

# TRMS 8th Grade Online Course Options

The courses below are courses that students can take for ELECTIVE credit during 8th grade. The first 3 courses have been approved by TRHS for HS credit. The remaining courses can be taken for MS elective credit. Please use links to understand full details about the course. **Virtual classes are not for all students, while they may provide for alternative course options, students taking these should be dedicated to being able to stay on task and work independently.** These courses will be completed at school during a regular class in our computer lab. Students who wish to change this class AFTER the Michigan Virtual Drop date may be charged for the cost of the class.

## Michigan Virtual High School - Classes For HS Credit

The following 3 classes for HS credit will be part of a students' High School transcript. Dropping the class after starting or failing the course will impact a students High School transcript.

### MUSIC APPRECIATION ODYSSEY [Link to Syllabus](#)

In this course students will “travel back in time” to learn some musical basics and history. In the first three units, students will learn about the basics of musical ideas, notation, and instruments. In the remaining 5 units, students will learn about important musical ideas and people from the Ancient Times to the 20th Century. Students will be guided through a series of activities, lessons, and assessments that teach them to identify and think about music in a way they may not have previously thought to do. (HS MMC FINE ARTS CREDIT (.5 CR/NC))

### PERSONAL FITNESS [Link to Syllabus](#)

This course is designed to assist students in developing motor skills, knowledge, and behaviors for healthy active living, physical fitness, sportsmanship, self-efficacy, and emotional intelligence. Topics include cardiovascular, muscular, nutritional, mental, and emotional fitness. In addition, students will assess their own levels of fitness, set fitness goals, and learn strategies for meeting those goals. Throughout the course, students will keep a fitness journal to track their progress toward their goals. ( HS MMC PE Credit (.5 CR/NC))

## VISUAL ART COMPREHENSION I [Link to Syllabus](#)

Building on the educational outcomes of Visual Arts in elementary and middle school education, high school art prepares students for personal development in the arts, the construction of a body of work that may be instrumental in admission to higher education and professional development. The Visual Arts/Comprehensive I course introduces art history, art criticism, aesthetic judgment and studio production. Emphasizes the ability to understand and use elements and principles of design through a variety of media, processes and visual resources. Explores master artworks for historical and cultural significance. (HS MMC FINE ARTS CREDIT (.5 CR/NC))

### Online Options - NON High School Credit (Middle School Elective Only)

#### **Aeronautics and Space Travel** [Link to Syllabus](#) (18 weeks/1 Semester)

This course introduces students to the history and near future of space travel. Students will explore the possibilities of moon bases, Mars colonies, and visiting the outer planets in our solar system and their moons. Students will also discuss important ethical and legal issues around space exploration, such as asteroid mining and war in space. The course gives an expansive view of the technologies, science, and theories that will make far-fetched dreams into realities during the student's lifetime.

#### **African American History** [Link to Syllabus](#) (18 weeks/1 Semester)

How have African Americans shaped the culture of the United States throughout history? Tracing the accomplishments and obstacles of African Americans from the slave trade through emancipation, and to the modern African diaspora, you will learn about the political, economic, social, religious, and cultural factors that have influenced African American life. In African American History, you'll come face to face with individuals who changed the course of history and learn more about slavery, racism, and the Civil Rights Movement. You will also explore how the history of African Americans influences current events today.

#### **Career Planning** [Link to Syllabus](#) (18 weeks/1 Semester)

This course provides a basic overview of career planning concepts. It gives students the opportunity to learn about, explore and reflect on various career opportunities based on Michigan's six Career Pathways.

#### **Character Education** [Link to Syllabus](#) (18 weeks/1 Semester)

This course teaches students practical skills for understanding and managing their emotions, setting goals and getting organized, understanding and getting along with others in our diverse world, and making good decisions. Research shows that people who practice these skills have greater academic achievement as students and experience more success and satisfaction as adults.

### **Exploring a World of Languages** [Link to Syllabus](#) (18 weeks/1 Semester)

In this course, students will experience a variety of world languages especially relevant to those who live in North America. After exploring how languages are learned and how “families” of world languages are connected to one another, students will explore the basics of German (a historical relative of English), Spanish (the 2nd most spoken language in the U.S. and a predominant language in Central/South America to our south), French (an official language of Canada, our neighbor to the north), and American Sign Language or ASL (an American dialect of a non-verbal language). The purpose of this course is for students to experience firsthand some of the similarities and differences among four important world languages so that they are ready to make an informed decision about which language they may wish to study to fulfill their Michigan Merit High School Graduation Requirements and so that they feel confident and excited about continuing their language studies. The content and assessments align with the Michigan Merit Curriculum World Languages Standards and Benchmarks.

### **History of Gaming and E-Sports** [Link to Syllabus](#) (18 weeks/1 Semester)

In this course, students will learn about the technologies and design principles that have been the foundation of the development of video game technology over the last 50 years. Students will examine and discuss the impact of video games on culture and the economy. Students will learn about the current gaming and e-sports landscape, including strategies and techniques of top teams and individuals. This course will also discuss the risks and dangers of video games and understand how to set appropriate time and content parameters. Finally, the course will identify career paths and opportunities for those who are passionate about gaming.

### **Introduction to Artificial Intelligence** [Link to Syllabus](#) (18 weeks/1 Semester)

This course provides an introduction to key concepts, uses, impacts on society, and relevant career explorations. It does NOT involve computer programming or development of artificial intelligence algorithms or other AI programs on the part of the student. The course is designed to provide students with a foundation in the historical development of AI, exposure to a variety of use cases in our society and economy, and an opportunity to reflect on important questions about its potential benefits and causes for concern. It does not concentrate, however, on specific use of large language model generative AI applications, such as ChatGPT, that have only recently gained widespread name recognition and popular interest. Students will require a computer device, web browser, and a basic office suite of software (a word processor). If you do not have Microsoft Office on your computer, you can either download Open Office or use Google Docs.

### **Leadership Skills Development A** [Link to Syllabus](#)

This is the first semester of a year-long course. Winner of the highly coveted CODiE award for innovation, vision and industry impact, Leadership Skills Development equips teenagers with leadership skills they can use to build confidence and prepare for college. Students learn critical skills such as goal setting, time management, developing their brand, negotiations and even complete a service project that positively impacts their community. The course principles were developed by Mawi Asgedom, an Ethiopian refugee who became a Harvard University graduate. This course has assisted 75-90% of students in improving their grades, skills and confidence. Prerequisites: None

### **Leadership Skills Development B** [Link to Syllabus](#)

This is the second semester of a year-long course. Winner of the highly coveted CODiE award for innovation, vision and industry impact, Leadership Skills Development equips teenagers with leadership skills they can use to build confidence and prepare for college. Students learn critical skills such as goal setting, time management, developing their brand, negotiations and even complete a service project that positively impacts their community. The course principles were developed by Mawi Asgedom, an Ethiopian refugee who became a Harvard University graduate. This course has assisted 75-90% of students in improving their grades, skills and confidence. Prerequisites: None

### **Learning in a Digital World - Citizenship** [Link to Syllabus](#)

The digital world seems to change every day, and touch more of our lives. We use technology to communicate with friends and family, find neverending entertainment options, follow our favorite sports teams and fashion trends, and do our school work. In Learning in a Digital World you will get the tools to navigate this exciting and always changing world.

### **Middle School Digital Art and Design** [Link to Syllabus](#)

The world is filled with so many different forms of art - including digital art. In this course, you'll explore this special genre of art found in everything from advertising to animation to photography and beyond. Additionally, you'll tap into your creative side to create digital art and make it come alive!

### **Spanish 1A (6-8)** [Link to Syllabus](#)

This course is the first in a two-course sequence. Students begin their introduction to Spanish by focusing on the four key areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit.

**Spanish 1B (6-8) [Link to Syllabus](#)**

This course is the second in a two-course sequence. Students begin their introduction to Spanish by focusing on the four key areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Prerequisites: Spanish 1A

**STEM Tools for the Future [Link to Syllabus](#)**

You've probably heard of STEM, but what exactly is it? STEM is the process of applying a combination of science, technology, engineering, and math and brainstorming, building, testing, and seeking answers through research. In this course, you'll begin to develop these skills and learn how STEM can shape the future and even solve the world's biggest problems through innovation. Seems pretty cool, right? Let's start digging for answers into this groundbreaking subject!

**Sports and Entertainment Marketing [Link to Syllabus](#)**

The bright lights. The roaring crowds. The chants and cheers and applause. If you are drawn to the electricity of large events and the challenge of making events successful, a career in sports and entertainment marketing may be for you! In this course, you will trace the development of these industries, dissect their dual nature, and discover what it takes to pitch, promote, and deliver on these services. You 'll also explore the necessary steps to chart your own career path from among the professional roles that these industries need to operate. Let's get off the sidelines and hop into the primetime of the sporting and entertainment worlds!

**Study Skills [Link to Syllabus](#)**

This course is designed to help students strengthen their study skills and strategies to increase their performance and success in an academic setting. Students will learn how to use their learning styles to tailor approaches to learning, process information more efficiently, manage time effectively, set clear and attainable goals, increase concentration, reduce stress and procrastination, read critically, take notes effectively, improve listening skills, and prepare for tests with a variety of question formats.