

# **U-32 MIDDLE SCHOOL**



**PROGRAM OF STUDIES  
2011-2012**

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### **Accreditation Statement**

U-32 is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc., a non-governmental, nationally recognized organization whose affiliated institutions include elementary schools through collegiate institutions offering post-graduate instruction. Accreditation of an institution by the New England Association indicates that it meets or exceeds criteria for the assessment of institutional quality applied through a peer group process. An accredited school or college is one which has available the necessary resources to achieve its stated purpose through appropriate educational programs, is substantially doing so, and gives reasonable evidence that it will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. Institutional integrity is also addressed through accreditation.

U-32 is a public school community dedicated to excellence in teaching and learning. We celebrate and value all of our members and, through a wide variety of opportunities, we strive to meet their emotional, intellectual, ethical, cultural and physical needs with compassion and respect.

**Academic Expectations ~ All students are expected:**

- To demonstrate a broad foundation of knowledge and experiences by meeting or exceeding U-32 graduation requirements;
- To meet appropriate Vermont and/or national standards; and
- To make a post-graduation plan.

**Civic and Social Expectations ~ All students are expected:**

- To model appropriate behavior in accordance with school rules, and take responsibility for their actions;
- To treat each other with dignity and respect, and affirm one another in their efforts;
- To demonstrate commitment, accountability, dependability, integrity, and the ability to cooperate;
- To demonstrate citizenship by responsibly participating in meaningful community and school activities; and
- To identify and actively pursue their interests.

**Professional Expectations ~ All faculty and staff are expected:**

- To be skilled and current in their fields;
- To regularly evaluate programs to ensure continual improvement in the fulfillment of the mission;
- To have significant exchanges with students on a daily basis;
- To create and maintain a safe, positive and engaging learning environment;
- To actively participate in the school community;
- To model and promote civility, diversity, responsibility and respect for self, for colleagues, for students and others;
- To encourage community and parent involvement; and
- To consistently utilize and enforce U-32 policies and procedures.

**U-32 Middle School Parent Teacher Council  
Mission Statement**

The U-32 Middle School Parent Teacher Council is a group of middle school parents, staff and administration who meet monthly.

Our mission is to create a partnership to benefit our students' education.

We will accomplish this by providing opportunities for two-way dialogue and information exchange, and by supporting a wide range of activities for maintaining a positive middle school experience both in and out of the classroom.

# School Profile

## The Community

Five rural towns, Berlin, Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex and Worcester surround the capital city of Montpelier and unite to form the U-32 School District. Each of the towns has its own elementary school and those schools send their students to U-32 for grades 7-12. These towns have a total population of approximately 10,000. Our residents embody all walks of life and our community benefits enormously from their combined energy and talents.

## The School

U-32 is a regional public school, grades 7-12, with an enrollment of about 815 students. Unique features include:

- A Teacher Advisor (TA) system in which faculty members act as an advocate for approximately 12 students, allowing a student to experience an ongoing, in-depth relationship with one staff member throughout his/her school career. Staff are addressed on a first name basis;
- The belief that sports and drama are co-curricular learning experiences rather than extra-curricular;
- The belief that learning also occurs outside of the classroom;
- An outstanding Theater Arts program;
- An outstanding Fine Arts program;
- The *U-32 Chronicle* – an award-winning school newspaper;
- Writing Across the Curriculum – the inclusion of writing in all classes;
- A strong elective system that allows students variety as well as focus;
- Branching Out – a unique mentor instructional program;
- A sustainability program that promotes recycling and composting cafeteria leftovers; and
- A renovated and expanded 198,000-square-foot building, 166-acre campus, with numerous athletic fields, cross-country running, tennis courts, skiing course, and high and low ropes course.

## WCSU Middle Level Goals (Grades 5 – 8)

Middle School Education in Washington Central Supervisory Union is active learning that meets the unique needs of early adolescence. Social, emotional, intellectual and physical growth is fostered in a safe, caring environment. We celebrate critical thinking, diversity and creativity in our students and collaboration between community and school.

**Goal #1: Students develop the attributes of life-long learners.**

**Goal #2: Students exhibit the qualities of a good citizen.**

**Goal #3: Students have an informed awareness of health/wellness issues in order to make appropriate decisions.**

**Goal #4: Students have access to technology throughout the curriculum.**

## Registration Information

**March 24** Parent Information Night for sixth grade parents

**March 8** Grade 6 to 7 scheduling process begins  
Program of Studies distributed

**April 1** Grade 6 to 7 course requests due in U-32 Guidance Office

**May 26** Unity Day – sixth grade students visit U-32

**June 9** Move Up Day at U-32

**June-  
August** Schedule adjustments

## WHO CAN I CALL?

**Keith Gerritt**

Principal  
802.229.0321 ext 5127  
kgerritt@u32.org

**Mark Mooney**

Asst. Principal-Middle School  
802.229.0321 ext 5157  
mamooney@u32.org

**Amy Molina**

Athletic Director  
802.229.0321 ext 5556  
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**Stephanie Taylor**

Asst. Principal-High School  
802.229.0321 ext 5131  
staylor@u32.org

**Tim Flynn**

Director of Special Programs  
802.229.0321 ext 5129  
tflynn@u32.org

**Lisa LaPlante**

Director of Guidance  
802.229.0321 ext 5115  
llaplante@u32.org

**Educational Support Team (EST)** – a student support system that helps students’ access support, academic advancement and remedial services, including but not limited to instructional and behavioral interventions, classroom accommodations and counseling services. Contact Tim Flynn, Dir of Special services for additional information.

# Seventh Grade Core Program

## Language Arts 7

In Language Arts students explore three broad themes. The first, Understanding Place, is an integrated Language Arts/Social Studies unit which studies the history, geography and cultural heritage of Vermont. Our second theme, Continuity and Change, looks at challenges that people face. Embedded in this theme is the winter unit, which is an interdisciplinary study including a two-day outdoor adventure experience led by the Lotus Lake Adventure Center. The third theme, *Meeting New Challenges*, looks at how students can share their unique qualities with others. This theme is culminated by a book project; every student writes, illustrates and binds his/her own original picture book. The books are then presented on a “Book Buddy” day to all primary schools in the WCSU district.

Students read a collection of novels, nonfiction, short stories, and poetry relating to these themes. Writing assignments include daily journal writing, and multi-draft portfolio pieces in different genres. Although many of the writing assignments are integrated with the science and social studies curriculum, all are assessed using state benchmarks and rubrics.

## Math 7

The seventh grade math program is devoted to developing student knowledge and understanding of mathematics. The curriculum is related to all of the important areas of mathematics and mathematical thinking advocated by the NCTM Curriculum and Evaluation Standards for School Mathematics and the Vermont Framework of Standards and Learning Opportunities. The Connected Mathematics curriculum is rich in connections – among core ideas in mathematics, between mathematics and its applications in other school subjects and with the applications of mathematical ideas in the outside world. To support student learning we offer three different math tracks and students spend two years with the same teacher. The mathematical strands in seventh grade will include: geometry, linear algebra, probability and statistics, skills and problem solving.

## Science 7

Science 7 is grounded in life science and when applicable is integrated with language arts and social studies. A primary goal is to foster the development of individuals who are able to question and think critically about the world. Major units and topics covered in 7th grade are: designing and conducting an elevation study, understanding ecological principles, research literacy skills (bio-indicator research/media literacy), winter ecology/survival, and cellular study/microscope use.

## Social Studies 7

The seventh grade year will introduce students to the study of indigenous peoples, world cultures and geography. These units will introduce students to anthropology and related fields; the movements and settlements of people; European exploration and colonization in the Western Hemisphere; and state, national, and world geography. Students will demonstrate an understanding of cause-and-effect relationships in human societies, analyze knowledge, make historical connections, explore concepts of culture and traditional societies and use and apply geographical knowledge. They will also learn various research techniques and formal research paper writing skills.

# Seventh Grade Non-Core Program

## Band 7

Seventh Grade Band is a middle school performance class that is open to seventh grade students who have played a band instrument for at least two years. The goal of this class is to help students develop good musical skills through performance. Areas of focus include tone production, technical accuracy, rhythmic accuracy, articulation, good ensemble skills and playing with expression. Band will perform three concerts and make an elementary school tour.

## Beginning Strings

The beginning strings class is open to any student who is interested in learning how to play violin, viola, cello, or bass. Students will learn the basics of ensemble and performance techniques while learning and preparing a variety of music to be performed. As musical abilities increase, students are prepared and given the opportunity to audition for participation in the more advanced instrument ensembles offered. There is no prerequisite for beginning strings class.

### **Chorus 7**

Seventh Grade Chorus helps students to develop their voice. The class also helps students to develop skills in teamwork, reading music, performance and pitch accuracy. Students will sing in two and three-part harmony. Other areas of focus include expression and diction. Activities include rehearsals, field trips and performances.

**Computers 7** is a quarter-long course designed to introduce students to the U-32 networking system and familiarize them with Microsoft Office 2007. Students will learn to touch type and utilize Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel. Students will complete a variety of projects that build skills and align with Core activities.

### **Guitar 7**

Guitar is for students who are interested in playing the guitar and who have had little or no experience. Using a multifaceted approach of individual, small group and ensemble settings, students will be expected to perform a varied repertoire of music. Students will learn concepts of music theory as they read music notes and other symbols of notation. These concepts will be applied to the guitar as students learn notes in the first position, scale patterns and chord fingerings. Students will learn to sight read simple melodies in the treble clef and to provide harmonic accompaniment to a melody part.

### **Health 7**

This course is designed to give all students basic health concepts, which will allow them to make healthy decisions for themselves. Health is an activity and skills-based course, which encourages the students to know more about themselves and be able to make positive and healthy choices. The main units are: A Healthy You, and ATOD. In these units the students learn about the health triangle, nutrition, eating disorders, steroid abuse, and complete a project called Fit For Life. They also learn about the media and its influence, pressures, substance abuse, and how to communicate effectively. There is also an emphasis on healthy decision making. This course involves project based learning activities as well as reading, writing and discussions.

### **Intermediate Jazz Band**

Intermediate Jazz Band is a multi-grade ensemble for seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth grade instrumental and rhythm section students who have an interest in and an aptitude for jazz. This class will provide a sound basic music education in all areas covered by seventh and eighth grade band as well as an in-depth introduction to the study of jazz. Students will work in several jazz ensemble method books and learn and perform grade two and three jazz literature. They will perform in three concerts and a jazz festival. They will also study the history of jazz, including the great jazz recordings, and learn jazz theory and improvisation. They will work to develop a musical style using jazz vocabulary and performance practices. *Admission will be by audition or invitation.*

### **Intermediate String Ensemble 7**

Intermediate strings will provide string ensemble training for seventh graders. The class will focus on individual string techniques, such as bowing, tone production, left hand technique, intonation, note reading, rhythm and articulation. Students will also be instructed on good ensemble skills, such as balance, blend, intonation and ensemble. The class will use an intermediate string method book as appropriate grade two and three string ensemble literature. The string ensemble will perform at all middle school concerts.

### **Literacy 7**

Literacy Learning will offer a balanced approach to teaching literacy skills. Students will participate in an integrated approach to reading and writing tasks to develop reading fluency, reading comprehension, vocabulary, literacy elements and writing skills. Different reading and writing strategies will be taught to motivate students to be active readers and writers.

### **Physical Education 7**

This course introduces seventh graders to our adventure/challenge-based curriculum, which is designed to develop life skills through team-building concepts. The emphasis is on cooperation, effective communication, social interactions, making responsible choices, self-expression, personal challenge and enjoyment. This is a participation course in which students explore fitness/wellness and team and individual movement activities. Students are expected to dress appropriately for physical activity, participate daily and demonstrate responsible personal and social behaviors. Assessments are both written and performance-based. Activities include the following: adventure/challenge (new games, initiatives and low rope elements), field hockey, soccer, volleyball, creative world dance, basketball, juggling, pilo polo, Frisbee and whiffleball.

### **Reading Strategies 7**

As students move into middle school and beyond there is considerable emphasis on learning new vocabulary, understanding a range and depth of text, connecting and summarizing ideas and analyzing and interpreting text. Reading Strategies 7 was created as an opportunity for students to strengthen their reading comprehension skills in preparation for the increased demands of middle and high school. In class, students learn various reading strategies to increase comprehension, practice exercises to improve reading fluency, and study prefixes to develop their vocabulary. In addition, students review basic writing skills including writing strong sentences, paragraph building and developing short compositions. This class is for students who would benefit from direct, small-group instruction and who need to strengthen their comprehension skills as they move toward high school. This is not a special education class. Students are offered this additional instructional time based on teacher recommendation and their performance on state, district and classroom assessments.

### **Study Skills 7**

This course gives students who are on plans of assistance (IEP, 504, EST), a vehicle to aid them in receiving additional support around academic demands. Pre-teaching and re-teaching curriculum content at a more individualized pace and approach is utilized to aid students in becoming more independent learners. A large emphasis is placed on organizational skills to assist students in strengthening academic independence.

### **Technology Education 7**

This program is designed to develop skills in the areas of math, problem solving, safety, drafting and design, as well as designing and building.

### **Visual Arts 7**

Seventh Grade Visual Arts Program is an introduction to the visual art facilities at U-32. Students will have a taste of the different courses they could pursue in high school as well as some projects that are not offered in high school. Students are introduced to concepts of design, color, composition, techniques of drawing and creating three dimensional drawing and perspective.

Classes may include drawing, painting, pastels, pottery, basket making, printmaking, and book arts as a way to present these concepts in a hands-on studio atmosphere. Students will exhibit their work in the winter or spring Arts Festival at the end of each semester.

### **World Languages 7**

Students begin their sequential study of either French or Spanish in seventh grade. They begin to address the five national standards goals: to communicate in a foreign language using speaking, listening, reading and writing; to know about and understand the cultures where the language is spoken; to use the language to connect with other disciplines and acquire information; and to compare the language and its respective culture to our own. Students communicate in simple sentences on topics that include friends, family, school, calendars, food and seasons. Students experience the culture through textbooks, films, the Internet and music. Besides quizzes and tests, there are required performance assessments based on communication skills.

## **Eighth Grade Core Program**

### **Language Arts 8**

In Language Arts 8, our focus is on Teaching Tolerance. We explore universal themes of responsibility, justice, respect and citizenship. Students read a collection of novels, nonfiction, short stories, and poetry relating to these themes. All students are required to compile their final writing portfolio to determine if they have met the writing standards in six specific genres.

All students are expected to read a total of 25 books for the year. Special projects include the summer reading party, eighth grade plays, Project Citizen, Flynn Theater performances, and the Washington DC trip.

### **Math 8**

The eighth grade math program is devoted to developing student knowledge and understanding of mathematics. Students will also apply these mathematical principles and skills in a variety of individual and small group activities. Although some general topics are addressed in both seventh and eighth grade math curriculum, the specific units and level of difficulty are quite different. To support student learning we offer three different math tracks and students spend two years with the same teacher.

The mathematical strands in eighth grade will include: statistics, geometry, linear and non-linear algebra, probability and statistics, skills and problem solving.

### **Science 8**

Students build upon skills learned in seventh grade through concepts in physical science. Students will become adept at using new lab equipment and understanding their scientific applications. During the 8<sup>th</sup> grade year, science places an emphasis on the importance of accurate measurement as well as data analysis. During independent and group lab investigations, 8<sup>th</sup> graders will observe and measure properties of matter and develop an understanding of the basic principles of chemistry. Students will be expected to demonstrate their understanding of the scientific method as they develop their own experiments to test specific ideas or questions.

### **Social Studies 8**

The eighth grade year will serve as an introduction to American government and history from 1600 to 1865. The units focus on the colonial American experience; the American Revolution; origins of American government and the legislative process; and slavery before the Civil War. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the uses of evidence and data, analyze knowledge, make historical connections, examine the meaning of citizenship, compare different types of government, and explore the nature of conflict and human rights. Students will read extensively and will be assessed in a variety of ways, including research papers, unit tests, role-playing scenarios and various projects.

## **Eighth Grade Non-Core Program**

### **Band 8**

Eighth Grade Band is a middle school performance class for eighth graders who have successfully completed Seventh Grade Band. The goal is to help students to continue to develop good musical skills and prepare them for playing at the high school level. Areas of focus include playing with expression, music theory and intonation. Eighth Grade Band performs three concerts, makes an elementary school tour and performs at music festivals each year.

### **Beginning Strings**

The beginning strings class is open to any student who is interested in learning how to play violin, viola, cello, or bass. Students will learn the basics of ensemble and performance techniques while learning and preparing a variety of music to be performed. As musical abilities increase, students are prepared and given the opportunity to audition for participation in the more advanced instrument ensembles offered. There is no prerequisite for beginning strings class.

### **Chorus 8**

Eighth Grade Chorus is designed to give intermediate level singers experience with standard chorus repertoire. The course emphasizes the development of performance, sight-reading and vocal techniques. Students sing in three- and four-part harmony. Other areas of focus are expression, music theory and intonation. Activities include small ensembles, field trips, music festivals and performances at U-32.

### **Computers 8**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Computers is a quarter-long course designed to reinforce skills acquired during Computer 7 and introduce students to a variety of editing programs. Students will complete a series of projects using Microsoft Office and media editing/creation software. Students will learn to efficiently manage and share files on the network and develop a system of organization. Assessments will be project based and align with Core activities.

### **Health 8**

This course will continue to reinforce the basic concepts of Health 7 while adding important developmentally appropriate units for eighth grade students. During this class students will focus on the 3 units of: Mental Health, ATOD, and Sexual Reproduction/Healthy Relationships. There will be special emphasis on healthy dating relationships, sexual decision making, sexually transmitted infection/disease, stress, depression and suicide, as well as, alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. The healthy relationships unit will also incorporate Sexual Violence Prevention as mandated by the State of VT. Again, healthy coping skills and healthy choices will be the main focus within each unit the students study.

**Intermediate Jazz Band**

Intermediate Jazz Band is a multi-grade ensemble for seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth grade instrumental and rhythm section students who have an interest in and an aptitude for jazz. This class will provide a sound basic music education in all areas covered by seventh and eighth grade band as well as an in-depth introduction to the study of jazz. Students will work in several jazz ensemble method books and learn and perform grade two and three jazz literature. They will perform in three concerts and a jazz festival. They will also study the history of jazz, including the great jazz recordings, and learn jazz theory and improvisation. They will work to develop a musical style using jazz vocabulary and performance practices. *Admission will be by audition or invitation.*

**Intermediate String Ensemble 8**

Intermediate strings will provide string ensemble training for eighth graders. The class will focus on individual string techniques, such as bowing, tone production, left hand technique, intonation, note reading, rhythm and articulation. Students will also be instructed on good ensemble skills, such as balance, blend, intonation and ensemble. The class will use an intermediate string method book as appropriate grade two and three string ensemble literature. The string ensemble will perform at all middle school concerts.

**Literacy 8**

Literacy Learning will offer a balanced approach to teaching literacy skills. Students will participate in an integrated approach to reading and writing tasks to develop reading fluency, reading comprehension, vocabulary, literacy elements and writing skills. Different reading and writing strategies will be taught to motivate students to be active readers and writers.

**Living Arts 8**

This course covers personal nutrition and basic food preparation.. Seasonal food projects and foods for school events are also included. Handcrafted projects are introduced to students. This unit encourages students to develop positive and lifelong activities that can be creative, productive and fun.

**Physical Education 8**

This course continues to develop our students' life skills through team-building concepts. The curriculum is adventure/challenge-based with the emphasis remaining the same as for PE7. Students are expected to dress appropriately for physical activity, participate fully in each class and demonstrate responsible personal and social behaviors. Assessments are both written and performance-based. Activities may include the following: adventure/challenge, football, modified rugby, hockey, volleyball, creative line dancing, circus arts, floor hockey, personal self defense and cricket.

**Reading Strategies 8**

Reading Strategies 8 is designed to give students an opportunity to refine and broaden their use of reading strategies and to improve their skills in interpreting and analyzing text. Students practice using a range of strategies through reading novels and non-fiction texts as well as shorter works. Students study frameworks that improve reading, and expand their vocabulary through Latin prefixes and roots. Students also work on increasing their fluency. Students work on their writing through journals and various writing assignments. Students write responses to literature in conjunction with core Language Arts assignments.

This class is for students who would benefit from direct, small-group instruction and who need to strengthen their comprehension skills as they move toward high school. This is not a special education class. Students are offered this additional instructional time based on teacher recommendation and their performance on state, district and classroom assessments.

**Study Skills 8**

This course gives students who are on plans of assistance (IEP, 504, EST), a vehicle to aid them in receiving additional support around academic demands. Pre-teaching and re-teaching curriculum content at a more individualized pace and approach is utilized to aid students in becoming more independent learners. A large emphasis is placed on organizational skills to assist students in strengthening academic independence.

### **Technology Education 8**

This program is designed to build on the seventh grade experience and to continue to develop skills in the areas of math, problem solving, safety, drafting and design, as well as designing and building. This course meets 40 minutes per day for one quarter.

### **Visual Arts 8**

Eight grade visual arts is a continuation of the skills learned in 7<sup>th</sup> grade visual arts. Students will have a taste of different classes they might pursue in high school visual arts. Students continue their study of design, color, composition and techniques in a hands-on atmosphere. Students will continue to learn skills for drawing, pastels, painting, pottery, print making, basket making and book arts. These projects will be more complex and require more skills than 7<sup>th</sup> grade visual arts. Students will exhibit their work in the winter or spring Arts Festival at the end of each semester.

### **World Languages 8**

Students continue the sequential study of either French or Spanish that they began in seventh grade. They continue to address, at a basic level, the five national standards goals: to communicate in a foreign language using speaking, listening, reading and writing; to know about and understand the cultures where the language is spoken; to use the language to connect with other disciplines and acquire information; to compare the language and its respective culture to our own; and to participate in multi-lingual communities. Students use basic language skills to communicate about friends, family, weather, school, food, clothing, geography, town and country, leisure activities and transportation. Students experience the culture through films, the Internet, music, and textbooks. Besides quizzes and tests, there are three required performance assessments based on communication skills. Upon successful completion of Foreign Language 8, a student will have completed year one of that language.

## **Special Education**

Special Education serves to assist students with disabilities to access and benefit from regular education through direct instruction in the basic skill areas of oral expression, listening comprehension, reading comprehension, basic reading skills, written expression, motor skills, mathematical calculation or mathematics reasoning. The Special Education Department offers services and programs so that students may increase their basic skills in reading, writing, mathematics and oral expression. Courses and/or support are also provided to help students improve their social, study and organizational skills. Eligibility for Special Education services is determined through a Comprehensive Evaluation process, facilitated by a Special Educator and determined by an Evaluation Planning Team (E.P.T.).

Students with Individual Education Plans (I.E.P.) participate in regular education classes to the greatest extent possible. They may receive direct instruction from a Special Educator or para-educator within a regular education class and/or in smaller “skills” classes as needed. Accessing some “skills” classes may require schedule adjustments.

# VTVLC – Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative

## (www.vtvlc.org)

### **Vision:**

The foundation of Vermont Virtual is to provide greater availability, accessibility and flexibility for all learners to prepare them for a lifetime of success.

### **English**

#### **Pop Culture: Music & Media**

Mp3 players, social networks, video, and cell phones constantly surround us with popular culture messages. Everyday, teens rely on media tools to connect with each other and their world. As both consumers and creators, popular culture affects how we think, act and share our lives. Media and music enable us to develop, express and share our thoughts and compositions.

Using the contemporary literature of books, audio, images, and video, this course will examine the way artists and authors compose with lyrics, scripts, blogs, videos, visual art and multimedia. In addition to thinking critically about the messages we receive, we will be publicly publishing our compositions and creating personal portfolios. The purpose of this course is to advance and refine your skills and provide the tools to confidently communicate and create as well as critique pop culture.

Course Code: 1700100

Completion: 1 Semester (Fall and Spring)

### **Electives**

#### **MS Critical Thinking, Problem Solving and Learning Strategies**

It's time to become the best student you can be. This course will teach you how to find important information quickly, transfer it from short to long term memory, and perform better on assignments and tests. On your path to become an efficient learner, this course will teach you specific strategies to use in any content area in your academic studies. You will feel confident in your abilities to link new information to what you already know.

As a twenty first century learner, you have big demands on your time. This course will help you find balance as well as prioritize the things you want to accomplish, both short and long term. Finally, the most well rounded student is one who can think critically in all aspects of life, academic and non-academic. By using real world situations, you will implement oral and written communication to build better relationships and take pride in the ownership of your actions and words.

Course Code: 1700100

Completion: 1 Semester (Fall and Spring)

## **MS Orientation to Art 2-D**

Where do super heroes come from? They live in the action-filled pages of comic books. Who gives them their super powers? It's the creative artist who puts energy and excitement into every drawing. You too can create your own super heroes, and discover the power you hold in your pencil.

Using the tools, tricks and techniques of professional artists, you'll create people and objects that leap off the page. You'll start with your sketchbook, and put down your ideas and impressions. You'll develop those ideas by using lines, colors, composition and perspective. You'll finish with a collection of original artwork that tells the story your way.

In this course you'll experience the creative processes used by all artists. You'll learn how to analyze, interpret and evaluate art. But most of all, you'll have a portfolio of work that demonstrates your own skill and creativity as an artist.

Students will need access to a scanner or a digital camera for submitting work for this course. In addition, students will need to use some basic art supplies. This course does not meet the criteria for a High School Course and is available for Middle School only.

Course Code: 8207220

Completion: 1 Semester (Fall)

## **MS Career Education**

“What do you want to be when you grow up?” You have heard this question several times by now. Whether you know exactly what career you would like to pursue or if you have no idea what jobs may suit you...this course is for you!

Throughout this course, you will participate in several self-assessment activities to help you become more aware of your interests, values, and skills and discover how they relate to finding a career that may interest you. You will have an opportunity to research and explore several different careers that may appeal to you. You will learn about the education and training necessary for those careers.

You will set goals for yourself and develop an understanding about making informed career decisions. You will learn about the opportunities that await you in high school and beyond.

You will learn about the workplace and necessary skills, such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and time management, you will need in order to be successful in your future career.

Course Code: 2305000

Completion: 1 Semester (Fall and Spring)

## **MS Fantasy, Fiction, Fun**

Students will work with a variety of digital tools to create interactive fiction and interactive games with a strong underlining game narrative. Tools will include Scratch (developed at M.I.T.) to create Interactive Stories and online games, Inform programming environment for creating Interactive Fiction, ALICE (developed at Carnegie Mellon) for creating Animation, and Game Star Mechanic for creating online games. This course is for students who are interested in using technology to explore their creative sides by having fun creating Fantasy and Fiction digital projects.

Course Code: 8207210

Completion: 1 Semester (Fall)

## **MS Imagination, Invention and Innovation**

Students will use a variety of fun digital tools to design and create imaginative, innovative projects or inventions. In this process, students will imagine what they want to do, create a project based on their ideas, play with their creations, share their ideas and creations with others, and reflect on their experiences—all of which leads them to imagine new ideas and new projects. Projects may include free tools such as Google Sketchup, Scratch, or Alice along with robotic kits such as Pico Cricket, LegoWedo, and Lego Mindstorms. It will take a little practice, but this course offers you the best strategies. It also gives you a personalized coach (your teacher) who will take you to the top of your game in a hurry.

Course Code: 8207210

Completion: 1 Semester (Spring)

## **Mathematics**

### **MS Mathematics I**

Get ready for the Middle Grades Math 1 course.

This is a big year for you as you move from elementary school to middle school. There is no better time than now to start applying the math you have learned in your previous courses.

MS Math 1 is designed to engage you at every turn. You will have opportunities to demonstrate your knowledge on number manipulation by applying them to real world scenarios. The course is packed with games that reinforce and practice the skills you just learned. There are pieces of trivia and activities throughout the course that leave you with a smile.

Your teacher is anxious to join you during this learning experience. But remember, ‘with this much fun it still is math’. Have Fun!

Course Code: 1205010

Completion: 2 Semesters

### **MS Mathematics II**

Do your parents like to start dinner with, "What did you learn in school today?"

Imagine being able to answer your parent's dinner time question with, "I learned about transformations of shapes by sliding, flipping, rotating, and enlarging them on the coordinate plane. I compared my drawings with my friend's drawings and listed the differences .". How surprised would your parents be to know that you answered this way not by sitting in a classroom, but by attending an interactive, online course for seventh graders?

The VTVLC MS Math 2 course gives plenty of opportunity to create, investigate, and demonstrate knowledge at both the intermediate and advanced levels. You will amaze yourself with the skills you will accumulate in completing this course. Full of animations, applications, videos, games, and real world scenarios, you may think this course is the latest video game. Get a seat belt for your office chair. Buckle up and get ready to escape into a course for the time of your life.

Course Code: 1205040

Completion: 2 Semesters

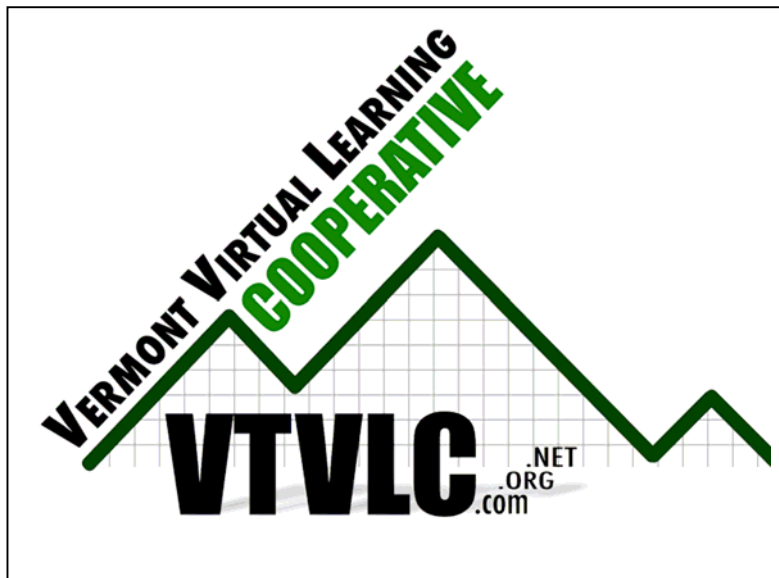
The **Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative (VTVLC)** is an organization developed through a partnership of Vermont public schools which is funded by a grant provided by the Vermont Department of Education using ARRA/Title IID funds.

On the web at: [VTVLC.ORG](http://VTVLC.ORG) or [VermontVirtual.com](http://VermontVirtual.com)

The Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities. Any person having inquiries concerning the Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, Section 504 or other state or federal nondiscrimination laws or regulations is directed to contact:

Judith Pullinen, Superintendent  
River Valley Technical Center School District  
307 South Street, Springfield, VT 05156 802-885-8300

All courses meet or exceed National Standards. All students are expected to login to their online courses daily unless coordinated in advance with their online teacher. For complete information on courses, visit: [vvlc.org](http://vvlc.org)





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