tapestry of events, individuals, and cultures that have shaped the nation.

Curriculum at a glance:

- Native Peoples of North America
 - Indigenous cultures
 - Impact of European colonization
- Colonial America
 - Settlements
 - Interactions with Native Peoples
- American Revolution
 - Causes and key figures
 - Impact on society and governance
- Founding of the United States
 - Constitutional Convention
 - Early government structures
- Westward Expansion
 - Manifest Destiny
 - Native American displacement
- Civil War
 - Causes and key events
 - Impact on the nation

Throughout the course, students will engage in critical analysis of historical events, primary sources, and diverse perspectives. Assignments and projects will encourage deeper understanding of the complexities of American History.

Technology Education

Technology Education is required of seventh and eighth grade students for one semester each year. A technical study overview includes drawing, hand tools and machine processes.

Technology Education 7 Free-hand and CAD drawing is introduced, emphasizing proportion and visualization. An introduction to planning precedes activities that focus on hand tool technology emphasizing process, skill and, above all, safety. Students complete a sequence of free-hand drawings, CAD drawings and projects incorporating the use of hand tools and a few power tools.

FEES: Project fees \$10

Technology Education 8 Mechanical drawing and CAD is reviewed. Technical processes are explored emphasizing familiarity, characteristics, process and, above all, safety. Students will employ a design process to create a working model of a project which may vary from year to year.

FEES: Project fees \$10-\$15 (approx.)

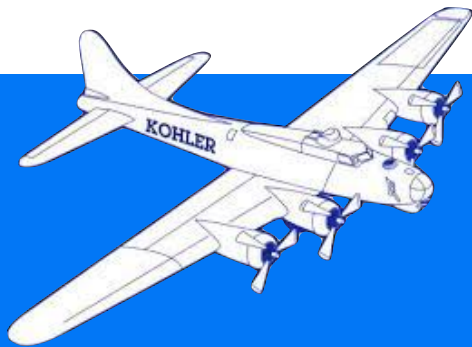
World Language

Spanish 6, is a trimester course. 7 and 8 are semester courses.

Spanish 6 This exploratory course is designed to create an awareness of the merits of foreign language study and to equip the students with habits and skills that will aid them as they continue their studies in later years. The sixth grade exploratory class spends time studying and comparing cultures of the Spanish speaking world. The four skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing are incorporated daily, as much as possible, to simulate the environment of first language learning. Spanish 6 workbooks will be purchased at registration.

Spanish 7 This exploratory course is designed to continue to create awareness of the merits of foreign language study and to equip the students with habits and skills that will aid them as they continue their studies in later years. The seventh grade exploratory class spends time studying and comparing cultures of the Spanish speaking world. The four skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing are incorporated daily, as much as possible, to simulate the environment of first language learning. Students gain an understanding of how the language is structured and how they can use this knowledge to express their own needs and talk about the world around them.

Spanish 8 This introductory course will continue with the communication skills through speaking, listening, reading, and writing in the target language. Students gain an understanding of how the language is structured and how they can use this knowledge to express their own needs and talk about the world around them. By developing their skill of observation, students will also continue to acquire a basic understanding and appreciation of the diversity of cultures in the Spanish speaking world.



Kohler School District