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(Updated August, 2011)

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MISSION
Detroit Country Day School provides a superior college preparatory, liberal arts educational opportunity to young people of cultural and intellectual diversity. Within a dignified and supportive setting, the school facilitates a spirit of achievement and promotes the academic, artistic, ethical, character, physical and leadership development of all students so that they can pursue excellence in their lives and careers, and play effective roles in their families and communities.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES
Detroit Country Day’s high standards are the foundation for educational excellence. We promote the appreciation of lifelong learning within an environment of excellence. We recognize and value the uniqueness of every student, challenging each to fulfill his or her potential. We stimulate creativity and develop the problem-solving capabilities of each student. We educate the whole child, helping him or her to develop practices oriented toward lifelong physical, mental and emotional health.
As a family-oriented school, we believe the partnership between family and school is the foundation for student fulfillment and success.
We appreciate and learn from our cultural diversity and gender differences.
We seek and support outstanding faculty who love young people, life and teaching.
Our curriculum and instructional methods keep pace with the changing demands of our society.
Every member of the administration, faculty and staff accepts personal responsibility for the school’s financial health, so that we can continue to provide a superior educational experience.
We are role models for our students.

A MEMBER OF
The National Association of Independent Schools
Independent Schools Association of the Central States
Council for the Advancement and Support of Education
Association of Independent Michigan Schools
Parents League of Association of Michigan Independent Schools
National Association of Principals of Schools for Girls
Council on Religion in Independent Schools

MIDDLE SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY
The Detroit Country Day School motto, “Mens Sana In Corpore Sano” (A Sound Mind in a Sound Body) reflects the philosophy of the Middle School. We believe the adolescent child has special needs that must be addressed in a positive, exciting and challenging educational environment. Our departmentalized curriculum, which is presented through diverse teaching styles and enhanced through interdisciplinary units, stresses active student involvement in academics, interscholastic athletics, physical education and the arts. We offer students the opportunity to explore a wide variety of personal interests in an extensive activity program. As an extension of the family, we aspire to maintain close parent-faculty-student relationships. We have designed advisor-advisee and adolescent programs to provide guidance and support for the developing child. Our caring faculty is dedicated
to meeting the needs of the whole child. In addition, our faculty helps develop character through a disciplined, structured, and dignified setting with an exposure to traditional values.

We employ the Middle School Honor Covenant in our daily discussions with students emphasizing respect, responsibility, integrity and good decisions. We strive to prepare our students for the Upper School through building their organizational and basic skills and guiding cognitive development while remembering to channel and enjoy their abundant energy.

**Middle School Goals**

The goals of the Middle School are to develop and promote:
- a positive self-image in order to cope with the many emotional, social, and physical changes inherent to this age group;
- greater individual responsibility, leadership skills, and social and moral awareness;
- creative, responsible, and independent thinkers;
- organizational, problem-solving, and study skills to facilitate the acquisition of knowledge in the content areas;
- a positive well-being through such programs as physical education, health awareness, and competitive athletics;
- proper student deportment and respect for others;
- an enthusiasm for learning and intellectual curiosity;
- an academic foundation in preparation for the Upper School curriculum;
- well-rounded individuals through a variety of experiences beyond the academic classroom including community service;
- a sensitivity to the effect of human activities on the environment;
- an enhanced competency and appreciation for the fine and performing arts;
- proficiency in the utilization of computer technology.

**School Motto, Mascot, Colors**

The school motto is derived from the writings of the renowned Latin poet, Juvenal, who coined the phrase: Mens Sana In Corpore Sano (A Sound Mind in a Sound Body).

The school mascot is the Yellowjacket.

The school colors are blue and gold.

**Alma Mater**

Hail to thee, our Alma Mater,
Gathered here we sing thy praise!
Scholars, athletes, sons and daughters of glory,
Pledge our honor and love always.
On the field and in the classroom,
We shall always bring thee fame.
Through the years we will remember:
Detroit Country Day School!
Hail thy name!
MIDDLE SCHOOL AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE YOUNG ADOLESCENT

The age group that is housed in the Middle School, primarily 11-14, experiences a time of rapid growth and development, rivaled only by the period between birth and two years of age. These young people are also characterized by the need to belong, tremendous insecurities, the need for family but the desire to be independent from it, a search for personal identity and the discovery of academic strengths and challenges. In addition, it is a time when physical and intellectual growth may be in conflict with each other. Sometimes physical development dominates cognitive growth. Young people push at the boundaries set out for them, but they need them and feel more comfortable knowing where they are. Detroit Country Day Middle School is an environment that is aware of the special needs of this age group and is designed accordingly. The Middle School creates a child-centered environment that seeks to present a challenging curriculum that prepares students for an exceptional college preparatory Upper School.

The Faculty of the Middle School utilizes a variety of methods and evaluative instruments to allow for different learning styles. Teachers design class activities and assessments recognizing the many levels of cognitive development and skill levels that exist in the Middle School. Students are routinely assigned homework to support and extend the classroom experience. Long-term projects are guided carefully to encourage good planning and time management skills. The Middle School offers the opportunity to build academic skills and to acquire essential organizational habits. Beyond the solid academic curriculum, students may select from a variety of electives to expand learning beyond the academic realm. Technology, the fine and performing arts, physical education and special health and social programs provide ample opportunity to explore potential while developing talents and healthy habits.

The Advisory Program, The C.A.R.E. Program, and various planned activities such as school parties and field trips encourage healthy social and emotional growth. Learning how to think clearly, make good choices, and consider healthy options and outcomes are central to the guidance of the students. The development of the whole child influences the planning of curricular and co-curricular programs and activities.

The Middle School encourages full participation in club and athletic programs. A variety of assemblies present topics of interest, feature student accomplishment and talent, and allow exposure to guest speakers or artists from a wide variety of areas. Students have opportunities to participate in a number of different community service experiences both within the school and in the greater community.
INTRODUCTION

The Middle School academic program recognizes the unique needs of the age group while preparing students for the Upper School curriculum. The first academic priority is the development of thinking and writing skills. Study skills such as organization, methods of study, cooperative review, note taking, time management and techniques of memorization are emphasized. These skills are applied to the basics of computer science, English, languages, history, mathematics, performing arts, visual arts and science.

Advanced level courses are designed to meet the needs of talented students so that they are appropriately challenged in courses in art, chemistry, English, languages and mathematics. These courses represent the foundation of the International Baccalaureate diploma program and the Advanced Placement program of the Upper School. Sophomore standing in college may be available to students who successfully pass the required number of IB and AP examinations as high school juniors and seniors.

The Middle School offers a number of coordinated and interdisciplinary activities that contribute importantly to a liberal arts education, such as extended field trips to our nation’s capital that may include Mt. Vernon, Gettysburg or Williamsburg, a science trip to Florida, and inter-departmental units featuring such things as a day in the life of a Civil War soldier. Faculty also conduct local field trips to community resources that relate to the curriculum, such as those to drama productions at the Meadow Brook and Hilberry Theatres. Students are prepared for, and encouraged to, participate in area- and state-wide mathematics and computer contests, science fairs in the metropolitan area, area- and state-wide language festivals, regional and state instrumental and vocal festivals, area-wide fine arts juried exhibitions, area-wide writing contests, the State Forensics Tournaments, and spelling bees at the local, state and national levels. By participating in academic experiences beyond the classroom, students learn to think in several spheres of knowledge and to apply a discriminating intellect to the world beyond the classroom.

The educational process demands meaningful homework assignments that extend and enhance the classroom experience. Each teacher’s lesson plans or assignments are available to students and parents as part of a planned approach toward teaching and learning. Teachers regularly update their plans and report grades via the available on-line system to maximize communication with students and parents. Teachers must display sound pedagogical practices and thorough, daily classroom preparation. Professional development is a priority at Country Day. Teachers are encouraged to attend conferences, to visit other classrooms and schools, and take advanced course work in their field. A high level of professionalism marks a Country Day Middle School teacher.

For students, it is axiomatic that evaluation is an integral part of the instructional process. Examinations require the student to develop a course perspective and to reflect on acquired knowledge. Middle School students are frequently evaluated through a variety of methods to honor different learning styles and to review specific course content while developing thinking, application and writing skills. Students also undertake comprehensive final examinations that promote good study skills, content analysis, retention of material and the psychological/cognitive development required for the comprehensive examinations they will encounter in upper secondary education.
**EXPLANATION OF COURSE NUMBERS**

All Middle School (M/S) course numbers begin with M (representing Middle School). The next two letters in a course number are abbreviations of the general area of instruction (EN=English, DR=Drama, H=History, etc.). The first digit (6, 7 or 8) indicates the grade level. A zero (0) indicates a multi-grade level course.

For academic classes, band and orchestra, the first letter following the grade number indicates the level of instruction (B=beginning, I=intermediate, R=regular, A=advanced). For example: MBD0BT=BD: band, 0: multi-grade levels, B: beginning, T: meets all year. For elective courses, the letter D indicates a double-component class and the letter Z indicates a triple-component class. A double-component class meets all year, rotating every half goal. A triple-component class is made up of three different classes that each meet for one goal. At the end of each goal, the student moves on to the next class in the rotation.

The letter T means that the class meets all three goals of the school year. A number indicates that the class only meets during one goal and which goal that it will meet.

- **A** = Advanced level course
- **B** = Beginning level course
- **I** = Intermediate level course
- **R** = Regular level course
- **D** = Double component course (changes back and forth for extended periods through each goal)
- **Z** = Triple component course (three different classes that change with the goal)
- **T** = Meets all year

- **AT** = Advanced level class that meets all year, grade is full weight
- **RT** = Regular level class that meets all year, grade is full weight
- **DT** = Two classes that meet all year, for ½ of each goal. Courses are graded but not averaged into GPA.
- **Z** = One class that meets for one goal. Course is graded but not averaged into GPA.
- **Z1, Z2, Z3** = Three courses, same block; students take a different class each goal. Course is graded but not averaged into GPA.

**EXAMPLES:**

- **MEN7AT** = ENGLISH / GRADE 7 / ADVANCED LEVEL / MEETS ALL YEAR
- **MEN7RT** = ENGLISH / GRADE 7 / REGULAR LEVEL / MEETS ALL YEAR
- **MMU6DT** = MUSIC CLASS / GRADE 6 / ½ OF DOUBLE COMPONENT CLASS / MEETS ALL YEAR / GRADE IS NOT AVERAGED INTO GPA.
- **MAR6DT** = ART CLASS / GRADE 6 / ½ OF DOUBLE COMPONENT CLASS / MEETS ALL YEAR / GRADE IS NOT AVERAGED INTO GPA.
- **MDR8Z** = DRAMA/ GRADE 8/ TRIPLE COMPONENT CLASS / MEETS FOR 1 GOAL / GRADE IS NOT AVERAGED INTO GPA.
- **MAR8Z** = ART / GRADE 8 / TRIPLE COMPONENT CLASS / MEETS FOR 1 GOAL / GRADE IS NOT AVERAGED INTO GPA.
- **MMU8Z** = MUSIC / GRADE 8/ TRIPLE COMPONENT CLASS / MEETS FOR 1 GOAL / GRADE IS NOT AVERAGED INTO GPA.
*Grades from classes beyond the core academic subjects while not averaged into the GPA may still affect honor roll status.

N.B. Texts listed in the course descriptions in this catalogue are subject to change.
COMPUTER SCIENCE

The Middle School curriculum for computer science is built around the integration of computer use with classroom content. Our present facilities include networked classrooms with wireless access. Each teacher and student has a laptop computer. Students expand their use of technology through time spent in the classrooms with content-area teachers. They develop skills in problem solving, information management, data analysis, art design, desktop publishing and communication. These skills will better prepare students to be more productive members of our information society.

Grade 7 and 8 Computer Science/Laptop Explorations class
MCS07Z1 & MCS08Z1

This one-semester course focuses on technology instruction for students who enter Detroit Country Day Middle School in the 7th or 8th grade. It is designed to teach the students all the aspects of technology that they need to know in order to work at par with students and teachers who have already established this base. It teaches the information needed to access our network resources – mainly logging on to the network, using the printers, running the operating system and operating the Microsoft™ Office 2007 suite (including Word, Excel, Outlook and PowerPoint). Students also use the graphic organizer, Inspiration and improve keyboarding skills using Type to Learn.

Middle School Integration of Computer Technology

Faculty web pages are created and used by students to access assignment sheets, web links and documents needed for class. All academic subjects integrate the use of computer applications and/or programming into class content:

**English** – Students use word processing (for poetry, essays, brochures, postcards, newsletters, blogs and “wikis”), create PowerPoint presentations and access Inspiration software (to generate a graphic story line or a flow chart).

**History** – Students use word processing (for brochures, essays, postcards), create Front Page web projects and PowerPoint presentations, utilize web quests, Brainpop (an online web subscription), Quia (an online quiz site) and Inspiration software (to create a flow chart).

**Mathematics** – Students use Excel (for graphing, charting, and creating databases like the grade 6 “Get a Life” ledger) and other software such as Sketchpad and Understanding Math.

**Science** – Grade 6 science students use "Brainpop" for various topics, the "Science Court" CD to investigate inferences and evidence, the Virtual Field Trip to the Wetlands CD and the Internet to submit Cornell Feederwatch results. Inspiration software is used for lab procedures. Faculty web pages are used for students to access assignment sheets, web links and documents needed for class.

- Grade 7 science students use the Excel spreadsheet and graphing for monthly OFS (Outdoor Field Study) bird counts, Internet research, online data bases, Noodlebib and the Excel and Word programs during science fair preparation. Students utilize the online portion of their textbook, perform Internet research and use the "Brainpop" site for content textbook. They also use the "Motion & Forces" interactive site for content, various web site simulations, Earth Explorer CD ROM for Wetlands, Seasons Program and Inspiration software for lab procedures.

- Grade 8 science students use Internet research, online data bases, Noodlebib, Excel and Word programs for the science fair preparation, and the "Brainpop" interactive web site for content. They also use the "Winds" interactive program, "Save Project Polluto" CD, Internet web quests for various units, creation of an informational flyer using Microsoft Publisher and teacher-created online practice tests and quizzes. Inspiration software is used for lab procedures.

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Chemistry students use the laptop to share class data for analysis after labs, taking notes from several excellent chemistry web sites, textbook web resources, researching and creating a PowerPoint presentation on a family of elements in the periodic table. Internet research, online data bases, Noodlebib and the Excel and Word programs are used during science fair preparation. Teacher web pages are used for students to access assignment sheets, web links and documents.

**Art** – Students access art graphics design, color mixing, word processing, Internet research, Word Art program and Microsoft Paint.

**World Language** – Students in all grades access their teachers’ assignment sheets for web links and practice tests and quizzes.

French, Spanish and Latin students use Microsoft Word for brochures and essays and Inspiration software. They access Quia (an online quiz site), create PowerPoint presentations and web projects. They perform Internet research for projects.

**Study Skills/Laptop Explorations**

For a student to thrive in Middle School, one must acquire many skills that transcend any one content area. Organization, time management, taking tests, listening and reading for meaning all gain importance as a student’s school world becomes more complex. Further, technology plays an ever-increasing role in the classroom and beyond, and the well-prepared student must master many computer skills to achieve success.

The Detroit Country Day Middle School Study Skills/Laptop Explorations course brings these two ideas together in Grade 6. It aims to help the student gain an appreciation of how one’s approach to studying can have a dramatic impact on all content areas. It also aims to give pointed, just-in-time technology instruction so the student will be able to integrate computers directly into content-area projects.

Tech Manual – The entire grade collaborates on creating a technology manual for themselves, focusing on what a Middle School student needs to master in technology for school projects and lessons. A CD is burned for each student.

**Grade 6 Study Skills / Laptop Explorations**

MSL6RT

Refer to ENGLISH section for full description.
ENGLISH

“Language is the blood of the soul into which thoughts run and out of which they grow.”
~ Oliver Wendell Holmes

The command of language is basic to thinking and learning in all disciplines. Language enables us to form concepts, to organize thoughts, to communicate ideas, impressions, feelings, values and desires. Through language we share our experiences and share in the experiences of other people, past and present. Indeed, skillful use of language may be the single most important means of realizing the ultimate goal of education: the development of informed, thinking citizens able to communicate and function effectively.

The Detroit Country Day Middle School English program focuses primarily on the development of the language skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. The program also seeks to foster the enjoyment of language, the appreciation of literature, the expression of creativity and the development of logical, critical thinking.

Middle school language arts teachers employ a variety of student-centered approaches to learning and seek to create activities designed to further develop students’ abstract, logical and critical thinking skills:

- Directed independent reading projects
- Use of online wikis to facilitate the writing process, particularly reader response and revision
- Student-directed literature circles
- Presentation of textual evidence in literature paragraphs and essays
- Emphasis on active reading, including directed reading activities, note-taking and reader response journals
- Combining research evidence and personal reflection to defend a thesis
- Use of reading blogs to share thoughts about literature

Grade 6 English
MEN6RT

Grade 6 English seeks to build upon the foundation in the basics of English established in the Junior School. The main focus of the course is the development of more thoughtful, in-depth reading, writing and thinking skills through the study of short stories and novels. Teachers employ a wide variety of techniques to accomplish these objectives. Directed reading activities help with prediction skills, drawing conclusions and reading for meaning. Directed Independent Reading (DIR) encourages students to read literature they truly enjoy, fostering a lifetime reading habit. Dramatizations encourage students to visualize, and therefore, gain more meaning. Students also create multi-media presentations in response to their reading.

During the course of the year, students write poetry, essays and an extended “Cave Story,” utilizing the writing process: prewriting, drafting, revising, editing and publishing. Students are encouraged to select specific action verbs, include descriptive language and add supportive details.
Vocabulary study stresses proper usage of words in their variant forms and the effective utilization of context clues both to convey and to interpret meaning. Grammar study emphasizes parts of speech, the complete sentence, capitalization and punctuation – elements necessary for the development of proofreading skills.

**Texts:** *The Watsons Go to Birmingham*, Curtis, 1995; *Authors in Depth, Copper Level*, Prentice Hall, 2000; *The Clay Marble*, Ho, 1997; *Words to Go! Book F*, Gleiter, 2002. (Additional novels such as *Tom Sawyer* may be added from year to year).

**Grade 6 Study Skills/Laptop Explorations**

**MSL6RT**

In this course, students focus on organization, reading skills, computer skills and general study skills. The lessons and resources are designed to give the students learning strategies that can directly relate to many of the textbooks in other classes. Study skills include organization and time management, reading and listening skills, context clues, as well as strategies geared toward specific learning styles. The computer lessons teach the information needed to run the operating system and operate the Office 2007 suite, including Word, Excel, Outlook and PowerPoint. Students also use the graphic organizer Inspiration as well as improve keyboarding skills using Type to Learn. Internet and email etiquette as well as online research skills are stressed. This course teaches the students to access our network resources, including software that is run on the network and the printers. All of the laptop skills are integrated into the students’ content areas. A daily planner is required.

**Text:** *You Can Take Charge*, Level A, Zaner-Bloser, 1998

**Grade 7 English**

**MEN7RT, MEN7AT (Regular or Advanced)**

In Grade 7 English, students explore a wide range of literary genres, concentrating on the short story, novel and play. At the beginning of the year, students focus on the basic elements of the short story: setting, character, plot, foreshadowing and conflict. Students learn to recognize the structure of the story, to make inferences and to formulate simple statements of theme based on the resolution of conflict. In addition, students develop their independent reading skills, creating a multi-genre project presentation on one of their novels for Directed Independent Reading.

Analytic and expository writing assignments provide the main vehicle for the development of composition skills, although expressive writing is also explored. Writing instruction targets the development of tighter focus, more specific language and more sophisticated sentence structure.

Vocabulary study stresses proper usage of words in all their variant forms and the proper utilization of context clues to convey and to interpret meaning. Grammar instruction focuses on three fundamental areas: identification of parts of speech and parts of the sentence; usage of verbs, pronouns and modifiers; and review of mechanics, specifically capitalization and punctuation.

More extensive reading and more in-depth writing are required of students in the advanced class.


Grade 7 Writing Development (rotates with World Religions)
MWH7DT and MHW7DT (6 weeks each goal)

In the Writing Development class, Grade 7 students begin to acquire the skills necessary to write thoughtfully developed, organized essays. At the beginning of the year, students concentrate on the development of their writing skills through personal expressive writing, focusing on the selection of concrete “showing” details and the use of specific language. The students then learn to apply these writing skills to expository paragraphs, developing clear topic sentences and strong supporting details. Once they have acquired a measure of skill with well-focused paragraphs, students learn to adjust the content of individual paragraphs to achieve specific writing purposes: an introductory paragraph with a hook and a thesis statement, body paragraphs with clear topic sentences and relevant supporting details, and a conclusion with a strong clincher. As the year progresses, students learn to structure more complex assignments: a personal essay, a personal opinion, a film review of October Sky and a culminating research paper.

This course rotates with World Religions. See the History section for a complete description (p. 17).

Grade 8 English
MEN8RT, MEN8AT (Regular or Advanced)

The primary objective of the Grade 8 English program is to develop those reading, writing, speaking and thinking skills students need to succeed in the Upper School English program. Literature study emphasizes more in-depth interpretive and analytic reading. Students learn to analyze language, literary structure and point-of-view; make inferences and interpret meaning; formulate statements of a work’s theme, and evaluate a work’s merit. The literature selections tend to reflect more mature language, style and concept. In their reading, students focus on the development of plot and conflict, techniques of characterization, and the use of literary devices such as foreshadowing, irony, imagery and symbolism. Each goal, students practice their independent reading skills as they share responses to their book on reading blog and develop their project.

Students continue to develop their personal or creative writing skills through poetry or short story assignments. The primary focus, though, is on the further development of skills in analytic and persuasive writing. In particular, students learn to present textual evidence to support their thesis.

Vocabulary study continues to stress the proper usage of words in their variant forms, not simply definitions and synonyms. Grammar study emphasizes an understanding of sentence structure and the development of editing skills that students can utilize in their writing. Using modeling and sentence combining techniques, students learn to use subordination to develop a more sophisticated writing style.

Students in the advanced course undertake more challenging reading and do extensive, in-depth analytical writing.

Speech and Dramatics
MDR8RT

Prerequisite: Recommendation by Speech and Dramatics Teacher

The Speech and Dramatics elective course is designed to offer interested Grade 8 students the opportunity to explore their creative side while developing interpretive and communicative skills. In class, students are part of a unified ensemble fostering creative risk taking, enhanced self-confidence, clear and well structured communication, enlightened and imaginative exploration of literary texts, and dynamic physical, vocal and intellectual expression.

In the fall, students have the opportunity to prepare competitive speech or interpretation events for the Michigan Interscholastic Forensics Association Middle Level Tournament. Event categories are assigned by the teacher and can include oratory, extemporaneous speaking, storytelling, poetry interpretation, and duo or multiple interpretation. Theater and film production is the focus of the latter half of the year, when the students collaborate on creating and presenting short plays or films. These original student works have been premiered at such venues as Celebrate the Arts, all-school assemblies, the Lower and Junior Schools and the Middle School Talent show, and feature the students in production roles (as playwrights, prop masters, costume designers, stage managers, student directors, etc.) as well as on stage and screen. In addition to these large projects, students have the opportunity to explore additional facets of speech and dramatics in diverse mini-units that can include theater criticism, impromptu speaking, puppetry, theater education and improvisational comedy.

Grade 8 Speech Rotator
MDR8Z (Rotates with Art – MAR8Z & Music Appreciation – MMU8Z)

This 11-week mini course is designed to help students feel more comfortable with public speaking as well as “thinking on their feet.” Throughout the course, students will learn and practice a fundamental impromptu speech format using current events topics and areas of interest to young people. In addition, they will develop and deliver entertaining, informative and persuasive short speeches. Some basic research done during the class will provide the basis of most of the speeches.

Related Clubs, Activities, Events and Competitions
Story Hour
Creative Writing
Drama (Grade 6)
Forensics (Grades 7 & 8)
Meadowbrook Theater trips for each grade
DCDS Writing Contest
Michigan Interscholastic Forensics Competition
The Oakland Press / Scripps-Howard Spelling Bee
The NCTE Promising Young Writers Awards
Scholastic Art and Writing Awards

FINE ARTS

The Middle School visual arts department offers visual arts instruction for all students in Grades 6, 7 and 8. Block scheduling allows for all classes to meet two or three times a week for 70 minute classes. On “Every Block” days, the classes meet for 35 minutes. The 6th grade art classes rotate all year long for eight weeks in art and eight weeks in either music history or P.E. This allows for a total of 16 weeks of study in art. The 7th grade art class is offered as part of a rotation along with PE and Heros and Villains. This class is the duration of 11 weeks or one goal. In Grade 8, there is the option of applying for year-long art or taking a one semester, 11 week rotator class in art. A sequential program with a gradually expanding knowledge base and skill development is presented. Classes are enriched with the textbook, Exploring Art, art reproductions, PowerPoint presentations, Scholastic Art magazine, slides and various visiting artist, both locally and nationally known. Classes address the National Standards for the Visual Arts as established by the National Art Education Association and the Michigan Art Education Association. Each year of study includes four major components:

Aesthetic perception
Creative expression and production
Art history
Critical analysis

While skill achievement and historic appreciation are stressed, emphasis on the fun and enjoyment of learning is an important element of Middle School art education.

The art classroom fosters an instructional climate where students can express artistic talent, develop creative thinking and find multiple solutions to art problems. Students are encouraged to ask questions and form connections about art and how it relates to cultures, research, communication and the development of ideas. We believe that a quality visual arts program allows for discovery and creative problem solving and cultivates learners who are able to make positive contributions to society.

Through varied studio experiences and the assimilation of information, the students learn to recognize and understand the artistic achievements and expectations of various societies. The students gain the ability to produce, read and interpret visual symbols, and learn to evaluate their own productions as well. By developing a rich background in the visual arts, the students gain an awareness and sensitivity to the man-made and natural environments and develop the skills to become visually literate.

Grade 6 Art
MAR6DT (rotates with MMU6DT – Music Appreciation or with MPE6DT - Gym)

Meets: 2 or 3 days a week for eight weeks – twice per year (two or three 70 minute classes per week)

The grade 6 course has numerous short activities that build on the techniques and materials presented in the Junior School. Students utilize the information covered in the first five chapters of the classroom textbook, Exploring Art. Projects present the study of the elements of art through painting, drawing, color mixing, clay, plaster sculpture, computers and collage. Materials and techniques in a wide variety are used. Students are introduced to pre-planning their work. Craftsmanship and creativity are stressed. Through participation in oral critiques of historical and contemporary artworks, students learn to apply the evaluation process to their own productions. Sketches are required when planning projects.

**Supplementary Resource Materials:** *Scholastic Art*, published in cooperation with the National Gallery of Art; fine art prints, videos and PowerPoints.

**Grade 7 Art**
MAR7Z (rotates with Project Adventure - MPE7Z & Heroes and Villains - MHS7Z)
Meets: 2 - 3 days a week for eleven weeks of each trimester (three 70 minute classes, one 35 minute class)

This course stresses the fundamentals of drawing, painting, ceramics, printmaking, computer art and design principles. Students utilize the information covered in chapters six through ten of the classroom textbook, *Exploring Art*. The idea that art skills can be learned is presented. Art history and appreciation augment the studio work with audio-visual programs, textbooks and magazines. Inventiveness, creativity, risk-taking ability and follow-through are assessed. Oral and written critiques are experienced to help the students review and evaluate their own work. Sketches are required during the planning process.

**Texts:** *Exploring Art*, Gene Mittler, Rosalind Ragans, Glencoe Publishing.

**Supplementary Resource Materials:** *Scholastic Art*, published in cooperation with the National Gallery of Art; color slides, videos, and overhead color transparencies.

**Grade 8 Year-Long Art**
MAR8AT

**Prerequisite:** Students interested in Year-Long Art must meet these requirements:
Submit three pieces of their art by the end of Goal 2.
Design a portfolio cover using their name. Paper will be provided.
Write a short paragraph stating why they should be recommended for advanced art.
Earn a 92 average, or higher in the art rotator. Instructor approval is also needed.
More specific details can be obtained from the art department teachers.

Meets 2 - 3 days a week throughout the year (three 70 minute classes, one 35 minute class)

This year-long studio course meets the needs of individuals who exhibit special talent and the desire to explore the disciplines of art through in-depth two- and three-dimensional design assignments that go beyond the survey course offered in the 11-week rotation. The students use the text, *Exploring Art*. Personal commitment to excellence and focus are required. A sketchbook is maintained.

**Grade 8 Art Rotator**
MAR8Z (rotates with Music Appreciation – MMU8Z & Introduction to Speech & Drama - MDR8Z)

In the Grade 8 Art Rotator class, students will create four major projects. The class will involve a variety of mediums as well as a focus on contemporary artists and art history. At the start of the course, students will continue to build on their shading skills using pencil, colored pencil and/or watercolor. There will also be an opportunity for students to work on three-dimensional art by creating an installation using papier-mâché. Students will also learn about a variety of artists through class discussions and PowerPoint presentations. All projects will be on display at “Celebrate the Arts” and may be picked up after the show. This course is available to any student willing and open to exploring his/her creativity and is offered for the duration of 11 weeks or one goal. It is a stress-free course designed to be enjoyed by all students, no matter their artistic ability!
**History**

The goal of the Middle School history department is for students to develop a sound understanding and appreciation for people, places and events that have shaped the world in which they live today. The department also focuses on building the skills that will help prepare students for future academic successes and civic growth.

The history department believes that in order to foster and reinforce academic growth; a variety of learning techniques must be utilized. Skills strongly emphasized and practiced throughout the history curriculum are: technical reading, identifying main ideas, note-taking formats, paragraph and essay writing, interpretive analysis and oral expression. Historical information and academic skills are explored through cooperative learning exercises, interdisciplinary activities, computer webquests, individual research projects, audio-visual aids and role-playing activities. We are striving to develop students who will be able to take factual material and apply it to formulate thoughts, ideas and conclusions of their own.

We understand that the Middle School serves as an important transition between elementary school and high school. We strongly believe that through the implementation of these varied teaching strategies students will master the essential skills to be productive learners and develop an appreciation for history.

**Grade 6 World Geography**  
*MHS6RT*

During the first part of the year, students focus on learning geographical terms and the utilization of many geographic tools. These basic skills are applied as the students explore the regions of the world. The World Geography course also includes the study of the world's cultures. Their discoveries and knowledge of the world are displayed through a variety of assignments including the World Tour Project. Projects generally require outside research, mapping skills and written or oral presentations revolving around the five themes of geography. In addition to these skills, the course focuses on paragraph development, organization, memorization techniques, comprehension information literacy, and technology skills.

The value of the course lies in its ability to create for students a fundamental background of continents and cultures that will enable them to better understand the historical perspectives in future courses.

**Text:** *World Explorer: People, Places, and Cultures*, Prentice Hall, 2007

**Grade 7 World History**  
*MHS7RT*

This is a theme based course designed to explore the history behind many of the world’s cultures. It focuses on the rise and fall of empires throughout the world during the Middle Ages. The course begins with early African empires, medieval China, India and Japan. The second half of the year exposes students to the study of medieval Europe, the Renaissance, Reformation, Scientific Revolution and the Age of Exploration.

Throughout the study of world history, the students are also exposed to the art, architecture and literature of the time period in order to enrich each culture’s historical background. Study skills, concept mapping, outlining skills, internet exploration and research, organization, written reflection and cooperative interactions are the focus skill areas in Grade 7.
Special projects for the course include: World Changer Project in honor of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday and creating an “Attic Archaeology” project and museum. All assignments are designed to build and strengthen research skills, technology skills, writing skills and oral expression.

**Texts:** *World History*, Holt McDougal, 2012 online version

**Grade 7 World Religions**
**MHW7DT (rotates with Writing Development - MWH7DT)**
(6 weeks each goal)

In this course, students explore religious and cultural diversity through readings, films, internet activities, current events and guided class discussions. During the first two goals, students identify the basic tenants and historical leaders of the world’s major religions including Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. Each of these religions is also discussed in terms of its historical impact on countries and their cultures. Ultimately, students will recognize the many similarities of these religions and develop an appreciation of their differences. The last goal of the course revolves around Holocaust studies. The Holocaust topic is broken down into categories covering the perpetrators, the victims, the bystanders and the rescuers. The content is presented through picture books, movies, primary sources and guided class discussion. Through the study of the Holocaust, students begin to develop an understanding of the impact of prejudice, intolerance and indifference.

**Grade 7 Rotator – Heroes and Villains**
**MHS7Z (rotates with MAR7Z - Art and MPE7Z –Project Adventure)**

The Twentieth Century was full of recognized and unrecognized heroes and villains who impacted the world. Who were these people? What motivated them? How have they influenced world events, attitudes and beliefs? Are all villains truly villainous and are all heroes truly heroic? This rotation will analyze several figures from the Twentieth Century and teach students how to develop an honest “Heroes and Villains” rubric to determine where an individual would fall on a spectrum. Students will also research, write and present a project on one person from the Twentieth Century and determine whether their personality is a hero or a villain. Students also make a personal connection to heroes in their own life by interviewing and writing a report on a family hero.

**Grade 8 History of the United States**
**MHS8RT**

The study of American history involves names and dates, discoveries and conflicts. Through the study of the facts, students will begin to see the relationships between individuals and groups that have shaped the history of the United States. It is important to present concepts that help students to understand the cause and effect of how historical circumstances have influenced the American experience.

This survey course will begin with Colonization, the American Revolution, the Constitution and expansion of the United States. The second half of the year is dedicated to the conflicts of the Civil War, Reconstruction, and Industrialization. Essay writing, analysis of historical events, note taking, memorization, test taking, collaboration and creating electronic media are focus skill areas in Grade 8.

Special activities for this course include: participating in the America and Me Essay Contest; developing an essay and presentation with a topic that honors the oratory style of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Lewis and Clark interactive experience; Civil War Reenactment; and a class trip to Wash-
ingston, D.C. The history department views the trip as an extension of the classroom experience so students “feel” the history they are learning back in the classroom.


**RELATED CLUBS, ACTIVITIES, EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS**

- National Geography Bee (All school)
- National Social Studies League (All school)
- National Geography Challenge (All school)
- World Tour Project (Grade 6)
- Attic Archaeology Project (Grade 7)
- Michigan Social Studies Olympiad Club (Grades 7 and 8)
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratory Presentations (Grades 7 and 8)
- *America and Me* Essay Contest (Grade 8)
- Class trip to Washington, D. C. (Grade 8)
MATHEMATICS
The Middle School Mathematics department offers a rich variety of courses to meet students’ individual needs. Emphasis is placed on applying computational skills to quantitative situations. Within each course, technology is utilized to enrich the curriculum. It is our aim to present concepts in a manner that engages students and enables them to think critically while developing mathematical understandings and connections.

Grade 6 students review and expand their computation skills and problem solving strategies. Their course is followed by a pre-algebra course in Grade 7. Depending on the student’s success and grasp of the pre-algebra topics, they will be recommended for Algebra I or Grade 8 Math. At each grade level, advanced level courses are offered.

For students who complete the Middle School mathematics sequence early, Advances Geometry is offered. Students may also be enrolled in higher level high school math courses as needed. The department provides numerous opportunities for students to compete in mathematics contests at the school, regional, state, national and international levels.

Grade 6 Mathematics
MMA6RT
The math program includes a gradual expansion of students’ knowledge of number systems. The course emphasizes mathematical structure, development of equations, solutions to equations, graphing, geometry, metric system, fractional numbers, decimal numbers, percents and integers. Estimation, problem solving, and the algebraic process are key components throughout the course.


Grade 6 Advanced Mathematics
MMA6AT
This demanding course is for the students who have not only excelled in mathematics but are able to think critically and apply the concepts to related topics. Students are presented new concepts in a more abstract manner requiring the use of the algebraic process to determine solutions. Core topics are integrated throughout the course. Enrollment is determined by recommendation based upon the departmental criteria.


Grade 7 Pre-Algebra
MMA7RT
This course emphasizes solving equations algebraically, thereby strengthening arithmetic skills and developing the necessary, traditional pre-algebra concepts. Work with positive and negative rational numbers, variables and exponents is stressed. Elementary geometry concepts are studied, emphasizing the metric system and the application of geometric formulas. Number theory, graphing and word problems are also studied. Spreadsheets and graphing data, utilizing computers, are coordinated with the science department.

Text: Larson Pre-Algebra, Hotl McDugal, 2012
Grade 7 Advanced Pre-Algebra
MMA7AT
In the advanced course, the approach is more abstract and theoretical than in the regular pre-algebra course. The same traditional pre-algebra topics are presented as in the Grade 7 Pre-Algebra course. In addition, more in-depth emphasis is placed on number theory, graphing equations, functions, strategies for solving word problems, exponents, real numbers, varied base numbers, geometry and elementary algebra. The algebraic method is used in equation solving throughout the year. Enrollment is determined by recommendation based upon the departmental criteria.

Text: Holt McDougal Larson Pre-Algebra, 2012

Grade 8 Mathematics
MMA8TT
This is a course for those students who will benefit from additional pre-algebra mathematics before taking Algebra I. Emphasis is placed on strengthening arithmetic skills, introducing geometric concepts and providing the student with a stronger understanding of the properties of the number system. Topics are taught so that their relationship with algebraic concepts is stressed. Special emphasis is placed on providing the students with opportunities to be successful in mathematics. Topics studied in depth include operations with integers and rational numbers, equations, problem solving, area and volume, and graphing. The goal of this course is to provide a smooth path from arithmetic to algebra and from the visual world and arithmetic to geometry.


Grade 8 Algebra I
MMA8RT
(Fulfills one high school credit)
This high school level course is designed for those students who have mastered the topics discussed in Pre-Algebra. Both the structure of algebra and the development of computational problem-solving skills are stressed. The course of study includes working with real numbers, equations and inequalities, systems of equations, coordinate geometry, quadratic equations, polynomials and rational equations. Throughout the course, topics are integrated and reviewed. Graphing calculators, supplied by the department, are used in relation to the course work.


Grade 8 Advanced Algebra I
MMA8AT
(Fulfills one high school credit)
In this advanced course, more in-depth work is assigned and more rigor required. The same topics covered in Grade 8 Algebra I are studied and integrated. Additional topics that are often just introduced in an Algebra I course and then expanded in the Upper School mathematics courses may also be studied. Such topics could include probability and statistics, sequences, permutations, combinations and others. Graphing calculators, supplied by the department, are used in relation to the course work. Enrollment is determined by recommendation based upon the departmental criteria.

Grade 8 Advanced Geometry
MMA8GT
(Fulfills one high school credit)
This advanced level course is for those Middle School students who have successfully completed the Advanced Algebra I course. The geometry concepts are introduced visually, analytically, inductively and deductively. The course integrates topics from both algebra and geometry. Emphasis is placed on the development of logical reasoning with the mathematical systems studied. The basic postulates and theorems of Euclidean geometry are developed and the concept of formal proof is studied in depth. In addition to the traditional topics of geometry, basic concepts of logic, set theory, groups and graph theory are studied.


Grade 8 Honors Algebra II
MMA0AT
(Fulfills one high school credit)
This course is for those students who have successfully completed the Advanced Geometry course. It is a demanding second year algebra course with emphasis on preparing the student for the Advanced Placement program in mathematics and/or the International Baccalaureate syllabus. Course content includes properties of the real number system, solving equations and inequalities, solving systems of equations, relations and functions, quadratic relations and systems, graphing functions and relations, polynomials and polynomial functions, exponential and logarithmic equations, sequences and series, permutations, combinations and probability, analytic geometry, basic statistics, matrices, and the study of transformations.

Text: Algebra and Trigonometry, Addison-Wesley Longman, Inc. 3rd Edition 08.

MATH COMPETITIONS
American Math Competition (AMC-8, 10, and 12)
D.C.D.S. Math Invitational
MATHCOUNTS
Math Rally
Michigan Mathematics League State Test (grades 6, 7, and 8)
Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition (MMPC)
Purple Comet Math Contest

CLUBS
Chess
Math Competition
Math Pentathalon
Stock Market

PROJECTS
Get a Life
Half a Cake
Measure the Carpet
October Sky Project
PERFORMING ARTS: MUSIC & THEATER

The ancient Greek philosopher, Plato extolled the benefits of music to the human being. He said: “Education in music is most sovereign because more than anything else, rhythm and harmony find their way to the inmost soul and take strongest hold upon them (the students), . . . imparting grace if one is rightly trained.” We, at Detroit Country Day School, value music as an important part of a young person’s development. Musical involvement has been shown to improve a student’s self-discipline, dexterity, coordination, self-esteem, thinking skills, listening skills, creative ability and personal expression. In addition, many colleges view participation in the arts and music as a valuable experience that broadens students’ understanding and appreciation of the world around them. Detroit Country Day School recognizes the important role musical instruction can play in a child’s life and commits itself to numerous opportunities for student participation.

Our primary goal is to provide excellent musical experiences through performance in instrumental (orchestra and band) and choral music. Through its multi-level structure, the instrumental program offers even the most beginning student the opportunity to perform, while still giving the most advanced players the proper environment with which to further their skills and express their musicality. The choral program is also open to every student who wishes to participate. Each level of vocal development is offered a unique singing opportunity. A highlight of the Middle School Choral Program is the men’s and women’s choirs, which allow for very focused and customized instruction geared to the unique needs of the developing young voice. All Middle School performance groups give two concerts each year in our Performing Arts Center. We also fully participate in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association and the Michigan School Vocal Music Association’s district and state festivals, with a reputation of excellence throughout the area. In addition, several clubs are offered for students to further their skills and experiences. For those who do not wish to be a part of the performance program, we also offer a Music Appreciation class at the Grade 6 level and a Jazz/Blues/Rock History class at the Grade 8 level, which explore the history of American music, its evolution through the ages and its influence on culture and society.

In addition to our numerous musical offerings, we have a rapidly expanding drama program. Through the Speech and Drama class, we are expanding our performing arts experiences beyond the concert hall and onto stage and screen. Students can experience multiple venues of theatrical performance including Forensics, one act plays, sketch comedy, improvisation, film production and beyond. Currently, the Speech and Drama class is offered to Grade 8 students by recommendation of advisors and the teacher of the class. It is a perfect preparation for the thriving theatre program offered at the Upper School. (See ENGLISH section for complete course descriptions).

Band Explorations and Instrument Selection
MBD0BT

Prerequisite: Interview with MS Band Instructor

This class is for the absolute beginner. It is a performance group which is open to all students who wish to study a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument. The fundamentals of reading music are stressed as well as the proper use and care of their prospective instrument as well as establishing a practice regimen. Participants may perform in concerts. This class is graded.
Placement of students into Symphony Band or Wind Ensemble is determined by the Detroit Country Day Junior School teacher recommendation and/or audition by the Middle School Band Director.

**Symphony Band**  
**MBD0IT**  
**Prerequisite:** Placement by Audition  
This performance group is open to all students who have grasped the skills covered in the Band Explorations class. Emphasis is placed on the mastery of daily assignments that develop technical skills, note-reading, tone quality, proper position and basic knowledge of music theory and maintaining a consistent practice regimen. The group performs two major concerts each year and participates in school events. This class is graded.

**Wind Ensemble**  
**MBD0AT**  
**Prerequisite:** Placement by Audition  
This performance group is open to all students who have mastered the skills covered in Band Explorations and Symphony Band. Each group is exposed to music literature from various periods of music history, as well as the study of basic theory. Individual students participate in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association Solo and Ensemble Festival. The Band and Orchestra as performance groups participate in the MSBOA District and State Festivals. The group prepares two major concerts each year and performs for school events and various off-campus functions. This class is graded.

**Treble Choir – Grade 6**  
**MCR6RT**  
**Prerequisite:** NONE  
This choir is an opportunity for any Grade 6 student to explore vocal music in a classroom setting. Many different types of music are performed throughout the school year, covering a wide variety of styles and time periods. The basic fundamentals of vocal technique are studied such as breath support, posture and vowel production. Also, elementary aspects of music theory are introduced, such as basic notation, key signatures, rhythm and solfege. The Treble Choir participates in all Middle School choral concerts, as well as District Choral Festival in March.

**Men’s Choir – Grades 7/8**  
**MBC0RT**  
**Prerequisite:** by recommendation  
This class meets the unique needs of the young male voice by offering a special opportunity for boys going through the difficult and sometimes awkward process of the voice change. Since the class is all boys, it is geared toward the specific needs of this type of voice. It offers a safe and nurturing environment for young men to discover the beauty of music. Beginning and intermediate music theory is also covered, as well as proper vocal technique. The choir performs in all Middle School choral concerts in addition to participating in both District and State Choral Festivals. A wide variety of carefully selected repertoire is performed, adding to the exciting experience of singing with such a group. The grade in this class is not averaged into the GPA but may still affect honor roll status.

**Women’s Choir – Grades 7/8**  
**MGC0RT**  
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Prerequisite – by recommendation

The needs of the young female voice are uniquely different from the young male voice. The voice change for girls is not as drastic as for the boys, but it does offer very unique challenges and frustrations to young singers. Since this class is all girls, it is geared toward the specific needs of this type of voice. It offers a safe and nurturing environment for girls to discover the beauty of music and offers an opportunity for self-expression. Beginning and intermediate music theory is also covered, as well as proper vocal technique. The choir performs in all Middle School choral concerts in addition to participating in both District and State Choral Festivals. A wide variety of carefully selected repertoire is performed, adding to the exciting experience of singing with such a group. The grade in this class is not averaged into the GPA but may still affect honor roll status.

Strings Exploration
MOR0BT
Prerequisite: Interview with MS Strings Instructor

Strings Exploration class is offered for those students in Grades 6, 7 and 8 who have not studied a string instrument, who have had minimal training on their instrument, or students who need review of the basic foundations of string playing. The students have a choice of studying the violin, viola, cello or double bass. Emphasis is placed upon basic techniques such as instrument hold, left hand position, bow hold, tone production and note-reading. Each student is responsible for renting an instrument from an area string shop for home practice. Cello and Double bass students are required to rent an instrument for home practice, but would have the opportunity to use a school instrument during the school day to avoid transporting such a large instrument to and from school. The Strings Exploration class performs two major concerts per year and participates in school events. Placement into this class will be determined by the Middle School Strings Director. The grade in this class is not averaged into the GPA but may still affect honor roll status.

Placement of students into the intermediate and advanced orchestras is determined by the music instructor at Detroit Country Day Junior School and/or audition by the Middle School Strings Director.

String Orchestra
MOR0IT
Prerequisite: Placement by Audition

The String Orchestra is open to all students in Grades 6, 7 and 8 who have mastered the basic foundation of string playing as taught in Strings Exploration. Emphasis is placed on the mastery of daily assignments that develop technical skills, note-reading, tone quality, position and basic knowledge of theory. The String Orchestra performs in two major concerts each year and participates in school events. All students enrolled in this class are eligible to receive honor roll credit. The grade in this class is not averaged into the GPA but may still affect honor roll status.

Chamber Ensemble
MOR0AT
Prerequisite: Placement by Audition

The Chamber Ensemble is open to select students who have reached an advanced level of proficiency on their respective instruments. These students are exposed to music literature from various periods of music history, as well as the study of basic theory. Students enrolled in this class will have the opportunity to participate in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association Solo and Ensemble Festival. This group also participates in the MSBOA District and State Orchestra Festivals. The grade in this class is not averaged into the GPA but may still affect honor roll status.
The Ensemble also prepares two major concerts each year and performs for school events and various off-campus functions. The grade in this class is not averaged into the GPA but may still affect honor roll status.

**Grade 6 Music Appreciation Rotator**
**MMU6DT (rotates with Art - MAR6DT)**
A 16-week course in the Grade 6 rotation block
The wonders of music are limitless and can be appreciated on many levels. As part of the Grade 6 Music & Art Rotator, students in Music Appreciation will study music from our own culture as well as others from around the world. During this journey, students will study a variety of genres including classical, jazz and popular. Samples of class units include: Why Music Exists, What Makes Music Enjoyable, How Music Communicates and How Music Improves Your Life. Students have the opportunity for classroom music-making, utilizing percussion instruments. Rhythm matching, expression and improvisation are skills developed in these hands-on practices.

Students are required to keep a Music Appreciation journal which is used for class work and home assignments. Music Appreciation in Grade 6 is a non-academically graded class. Personal deportment and participation are evaluated, while academic work is marked as Acceptable, Unacceptable or Incomplete.

**Grade 8 Music Appreciation Rotator**
**MMU8Z (rotates with Art – MAR8Z & Introduction to Speech – MDR8Z)**
The wonders of music are limitless and can be appreciated on many levels. As part of the Grade 8 Physical Education, Speech and Music Rotator, students in Music Appreciation will study advanced music from our own culture as well as others from around the world. During this journey, students will study a variety of genres including classical, jazz and popular.

Samples of units students will study include: How Music Expresses, Developed Listening Skills, Our Lives and Music, Programmatic, and Minimalist Music. Students have the opportunity for basic music composition and in-class performance.

Students are required to keep a Music Appreciation journal which is used for class work and home assignments. Music Appreciation-Grade 8 is an academically graded class. Personal deportment and participation are evaluated and directly influence the students’ overall class experience.

**Grade 8 Speech Rotator**
**MDR8Z (rotates with Art – MAR8Z & Music Appreciation – MMU8Z)**
See ENGLISH section for complete description.

**Speech and Dramatics**
**MDR8RT**
Prerequisite: Recommendation by Speech and Dramatics Teacher
See ENGLISH section for complete description.

**RELATED CLUBS, ACTIVIES, EVENTS and COMPETITIONS**
**Choral-Aires** (20 voice small ensemble auditioned from Men’s & Women’s Choirs)
Chamber Music Club (Studies chamber works from the string repertoire)
Jazz Improvisation (Introduction to Jazz improvisation for string players)
Guitar Club (All levels can join to learn/share guitar playing in groups or individually)
Music Exploration (Creation of and sharing musical ideas)
MSBOA & MSVMA (Band & Orchestra Festival, Choral Festival and Solo & Ensemble Festival)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The mission, philosophy and purpose of the Detroit Country Day Middle School physical education program reflect the school’s motto “Mens Sana in Corpore Sano” (a sound mind in a sound body). The Middle School physical education program strives to develop within each student an understanding of how to achieve and maintain a sound mind in a strong body. The Middle School physical education program also strives to challenge students to achieve their individual potential, while encouraging the attainment of lifetime skills and values.

Desired goals of the middle school physical education program are:
An appreciation of fitness as a lifetime pursuit
The development of a diligent work ethic
A commitment to team work
The integrity to play by the rules and exhibit good sportsmanship
The development of a positive self image and a respect for others
The ability to win graciously and lose with dignity
To develop and maintain a tradition of excellence
To maintain a safe athletic environment

The physical education and athletic departments present the “Corpore Sano” Award to Grade 6, 7 and 8 students who attain elite achievement in interscholastic athletics and physical education. To be eligible for the yearly award, students must meet the criteria set forth by the respective departments in the areas of:

Athletic Sport Participation – Successful completion of more than the minimum interscholastic/on campus sport requirement for each grade level
Individual Fitness Testing – An average of the 85th percentile in the Mile Run, Pacer, Shuttle Run, Pull-Ups, Push-Ups and Sit-Ups tests based on gender and age
Writing Component – Short written narrative (100 words or more) describing how Middle School interscholastic sports and physical education fitness testing have made an impact on their lives. Students are to focus their essay on at least one of the four tenets of the Middle School Honor Covenant

GRADE 6
MDPE6RT
Meets three days (189 minutes) per week for the entire year

The structured physical education curriculum includes an in-depth fitness evaluation of each student in the fall, communication of the student’s fitness profile with the student’s parents, recommended exercise programs and retesting of each student in the spring of each school year. Students are evaluated on their health-related fitness levels in four test areas: cardiovascular endurance, muscle strength, agility and flexibility. The students complete a battery of tests that include: mile run, pacer test, shuttle run, sit-up, pull-ups, push-ups, sit-and-reach test and flexibility tests.

A five week introduction to the Project Adventure ropes course climbing unit emphasizing trust building, problem solving and group cooperative initiative activities for Grade 6 students is well received. The Grade 6 climbing initiatives include the tension traverse, prussik knot climb, horizontal
wall climb, Tarzan swing, rope ladder, cargo net swing, climbing walls one and four, and mastering proper belaying techniques. Students are required to complete a written self-evaluation of their climbing achievements, industry, behavior and attitudes. They discuss their accomplishments, goals and objectives, and fitness scores with their parents at the mid-year “Student Led Conferences” as part of their PowerPoint presentation.

Instructional units include soccer, flag football, field hockey, ultimate Frisbee, cross country, basketball, gymnastics, volleyball, team handball, floor hockey, track and field, softball and paddle tennis. Various competitive sport units incorporate a “Sport Education Model” which require students to participate being referees, statisticians, photographers and writers. Participation in this “Sport Education Model” encourages students to be successful, enthused and committed to doing better for themselves and their team. Scores, statistics, pictures and articles are posted on the Physical Education Bulletin Board and website.

Students do not receive a mark in Grade 6 physical education but are evaluated on their health related fitness scores, sport skill achievements, climbing initiatives, behavior, attitude, industry, organizational skills and leadership ability.

Grade 6 PE Rotator

MPE6DT (Rotates with Art - MAR6DT)

Meets 189 minutes per week for 16 weeks

Grade 6 music performance students who cannot experience the year round physical education class are encouraged to participate in this course.

The structured physical education curriculum includes an in-depth fitness evaluation of each student in the fall, communication of the student’s fitness profile with the student’s parents, recommended exercise programs and retesting of each student in the spring of each school year. Students are evaluated on their health-related fitness levels in four test areas: cardiovascular endurance, muscle strength, agility and flexibility. The students complete a battery of tests that include: mile run, pacer test, shuttle run, sit-up, pull-ups, push-ups, sit-and-reach test and flexibility tests.

A five week introduction to the Project Adventure ropes course climbing unit emphasizing trust building, problem solving, and group cooperative initiative activities for Grade 6 students is well received. The Grade 6 climbing initiatives include the tension traverse, prussik knot climb, horizontal wall climb, Tarzan swing, rope ladder, cargo net swing, climbing walls one and four, and mastering proper belaying techniques. Students are required to complete a written self-evaluation of their climbing achievements, industry, behavior and attitudes. They discuss their accomplishments, goals and objectives and fitness scores with their parents at the mid-year “Student Led Conferences” as part of their power point presentation.

Students do not receive a mark in Grade 6 physical education but are evaluated on their health related fitness scores, sport skill achievements, climbing initiatives, behavior, attitude, industry, organizational skills and leadership ability.

GRADE 7

MPE7Z (Rotates with Art - MAR7Z and Heroes & Villains – MHS7Z)

Meets 189 minutes per week

Grade 7 students are given an in-depth health-related fitness evaluation similar to the fall and spring evaluations they received in the Grade 6. Fitness testing results are reported to both the student and the parents and recommendations for continued good health are made.
Students are evaluated on their health-related fitness levels in four test areas: cardiovascular endurance, muscle strength, agility and flexibility. The students complete a battery of tests that include: mile run, pacer test, shuttle run, sit-up, pull-ups, push-ups, sit-and-reach test and flexibility tests.

The rotator curriculum is a continuation of the Project Adventure Ropes Course Climbing Curriculum. The Grade 7 initiatives are more advanced and conclude with climbing on the high elements. They include climbing walls two, three and five, the high wall, climbing into the eagles nest, completing a blindfold climb, a 360 degree spin to the cargo net and mastering self-belaying techniques. Students are required to complete a written self-evaluation of their climbing achievements, industry, behavior and attitudes. Students also participate in ultimate Frisbee, floor hockey, and competitive games. They discuss their accomplishments, goals and objectives and fitness scores with their parents at the mid-year “Student Led Conferences” as part of their power point presentation.

Students do not receive a mark in Grade 7 physical education but are evaluated on their health-related fitness scores, sport skill achievements, climbing initiatives, behavior, attitude, industry, organizational skills and leadership ability.

GRADE 8
MPE8RT

Meets three days (189 minutes) per week for the entire year

The structured curriculum includes an entire school year of continuous fitness activities for each student, communication of the student’s fitness profile with the student’s parents and recommended exercise prescriptions for each student. Principles of cardiovascular and strength training appropriate for Grade 8 students are taught. Directed daily exercise, strength training and cardiovascular programs are conducted utilizing free weights, cybex machines and a variety of cardiovascular machines in the Country Day Blue Gold Fitness Center.

Students are evaluated on their health-related fitness levels in four test areas: cardiovascular endurance, muscle strength, agility and flexibility. The students complete a battery of tests that include: mile run, pacer test, shuttle run, sit-up, pull-ups, push-ups, sit-and-reach test and flexibility tests.

The competitive sports education curriculum includes instructional units in various competitive games such as ultimate Frisbee, touch football, basketball, badminton, volleyball, softball and tennis.

The second goal curriculum includes a continuation of the Project Adventure Ropes Course Climbing Curriculum. The Grade 8 initiatives are more advanced and conclude with jumping from the high trapeze which hangs from the ceiling. Additional initiatives include climbing walls two, six and seven, the ceiling climb, various spins into the cargo net, a single and double rope climb, and the dangle do challenge. Students are required to complete a written self-evaluation of their climbing achievements, industry, behavior and attitudes. They discuss their accomplishments, goals and objectives and fitness scores with their parents at the mid-year “Student Led Conferences” as part of their PowerPoint presentation.

Students do not receive a mark in Grade 8 physical education but are evaluated on their health-related fitness scores, sport skill achievements, climbing initiatives, behavior, attitude, industry, organizational skills and leadership ability. Students may elect to receive athletic credit for successful participation in this class.
SCIENCE

The intent of the Middle School science curriculum is to engage Middle School students and provide a meaningful context for their science education at both a personal and a global level. All classes are student-centered with an emphasis on “hands-on, minds-on” activities. Cooperative learning is used extensively in the classroom and students are challenged to think critically as well as creatively.

Grade 6 Science
MSC6RT

The unifying theme for the Grade 6 science curriculum is “Our Living World.”

The year begins with Project Based Inquiry Science, which asks students to study animals in order to design a zoo enclosure. Observation is used to study the characteristics of living things, which includes a trip to the zoo. Classification is then the basis for studying the specific kingdoms. Later, these concepts are extended to changing ecosystems.

Topics studied throughout the year include: using evidence to make inferences, qualitative and quantitative observations, classification, simple organisms, plants, animals and ecology.

The DCDS natural areas will be utilized regularly through monthly bird-watching as part of an outside field study program. Students will learn simple bird identification skills and will monitor seasonal changes through the “Journey North Tulip project. The Grade 6 students will also participate in the Rouge River Education Project in May by taking samples of benthic macroinvertebrates and reporting the results to the Friends of the Rouge.

The curriculum emphasis will differ slightly during each unit and students will keep a notebook that will provide a foundation for their studies. Participation in the Middle School Science Fair is not a requirement of Grade 6 students. The laptop will be used for various activities throughout the year.

Text: Diversity of Living Things, McDougal Littell, 2005; Animals in Action, Herff Jones, 2009

Grade 7 Science
MSC7RT

The unifying theme for the Grade 7 curriculum is “Our Moving World.”

Students will explore the concepts related to forces, Newton’s Laws of Motion and pressure. Students will learn how forces, energy and work are involved in their daily lives. Each student will assemble a small pinewood car to be used in explorations throughout the year.

The 7th grade students will participate in the Rouge River Education Project in the spring. The laptop will be used for various activities throughout the year.

The curriculum emphasis will differ slightly during each unit and students will keep a notebook that will provide a foundation for their studies. Participation in the Middle School Science Fair is a requirement for Grade 7 students, whereas participation in the Metropolitan Detroit Science and Engineering Fair is optional, but encouraged. The scientific method is emphasized as the projects are prepared.

Grade 8 Science
MSC8RT

The unifying theme for the Grade 8 science curriculum is “Our Flowing World,” which deals with the movement of air, energy, pollutants, electrons from one place to another.

Topics studied include air and water quality, density, weather and the atmosphere, static electricity, food safety, and global climate change. As these topics are studied, current issues are discussed, with an emphasis on the student’s role in the world and an individual’s right to make choices that impact others. The laptop will be used for various activities throughout the year.

The curriculum emphasis will differ slightly during each unit and students will keep a notebook that will provide a foundation for their studies. Participation in the Middle School Science Fair is a requirement for Grade 8 students. Participation in the Science and Engineering Fair of Metropolitan Detroit is optional. The scientific method will be emphasized as students prepare their projects. Grade 8 students participate in the Rouge River Education Project.


Grade 8 Chemistry
MSC8AT

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

Recommended Grade 8 students may elect this option that investigates the materials that make up our environment and the changes that take place in these substances. The course begins with a review of the mathematics necessary for chemistry and continues with the study of matter. The course includes a historical development of atomic structure, a study of both covalent and ionic bonding between elements, an investigation of chemical calculations based on balanced reactions and the mole concept, and an in-depth study of the periodic table. Laboratory work is an integral part of this course and it is used frequently, both as a discovery tool and as a reinforcement tool. Chemistry students are required to participate in the Middle School Science Fair. Participation in the Science and Engineering Fair of Metropolitan Detroit is optional. The scientific method is emphasized as students prepare their projects. Chemistry students will participate in the Rouge River Education Project and are encouraged to take the You be the Chemist Challenge.


Assemblies
Michigan Bats
Michigan Raptors

Field Trips
Grade 7 Science Florida Trip
Grade 6 Science Zoo Trip

Competitions
Science Olympiad
You Be the Chemist
Metro Detroit Science and Engineering Fair
FIRST Lego League Robotics

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**World Languages**

The majority of Middle School students study at least one world language, providing them the opportunity to broaden their horizons. Students benefit from a deeper appreciation for other cultures, increased career opportunities, more satisfying travel and developing a better understanding of one’s own language.

All skills of language acquisition are targeted: reading, listening, speaking and writing in conjunction with culture by native or near-native speakers. In French and Spanish, grammar and vocabulary are introduced in practical, comprehensible everyday situations. In Latin, the focus is directed towards morphology, syntax, semantics and culture via age-appropriate readings, allowing students to make strong and meaningful connections with English.

The learning experience goes beyond the classroom, as we go on a variety of local excursions including the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, the DIA and students may elect to travel to Québec when a trip is offered. There is also the opportunity to join the festivities during National Language Week which varies from year to year. Activities include dance performances and instruction as well as art displays. Throughout the year, the Latin, French and Spanish Clubs provide interested students opportunities to explore culture on a deeper level. Latin students attend the Michigan Junior Classical League Conference. In addition, students participate in competitive National Exams sponsored by the American Classical League, the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese and the American Association of Teachers of French.

The language program is integrated into the curriculum and is considered a full academic class. Successful completion of the Middle School language program fulfills the first year requirement in the Upper School.

*Beginning French classes may be offered, depending on student requests.*

**Grade 6 Beginning French**

**MFR6BT**

This course is an introduction to simple grammatical concepts such as the conjugation of two auxiliary verbs être and avoir; regular -er verbs; voici and voilà; definite and indefinite articles; formation of negative sentences; formation of the feminine and plural of adjectives. Vocabulary: greetings, numbers, dates, time, weather, common school and house objects, colors, personality and descriptive adjectives. Emphasis is placed on oral fluency, aural comprehension, correct pronunciation and correct spelling, and fluent use of simple phrases.

Grade 6 Intermediate French
MFR6IT

**Prerequisite:** One year of French

This course continues and expands the principles of syntax and the vocabulary presented in the Beginning French class. Students learn verbs ending in –er as well as *aller* and *faire*. Vocabulary: hobbies, sports, family, animals, city and country life. Speaking, conversation, pronunciation, reading and writing are emphasized in this course.


Grade 6 Advanced French
MFR6AT

In this course, the material covered includes that of the Intermediate French Grade 6 class. A stronger emphasis is placed on speaking proficiency and developing writing skills. Additionally, concepts and themes will be expanded by the introduction of more in-depth vocabulary.


Grade 7 Beginning French*
MFR7BT

This course is an introduction to simple grammatical concepts such as the conjugation of two auxiliary verbs *être* and *avoir*, regular –er verbs; *voici* and *voilà*; definite and indefinite articles; formation of negative sentences; formation of the feminine and plural of adjectives. Vocabulary: greetings, numbers, dates, time, weather, common school and house objects, colors, personality and descriptive adjectives. Emphasis is placed on oral fluency, aural comprehension, correct pronunciation and correct spelling, and fluent use of simple phrases.


Grade 7 Intermediate French
MFR7IT

**Prerequisite:** Beginning or Intermediate 6th Grade French

This course is designed for students with background in French and offers an intensive review prior to continuing. The concepts of subject–verb agreement and noun–adjective agreement are stressed, as well as the conjugation of regular and irregular verbs in the present, imperative, passé composé and immediate future. As the year progresses, students will study comparative and superlative structures. Additionally, students will learn possessive, interrogative and demonstrative adjectives. Vocabulary is taught in conjunction with syntax. French culture and civilization are presented in a majority of the lessons in order connect language to the lives of the people who speak it.


Grade 7 Advanced French
MFR7AT

**Prerequisite:** Department recommendation (based on Grade 6 performance and assessment)

Expansion of the student’s language experience is the primary goal of this course. Short compositions create opportunities for students to express their ideas in French while developing an understanding of syntax. Grammatical topics covered include the passé composé and immediate future
tense. Other elements include: negative and interrogative pronouns, stress and object pronouns; and noun–adjective agreement. An intensive study of regular and irregular verbs in both the present and the passé composé is a major component of this course. Reading and research cover a wide variety of cultural, historical, political and literary subjects of French-speaking nations throughout the world.

**Texts:** *Discovering French (Bleu)* text and workbook, D.C. Heath & Co., 2004.

**Grade 8 French I**
**MFR8BT**
This is an accelerated class, as it combines all of the elements of Intermediate French from Grades 6, 7 and 8. A student will fulfill the first year U/S requirement upon successful completion of this class and will be prepared for French II. The concepts covered in this class are outlined in the above descriptions for Intermediate French in Grades 6, 7 and 8.


**Grade 8 Intermediate French**
**MFR8IT**
**Prerequisite:** Beginning or Intermediate Grade 7 French
Successful completion of the Grade 8 language course earns 1 year high school credit.

Vocabulary acquisition is extensive: food, parts of the body, transportation and professions. The present, past and imperative tense of regular and irregular verbs is studied. Students also learn object pronouns. Possessive, demonstrative and interrogative adjectives are reviewed. Reading, spelling, speaking and aural comprehension are equally emphasized. Cultural emphasis is on Paris.


**Grade 8 Advanced French**
**MFR8AT**
**Prerequisite:** Two years of French and department recommendation and test or 7th grade Advanced French
Successful completion of the Grade 8 language courses earns 1 year high school credit.

Irregular verbs including the reflexive, the pronouns *y* and *en* and several irregular verbs are introduced. Students complete an in-depth study of the imperfect, simple future and conditional tenses. Vocabulary themes include sports, parts of the body, rooms, household items and clothing. Proficiency in speaking and listening is emphasized. Students must be able to write a paragraph with a minimum amount of spelling and grammatical mistakes. Oral reading must include appropriate intonation. Cultural topics include: Paris, Impressionism and major periods of French history.

**Texts:** *Discovering French (Blanc)*, text and workbooks, D.C. Heath, 2004.
Beginning Latin  
MLA6BT

This course introduces the formal study of Latin. The general objective is for the student to be able to read, write, understand and translate Latin and to recognize and apply grammatical concepts. Part of learning Latin is to understand the language as communication of ideas and values of Roman culture and how it served as a foundation of Western culture. Through word study, students will realize the practical application of Latin, as a significant percentage of English vocabulary originates from Latin. Studying Latin bases, prefixes and suffixes will increase English vocabulary skills. It will also serve as a strong foundation for those students who wish to study French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese or Romanian during their academic career.

Reading material is the source for all vocabulary. Grammar study includes first, second and third declensions of nouns and adjectives in all cases as well as the indicative and imperative action of all four conjugations of verbs in the active voice. Analytical skills will be sharpened as Latin is a highly inflected language. Reading material and culture are ideal vehicles for improving the critical thinking of students of all ages while they learn about Roman history and daily life.


Intermediate Latin  
MLA7IT

**Prerequisite:** Beginning Latin

This course serves as a continuation of Beginning Latin. Objectives include reading, writing and translation proficiency while recognizing and applying grammatical concepts.

Reading material is the source of all vocabulary. Grammar study includes first, second and third declensions of nouns and adjectives in all cases as well as the indicative and imperative action of all four conjugations of verbs in the active and passive voice. Personal, demonstrative and relative pronouns as well as adverbs are introduced. Students study various aspects of Roman civilization: history, daily life and mythology. Critical thinking exercises will help students analyze, synthesize and evaluate a text and predict an outcome.

The word study portion of the class teaches students word formation and derivation of English words from Latin, showing the interrelationship between Latin and English.

**Texts:** Latin for Americans Level 1 and workbook, Glencoe/McGraw-Hill, 2003.

Advanced Latin  
MLA8AT

**Prerequisite:** Intermediate Latin

This course serves as a continuation of Intermediate Latin. The general objectives are for the student to be able to read, write, understand and translate Latin, and to recognize and apply grammatical concepts.

Reading material is the source of all vocabulary. Grammar introduces students to irregular verbs in all tenses, passive voice in all tenses, interrogative and demonstrative pronouns, comparisons, relative clauses, participles and the principles of word formation. The political structure of the Roman Republic is studied and related to modern governments. The reading material and grammatical exercises are also used as a basis for critical thinking activities in which students analyze, synthesize and evaluate text and predict outcomes.

**Texts:** Latin for Americans Level 1 and workbook, Glencoe/McGraw-Hill, 2003.
Grade 6 Introduction to Spanish
MSP6BT

This course is an introduction to the Spanish language and culture of Spanish-speaking people around the world. The emphasis is on conversation, pronunciation, reading and writing for communicative purposes. Students begin to acquire the knowledge of basic grammatical structures as they study vocabulary associated with age-appropriate everyday topics. These include, but are not limited to, greetings and introductions, the weather, school materials and subjects, likes and dislikes, and physical/personality descriptions. Students who begin Spanish study in the Grade 6 will have the opportunity for in-depth study of the language and culture over three years, promoting long-term mastery of Spanish language skills. Providing they continue successfully through three years of Middle School study, they will be prepared for second-year language study in the Upper School.


Beginning Spanish
MSP7BT

Prerequisite: Must be in Grade 7

Students begin to speak, read, write and comprehend the Spanish language on a fundamental level. Communication of relevant ideas and meanings in real life situations allows for students to understand grammar inductively. As the year progresses, previously introduced concepts reappear, allowing for repetition and enhancement of student learning. Native pronunciation is stressed as well as different regional dialects. Vocabulary emphasis: greetings, telling time, weather, numbers, parts of the body, classroom objects, the calendar, hobbies, descriptive adjectives, -ar, -er, and -ir verbs in the present tense, location and food. Students learn to communicate as they participate in paired and small group activities, write short essays and role play real life situations. Special activities such as presentations and World Language Week enhance their understanding of culture.

Grammar focus: Subject pronouns including tú and Usted and vosotros vs. Ustedes, gender and number, definite and indefinite articles, the present tense of regular and irregular verbs such as ser, haber, tener, and ir, direct object pronouns, noun and adjective agreement, definite and indefinite articles.


Grade 7 Continuing Spanish
MSP7IT

Prerequisite: Beginning Grade 6 Spanish

This class is a continuation of Beginning Spanish from Grade 6. Continued emphasis is placed on culture as well as the Spanish language. Intense review is offered along with the introduction of new material. Vocabulary and grammatical themes include: food, utensils, -er and -ir verbs, ser, tener, haber, possessive adjectives, locations in the community, activities, family and pronunciation of consonants. Additionally, students explore cultural aspects such as quinceañera and Madrid.

Grade 8 Continuing Spanish
MSP8IT

Prerequisite: Beginning Spanish and must be in Grade 8

Continuing Spanish is a course designed for those who have successfully completed Grade 7 Beginning Spanish. Students continue to develop their skills by revisiting previously learned concepts
while learning new and more complex grammatical structures. Students also prepare dialogues for oral classroom presentations. Vocabulary emphasis: family, food, home, shopping, clothing, vacation, television terminology.

Grammar focuses on all information from Beginning Spanish. Additionally, students conjugate stem-changing verbs in the present tense such as _tener_. Other concepts: demonstrative and possessive adjectives, idiomatic expressions, the personal _a_, indirect object pronouns, preterit tense of regular _-ar, -er_ and _-ir_ verbs, comparative and superlative constructions, _ser_ vs. _estar_.


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**Grade 8 Spanish I**
**MSP8BT**

*Prerequisite:* Must be in Grade 8; departmental or admissions recommendation for new or returning students. Successful completion of the Grade 8 language courses earn 1 year high school credit.

This is an accelerated class, as it combines all of the elements of both beginning and continuing Spanish. A student will fulfill the first year Upper School requirement upon successful completion of this class and will be prepared for Spanish II. The elements covered in this class are represented in the above descriptions of Beginning Spanish, Continuing Spanish, and Advanced Spanish.


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**CLUBS/ACTIVITIES**
Competitive National Exams
MJCL (Michigan Junior Classical League) Competition
French Club, Latin Club
National World Language Week Celebration
Excursions: DIA, Kelsey Museum
Guest Speakers and Presentations
Overseas Travel Opportunities – when offered

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**LIBRARY MEDIA SERVICES**

**Mission Statement**
The Detroit Country Day School Library Media Services department will support the curricular mission of the school by providing students, staff and faculty the services and materials necessary to meet their intellectual and informational needs and to foster a love of reading and lifelong learning.

**Vision Statement**
The primary roles of the Library Media Services department are to support the curriculum, promote the value and joy of reading and to teach information literacy skills.

We support the American Library Association’s Library Bill of Rights and defend and uphold the freedom to read.
We will follow accepted professional standards and practices as outlined by the American Library Association, American Association of School Librarians and other library professional organizations.

We will guide library patrons to be ethical and responsible users of print and electronic resources.

From students conducting research or quietly reading to faculty members working with multimedia technology, the Media Center is a hub of activity in the Middle School. The Media Center is staffed by a professional librarian, and it is open to all students throughout the day and after school. Students may draw from a continually growing collection of 12,000+ print and multimedia items, and wireless networking provides access to the DCDS network and the World Wide Web. The Destiny Quest library catalog provides web-based access to the library’s print collection as well as to e-books, recommended web sites and online reference databases such as Grolier, EBSCOhost and Gale. Faculty may supplement their curriculum with one of many audio-visual materials by using the closed-circuit media delivery system or portable equipment. Additionally, the Media Center web page is an extensive resource for students, faculty and parents.

A crucial mission of the Media Center program is to collaborate with each department to support the curriculum. Students are given “just-in-time” instruction to meet their academic needs. Instruction focuses on several areas:

1. **Reading** – Through book talks, displays, reading lists, emails about new books and special programs, students frequently hear about and see books that may be of interest to them.

2. **Research skills and information literacy** – Students are taught how to use print and electronic resources effectively and how to decide which resources best meet their needs.

3. **Responsible use of resources** – Students receive instruction on the importance of giving credit to their research sources, how to create a list of works cited, what the copyright laws are and how to avoid plagiarism.

4. **Internet safety and responsible use of technology** – Ethics and safety are heavily emphasized when using technology.

For parents and faculty, the Media Center offers a Parent-Teacher collection of books that may be checked out any time. The librarian also provides professional development to faculty on the use of new technology and speaks to parents about technology and teens.

**Collaboration Across the Curriculum**

**Art** – provide resources for creative activities and instruction for projects and display space for student artwork

**English** – provide book talks for every grade and support for reading assignments, resources for speech, drama and debates, provide an annual visiting author.

**World Language** – provide resources for research projects, offer French and Spanish language materials, offer the Destiny library catalog in both French and Spanish.

**History** – provide resources and instruction for the Grade 6 state and country projects; the Grade 7 World Changer, and Attic Archaeology projects; and the Grade 8 African-American projects. Teach research and bibliography skills at Grade 6 and reinforce at Grades 7 and 8. Discuss responsible use of technology.
Science – provide resources and instruction for science fair, chemical elements and invertebrates projects. Teach research and bibliography skills at Grades 6, 7 and 8. Discuss responsible use of technology.

Study Skills/Laptop (Grade 6 only) – conduct library orientation and teach lessons on research and citation skills, Internet safety and responsible computer use. Conduct 6th grade library skills evaluation at the end of the year.

C.I.A. (Character in Action) Service Learning (Grade 8 only) – teach students about the importance of early literary, reading aloud to children, and what makes a great book for young children in preparation for their picture book project; provide resources for the picture book project.

Media Awareness (8th Grade Only) – teach students how to research trends from the past and predict what will be cool in the future.

Related Activities
Annual Visiting Author and Illustrator program—guests have included Gordon Korman, Jordan Sonnenblick, Shelley Pearsall, Jon Agee, Lisa Yee, Jim Benton, Neal Shusterman, Christopher Paul Curtis, Paul Zindel, Gail Carson Levine, Wendelin Van Draanen, Suzanne Fisher Staples, Laurie Halse Anderson, George Ella Lyon, and Ashley Bryan.
Scholastic Book Fair
Community service book drive
Summer reading
Book and movie discussion club (Reel Pages)

COMMUNITY SERVICE
The seeds of commitment to positive community involvement and awareness of the needs of others are nurtured in the Middle School. The effort to engage students in meaningful activities is ongoing throughout the Middle School experience.

There are several opportunities for students to participate in community service. In Grade 6, students visit assisted living facilities as well as host parties at our school for the residents from these facilities. The students and residents share games, crafts and snacks. This activity is part of the ongoing C.A.R.E. Program. In addition, the students participate in planned service learning days when they volunteer at local schools, shelters and food distribution centers.

In Grades 7 and 8, students must participate in several hours of community service to be considered for the National Junior Honor society. The Class Boards sponsor various service projects throughout the year. In Grade 8, students take a service learning class which is part of our character-in-action program. Students design, plan and implement original projects.
The entire Middle School participates in the annual Fall Walk-a-Thon sponsored by the Student Council. Over the last several years, many thousands of dollars have been raised for local charities such as C.A.T.C.H, Wigs for Kids, and the Michigan Humane Society and for organizations such as the Red Cross (in times of national crisis), as well as St. Jude’s Research Hospital.

All students are encouraged to participate in volunteer services within the school community. They serve as tour guides at Open House, Meet the Teacher Night and host visiting students. They help at New Student Orientation, Super Science Saturday (at the Junior School), Auction and numerous other school functions throughout the school year. To further encourage service, the “Heart and Ksoll Award” is presented to Grade 8 students who have distinguished themselves as volunteers during their entire Middle School experience. Community service is required for induction into the National Junior Honor Society.

**CLUBS PROGRAM**

The CLUBS Program is designed to offer socialization as well as to allow students to explore interests and discover passions. Students may select from among competitive, academic, athletic, craft, artistic, hobby, performance and service options.

**Possible Offering:**

- Babysitting Certification
- Board Games
- Boys Basketball
- Calligraphy
- Card Games – Grades 6 and 7
- Chamber Music (Orchestra students)
- Chess
- Computer Games
- Cooking
- CPR Training and Certification
- Creative Writing
- Digital Storytelling
- Euchre
- Film
- Fitness Walking
- Floor Games – Grades 6 and 7 Boys
- Forensics – Grades 6 and 7
- French Club (French Students Only)
- Frisbee Golf
- History Olympiad – Grades 7 and 8
- Kickball
- Knitting
- Latin Club (Latin Students Only)
- Leadership Club – grades 6, 7, and 8
- Math Competitions – Grades 6, 7 and 8 and Math Pentathlon – Grades 6 and 7
- Mural Painting
Nature Discovery
Needlework
Painting
Philanthropic “App” Club
Ping Pong
Poster Painting
Recess Games
Reel Pages
Science Olympiad
Science Service/Greenhouse
Scrapbooking
Spanish Club (Spanish Students Only)
Sports Media
Stock Market
Story Hour
Strength and Conditioning
Ultimate Frisbee
Video Club – Grade 8
You Be the Chemist
Young Inventors

C.A.R.E Program

Detroit Country Day Middle School has developed a special vehicle called the C.A.R.E. (Coping skills, Awareness of health and well being, Respect for self and others, Exploring self and society) Program to present important health and developmental issues to your child in these pre-teen and teen years. It gives us the opportunity to introduce topics that will allow the children to become better informed, helping them to make good choices and decisions which will have healthy, positive consequences. This program encourages ongoing communication between students and parents. The Grades 7 and 8 C.A.R.E. Programs meet several times each month. The Grade 8 C.A.R.E. content is presented as a rotator in the CIA class. Though the actual material may vary a bit from year to year, the topics remain much the same. Listed below are the various topics for the current school year.

GRADE 6
How to Succeed in the Middle School – Developing Study Skills
Substance Abuse (Alcoholism)
Nutrition & Exercise for the Teen Needs
Human Development
Aging
Friendship
Ecology
Smoking
Manners
Safety
GRADE 7
Seventh Grade Survival Tips
Coping with Serious Loss
Values
Human Development
Personal Safety (Including Internet Safety)
Substance Abuse (Ecstasy, Marijuana/Inhalants)
Peer Empathy and Peer Pressure as it Relates to Teasing/Bullying
Individual Differences
Nutrition

GRADE 8
Nutrition and a Healthy You/Eating Disorders
Conflict Resolution
Diversity
Human Development and Sexuality
Advertising, the Media and You
Skin Care and Sun Exposure
Substance Abuse (Drinking and Driving)
The Next Step: “Upper School Here We Come!”

ADVISORY PROGRAM
The Detroit Country Day Middle School is very proud of its Advisory Program. Below, we have highlighted some of the interesting facts about the program:

Advisory meetings occur several times each week.

Teachers meet with their team to discuss their advisees’ progress every other week and at significant points during the year.

Advisors and advisees prepare presentations to share with families at regularly scheduled conferences three to four times a year.

Advisors and advisees share special activities for fun and group cohesiveness.

Most advisors see their advisees daily in an academic class.

Advisors are a critical link between home and school.

The child's advisor tries to be his or her friend and ally here at school.

Advisory groups are formed by grade levels, to encourage friendship and a sense of belonging to a special group.

The student’s advisor stands ready to help parents find answers to questions and concerns.

There are official student-parent-advisor conferences in the fall, winter and spring. Parents can schedule a meeting with the student's entire teaching team as needed.

A parent can contact the grade level deans about specific concerns related to the Advisory Program.

Advisory activities are often centered around activities developed to encourage self-discovery, good decision making, concern for others and a sense of belonging.
CHARACTER EDUCATION
The development of a person’s character is an ongoing process, beginning in childhood and continuing throughout life. The Middle School faculty takes their role as guides in this process seriously. Detroit Country Day is a community of students, parents, faculty and staff who have joined for the purpose of academic excellence, artistic expression, athletic development and character growth. Participation in the school community is based on the foundation of our commitment to “A Sound Mind and a Sound Body” and requires shared goals and accountability to one another.

The C.A.R.E. Program presents several units related to positive social and emotional growth and pro-active conflict resolution.

The administrative team uses every opportunity to counsel and advise a student to consider the rights of others, respect for self and others and the process of good decision making, including the long-range consequences of one’s actions.

All of the disciplines use “teaching moments” to create awareness of one’s responsibility to the community, the nation, the planet and the greater good. Literary analysis, scientific exploration, math, history and the study of other cultures through world languages all explore moral and ethical choices and give consideration to “the right thing to do”. The world’s great religions and their values are explained in a required Grade 7 course. While differences are noted, similarities are emphasized in an attempt to demonstrate their common morality. Grade 7 students also explore ethical behavior in the “Heroes & Villains” course. All Middle School departments explore essential ethical questions to create enduring understanding relevant to strengthening character.

The Advisory Program lends itself perfectly to the development of character through prescribed activities, discussions, group participation in service projects and provides an important link to the home, which allows the family and school to work together in this process.

Grade 8 has a special class called C.I.A. (Character In Action). Students rotate through the three components of the class: C.A.R.E., Service Learning and Media Awareness. They explore current events from an ethical standpoint and participate in philanthropic activities such as collecting plastic bottles and used printer cartridges to help our environment and to raise money to help others. They study the underlying influences of advertising and how it permeates their lives. At the end of the course, students should be well-informed about pertinent topics so they can think more independently and critically and make positive decisions.

All of these initiatives work concurrently to establish a foundation of caring, respect, fairness, citizenship, responsibility and trustworthiness in our students. The Middle School staff models the qualities of good character and encourages them in each student within the classroom and beyond.

Students, advisors, faculty and administration are all encouraged to sign the school Honor Covenant,committing to model and strive for living the values of Respect, Responsibility, Honesty and Good Judgment.
COMMUNITY HONOR COVENANT

Expectations

Detroit Country Day is a community of students, parents, faculty and staff who have joined for the purpose of academic excellence, artistic expression, athletic development and character growth. Participation in the school community is based on the foundation of our commitment to “A Sound Mind and a Sound Body” and requires shared goals and accountability to one another.

Within every community certain expectations ensure the dignity of the environment. When individuals join the Country Day community, they agree to the responsibilities outlined in this Covenant.

The intent of this Honor Covenant is to identify expectations that assist Detroit Country Day School in functioning as an academic, artistic, athletic and character driven community and in achieving its goals as an institution of exceptional learning.

Responsibilities

Education and daily experiences at Country Day are a privilege and an opportunity. In recognition of this, great value is placed on the quality of relationships in our community. All members of our school community—students, parents, faculty and staff—will strive to honor and model citizenship on campus and in the community at large. Members of our school community will:

☐ Treat each other with RESPECT and kindness by valuing others in the community and caring for the physical and natural environment.

☐ Accept RESPONSIBILITY by following through on promises and obligations, assuming accountability for one’s actions.

☐ Demonstrate HONESTY by adhering to our community values of loyalty, integrity, trustworthiness and authenticity.

☐ Develop GOOD JUDGMENT through an appreciation of lifelong learning in both educational endeavors and the decision-making process.

Agreement

By signing this covenant, members of this community commit themselves to those standards of behavior and attitude that develop higher academic, athletic and personal excellence. By signing this covenant, we are agreeing to the policies and expectations of the Detroit Country Day community through this Honor Covenant and the Student/Faculty Handbook.
<table>
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<th>Signature</th>
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<tr>
<td>Student Signature</td>
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<td>Faculty/Staff Signature</td>
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<td>Grade Level Dean Signature</td>
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<td>Director Signature</td>
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ATHLETIC PROGRAM

The Middle School athletic program is designed to meet the needs of the adolescent student. It is designed in keeping with the Country Day tradition of developing “A Sound Mind in a Sound Body.” This tradition has encouraged all students to participate in athletics while maintaining a positive blending of the schools’ academic and athletic objectives. Students in Grade 7 are required to successfully complete one season of athletic participation each year. Students in Grade 8 are required to successfully complete two seasons of athletic participation each year. One of the athletic sport activities must be an on-campus interscholastic sport. The second sport requirement may be satisfied by participating in an intramural or non-team sport or physical education class.

The Middle School athletic program is designed so as to provide every student an opportunity to participate at his/her appropriate level of expertise. Many interscholastic sports are offered. The experienced and more skilled athletes have the opportunity to compete at the highest level on what are termed “Blue” teams. Country Day sponsors “Blue” teams in soccer, field hockey, and lacrosse. Country Day also sponsors “Gold” teams in a number of sports. The “Gold” team concept provides the intermediate athlete with an excellent experience in a competitive environment. “Gold” teams are provided in the sports of soccer, field hockey, basketball and lacrosse. Most of these sports include students of a wide range of abilities.

Participation by Grade 6 students in the after school athletic program is optional. Grade 6 students also participate in required physical education classes.

The Physical Education and Athletic Departments present the “Corpore Sano” Award to Grade 6, 7 and 8 students who attain elite achievement in interscholastic athletics and physical education. To be eligible for the yearly award, students must meet the criteria set forth by the respective departments in the areas of:

- Athletic Sport Participation – Successful completion of more than the minimum interscholastic/on campus sport requirement for each grade level.
- Individual Fitness Testing – An average of 85 percentile in the mile run, pacer, shuttle run, pull-ups, push-ups and sit-ups tests based on gender and age.
- Writing Component – Short written narrative (100 words or more) describing how Middle School interscholastic sports and physical education fitness testing have made an impact on their lives. Students are to focus their essay on at least one of the four tenets of the Middle School Honor Covenant.

Optional Team Sports for Grade 6

The following sports are generally offered (but may vary from year to year):

**Fall**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cross Country (co-ed)</td>
<td>Cross Country (co-ed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Hockey</td>
<td>Football</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rock Climbing (co-ed)*</td>
<td>Rock Climbing (co-ed)*</td>
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<td>Soccer</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Winter
Girls  Boys
Indoor Soccer* Basketball
Indoor Soccer*
Swimming (co-ed)* Dance Team
Swimming (co-ed)*

Spring
Girls  Boys
Lacrosse* Baseball
Soccer  Lacrosse*
Track & Field (co-ed)  Track & Field (co-ed)

Team Sports for Grades 7 and 8
The following sports are generally offered (but may vary from year to year):

Fall
Girls  Boys
Basketball  Cross Country (co-ed)
Cross Country (co-ed)  Football
Field Hockey  Rock Climbing (co-ed)*
Rock Climbing (co-ed)*  Soccer
Tennis  Sailing (co-ed)*
Sailing (co-ed)*

Winter
Girls  Boys
Bowling (co-ed)* Basketball
Dance Team  Bowling (co-ed)*
Indoor Soccer*  Indoor Soccer*
Skiing*  Skiing*
Snowboarding*  Snowboarding*
Swimming (co-ed)*  Swimming (co-ed)*
Volleyball  Strength & Conditioning Team

Spring
Girls  Boys
Lacrosse  Baseball
Soccer  Lacrosse
Softball  Tennis
Track & Field (co-ed)  Track & Field (co-ed)

*Indicates programs that entail a participation fee due to off-campus facilities being contracted. The individual cost of participation in these sports will be determined by the number of participants.

Selection of a Sport
Students must select a sport at the beginning of each season in which they intend to participate. All sport offerings are contingent upon a minimum number of students committing. Intramural competition may be offered in boys’ soccer, boys’ basketball and boys’/girls’ baseball/softball if necessary.

**DRESS CODE**

**Official Uniform: Boys**
(And uniform options)
White or light blue, oxford cloth, button-down collar shirt with DCDS monogram
Navy blue dress pants or classic style khaki pants with DCDS monogram
School tie
Navy blue pullover sweater or vest with DCDS crest as part of the winter uniform
Blue, black or white socks
Belt is always required
Leather dress shoes or suede tie-on or slip-on shoes with backs

**Please Note:**
Boys who are members of a performance group will need the white, long sleeved oxford cloth, button-down collar shirt with DCDS monogram and the navy blue pullover sweater or vest with DCDS crest. The boys will need classic style khaki slacks with DCDS monogram.

For graduation, boys will need the white, long-sleeved oxford cloth, button-down collar shirt with DCDS monogram. The boys will need khaki slacks with DCDS monogram and dark socks and dress shoes.

**Official Uniform: Girls**
Official DCDS monogrammed white or light blue oxford cloth, button down collar blouse
School kilt or skirt (hemmed to the knee). Grade 8 girls may purchase the Upper School skirt during the year to accommodate growth.
Khaki slacks with DCDS monogram may be worn with the official school blouse. Belt must be worn with looped pants.
Navy blue pullover sweater or vest with DCDS crest worn with the kilt, skirt or official khaki pants as part of the winter uniform
White or navy blue crew socks or knee socks (navy blue or black tights are required with the winter uniform when a kilt or skirt is worn)
Dark, flat, wide-heeled leather dress, suede tie-on or slip-on shoes with backs [please note that wedged, platform, heeled shoes over 1” (one inch) high or clogs are not acceptable for safety reasons].

**Please Note:**
Girls who are members of a performance group will need the white, long sleeved oxford cloth, button-down collar blouse with the DCDS monogram and the school navy blue pullover sweater or vest. Orchestra members will need black or navy tights and choir members will need knee socks.

For graduation, girls will need the white, long sleeved oxford cloth, button-down collar blouse with the DCDS monogram. Girls must wear either the skirt or kilt with white or navy blue knee socks and low-heeled dress shoes.
N.B. Texts listed in the course descriptions in this catalogue are subject to change.

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