

# ROBERT FROST

**Livonia Public Schools**  
14041 Stark Road • Livonia, MI 48154-5475  
Phone: (734) 744-2670 • Fax: (734) 744-2672  
Shanan Wheeler, Principal  
Kevin English, Assistant Principal

MIDDLE SCHOOL

## GRADE 8 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2021-22

*“Preparing for Tomorrow’s Challenges”*



# Frost Middle School

## EIGHTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### Required Courses

<b>1182/2182</b>	<b>ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8 (ELA 8)</b>	<b>Full Year</b>
------------------	--	------------------

The eighth grade English Language Arts class is based on the Michigan K-12 Standards for English Language Arts. Through reading and writing units of study, teachers provide direct instruction to develop the skills and strategies needed for mastery of the standards. A variety of texts are read and discussed to support close reading, talking about texts, and ultimately, text analysis. Independent reading provides students choice and builds reading stamina. As writers, students engage in argument writing as well as informational and narrative writing. The units of study support the development of life-long readers and writers through authentic reading and writing experiences.

<b>1282/2282</b>	<b>US HISTORY 8</b>	<b>Full Year</b>
------------------	---------------------	------------------

The 8th grade U.S. History course focuses on the historical events from 1754 to 1880. Emphasis will be placed on political themes as well as significant events, and people who have contributed to shaping our nation into the country it is today.

Through an inquiry approach, students will pursue questions, use content knowledge, gather and evaluate sources, and communicate findings of historical texts. This will include the analysis of primary and secondary source documents as evidence to support claims. With these developing skills, students will emerge with an enhanced civic competency. Ideally, students will have the knowledge to improve upon and become active participants in a democratic way of life.

The US History 8 course is based on the Michigan K-12 Standards for Social Studies.

<b>1382/2382</b>	<b>MATH 8</b>	<b>Full Year</b>
------------------	---------------	------------------

Our curriculum is aligned with the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. The Common Core places equal emphasis on Mathematical Content and Mathematical Practices. The Mathematical Practices describe various skills mathematically proficient students should exhibit, such as problem solving, reasoning, communication, procedural fluency, and conceptual understanding, to name a few.

The eighth grade content standards focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

<b>1383/2383</b>	<b>ALGEBRA 8</b>	<b>Full Year</b>
------------------	------------------	------------------

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of Pre-Algebra and/or approval by the Math Department Chair

This accelerated Algebra 1 course differs from High School Algebra 1 in that it contains approximately half of the 8th grade content standards in addition to all the High School Algebra 1 content standards. While coherence is retained because it logically builds on the 7th Grade accelerated Pre-Algebra course, the additional content, when compared to the high school course, demands a faster pace for instruction and learning. This course provides for the study of the real number system and families of functions including

linear, exponential, and quadratic. Students will also develop their knowledge of power functions and polynomial patterns of change. In addition, students will develop an understanding that algebraic thinking is a powerful tool as they model and solve real-world problems.

Our curriculum is aligned with the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. The Common Core places equal emphasis on Mathematical Content and Mathematical Practices. The Mathematical Practices describe various skills mathematically proficient students should exhibit, such as problem solving, reasoning, communication, procedural fluency, and conceptual understanding, to name a few.

*Students will earn one high school credit towards the completion of the Michigan Merit Curriculum needed to graduate upon successful completion of this class.*

**1482/2482**

**SCIENCE 8**

**Full Year**

This course empowers students to think, read, write, and argue like real scientists and engineers by promoting scientific literacy and taking a hands-on approach to learning. Students take on the role of scientists to investigate relevant, real world phenomenon using the science and engineering practices as defined in the Next Generation Science Standards. Scientific practices include claim, evidence, reasoning, developing and using models, as well as collaboration and discussion. Several units are followed by internship units where students further develop their conceptual understanding by applying their new knowledge and engineering sense to finding a solution to complex problems. Eighth grade unit covers NGSS standards from life, physical and Earth Science disciplines. Units include Force and Motion, Magnetic Fields, Earth, Moon and Sun, Natural Selection and Evolutionary History.

**0981**

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8**

**One Semester**

**Note:** *All 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are required to take Physical Education unless two full-year electives are chosen).*

The Physical Education program at Frost provides an opportunity for students to further develop interest, knowledge, and skills in selected physical activities. The program also aims to promote sportsmanship and emotional growth, as well as a wholesome appreciation for the impact that physical activity has in maintaining optimal health.

Emphasis of the skills needed to be proficient performers in a wide variety of individual and team activities will be stressed. Activities to be covered may include such team sports as: basketball, floor hockey, soccer, softball, flag football, non-contact lacrosse, team handball, and volleyball. Individual sports may include handball, and archery. Students are given a written test following most units.

The development of personal physical fitness will be a strong component of the program. Students will evaluate their personal fitness, develop individual fitness improvement goals, and involve themselves in activities designed to help them meet those goals.

Physical fitness is a vital part of the physical education program. Students are assessed in the four areas of fitness: aerobic capacity, flexibility, muscular endurance, and muscular strength. Students are assessed at the beginning and end of the semester. Following the pre-test, students set physical fitness goals and are encouraged to participate in physical activities in and out of school. Through regular participation in physical activity, the student is more likely to reach his or her fitness goals.

## Full Year Electives

**1791/2791**

**FRENCH 1**

**Full Year**

French 1 is an in-depth study of language in which students will learn to understand, speak, read, and write in French. A wide variety of activities including audio and video, games, projects, and cultural awareness in French-speaking countries, will be explored. Practicing the French language at home on a regular basis is required and expected, to ensure a successful experience for each student. Successful completion of this course will enable the student to continue with French 2 in high school. ***Students will earn one high school credit towards the completion of the Michigan Merit Curriculum needed to graduate upon successful completion of this class.***

**1792/2792**

**SPANISH 1**

**Full Year**

Spanish 1 is an in-depth study of language in which students will learn to understand, speak, read, and write in Spanish. A wide variety of activities including audio and video, games, projects, and cultural awareness in Spanish-speaking countries, will be explored. Practicing the Spanish language at home on a regular basis is required and expected, to ensure a successful experience for each student. Successful completion of this course will enable the student to continue with Spanish 2 in high school. ***Students will earn one high school credit towards the completion of the Michigan Merit Curriculum needed to graduate upon successful completion of this class.***

**1793/2793**

**GERMAN 1**

**Full Year**

German 1 is an in-depth study of language in which students will learn to understand, speak, read, and write in German. A wide variety of activities including audio and video, games, projects, and cultural awareness in Spanish-speaking countries, will be explored. Practicing the German language at home on a regular basis is required and expected, to ensure a successful experience for each student. Successful completion of this course will enable the student to continue with German 2 in high school. ***Students will earn one high school credit towards the completion of the Michigan Merit Curriculum needed to graduate upon successful completion of this class.***

**1873/2873**

**CONCERT BAND**

**Full Year**

This course is offered to 7th and 8th grade students. The band explores music in contemporary, classical, rock, pop, and movie styles and performs 3 - 4 concerts a year. The students also have opportunities throughout the year to hear and work with professional musicians in the area, compose music, and utilize various technologies in music. In addition, the students learn music theory, become skilled at critical and creative thinking, build leadership and teamwork skills and strengthen communication skills through performance. Since Concert Band is a year-long course, you will have the opportunity to make personal connections and develop your musical skills to their fullest potential.

**1875/2875**

**CONCERT ORCHESTRA**

**Full Year**

This course is offered to 7th and 8th grade students. The orchestra explores music in contemporary, classical, rock, pop, improvisation and movie styles and performs 3 - 4 concerts a year. The students also have opportunities through the year to hear and work with professional musicians in the area, compose music, and utilize various technologies in music. In addition, the students learn music theory, become skilled at critical and creative thinking, build leadership and teamwork skills, and strengthen communication skills through performance. Since Concert Orchestra is a year-long course, you will have the opportunity to make personal connections and develop your musical skills to their fullest potential.

**1883/2883****SYMPHONIC BAND****Full Year**

The Symphonic Band is for eighth graders and is the top-performing band at Frost. The students will work on improving skills learned in their previous training and explore music in contemporary, classical, rock, pop, movie and jazz styles.

Students involved will have many opportunities throughout the year to perform, travel, and work with professional musicians in the area and will also perform at the MSBOA Band and Orchestra Festival. In addition, the students will learn music theory, become skilled at critical and creative thinking, build leadership and teamwork skills, and strengthen communication skills through performance. Since Symphonic Band is a year-long course, you will have the opportunity to make connections and develop your musical skills to their fullest potential. Students must have completed 7th grade Concert Band to enroll in Symphonic Band.

**JAZZ BAND****Full Year**

**Prerequisite: Audition Only.** Jazz Band is a subset of Symphonic Band and students interested in performing with Jazz Band will audition. The Jazz Band will perform during the year with the Symphonic Band in addition to performing as a Jazz Band at concerts. The Jazz Band performs a minimum of four concerts during the year. Students in Jazz Band will learn about Jazz history, improvisation, and perform various repertoires of jazz styles.

**1885/2885****CHAMBER ORCHESTRA****Full Year**

The Chamber Orchestra is for eighth graders and is the top-performing orchestra at Frost. The students will work on improving skills learned in their previous training and explore music in contemporary, classical, rock, pop, movie, improvisation, and jazz styles and perform 3 - 4 concerts a year. Students involved will have many opportunities throughout the year to perform, travel, and work with professional musicians in the area and will also perform at the MSBOA Band and Orchestra Festival. In addition, the students learn music theory, become skilled at critical and creative thinking, build leadership and teamwork skills, and strengthen communication skills through performance. Since Chamber Orchestra is a year-long course, you will have the opportunity to make personal connections and develop your musical skills to their fullest potential. Students must have completed 7th grade Concert Orchestra to enroll in Chamber Orchestra.

**1881/2881****CONCERT CHOIR****1 Semester/Full Year**

This course will cover varying styles of choral music, along with some exploration of musical theatre and movement. Students will have multiple opportunities to perform, including at least two required concerts per semester. Opportunities will include whole group, small ensemble, and solo singing.

Students will also be introduced to basic music theory, sight singing, and vocal health and maintenance. If you have a desire to be part of a supportive and welcoming group, while enjoying the process of making music together, Concert Choir is for you!

**1190/2190****YEARBOOK****Full Year**

In this 21st century, cross-curricular, project-based class, students work collaboratively by using technology such as digital cameras, photo editing software, and online design software to digitally produce a yearbook. Students use writing skills, communication skills, and creativity to tell the story of the school community and peers in an engaging way. Students demonstrate knowledge of graphic design and think creatively when organizing information within the yearbook. Students think critically to meet deadlines, track goals, and utilize multimedia to market and disseminate information that aligns **with and models an actual business.**

**1951/2951****PEER CONNECTIONS****Full Year**

Peer Connections is a class for 8th grade students looking to improve skills in leadership, collaboration, empathy, and organization. Students will be a mentor, role model, and friend to students in Frost's Center and ASD programs. Students in Peer Connections will spend some of their class time working with their peers directly and some of their time planning, discussing, and reflecting. Peer Connections is largely a student-led program, so it is important that students are responsible, respectful, trustworthy, and have good attendance.

**Semester Electives****0185****STAGE & PERFORMANCE BASICS****One Semester**

*Would you like to be an actor or have more confidence in public speaking?* Stage and Performance Basics is a half-year course that concentrates on developing confidence and poise in speaking and acting before classroom audiences. Students will learn stage basics, public speaking, and the essentials of public performance through a variety of different experiences while getting regular feedback. Lastly, students will create, produce, and perform their own play to an invited audience.

**0191****CREATIVE WRITING****One Semester**

Seventh and eighth grade students in this course will experiment with different genres in writing. Students will be given many opportunities to create a variety of writing products. The students will focus on developing skill in all phases of the writing process. Various writing styles will be explored, along with imaginative ways for the writers to display their final written pieces. Students will be given ample opportunity to talk about strategies for revising and polishing their writing.

**0469****WORLD LANGUAGE ADVENTURE****One Semester**

Fasten your seat belts, adventurers! Take the role of a world explorer as you journey through four different languages and cultures: French, German, Japanese and Spanish. Earn your passports as you learn basic words and phrases while engaging in games and projects.

Interact with your classmates in other languages while having the time of your life! This course will introduce you to the four world language options while providing the essential building blocks for success to meet the two-year world language graduation requirement. However, the class will not earn a credit towards the requirement. Discover the traveler in you in this exciting exploration of world languages and cultures! World Language Adventure is open to both 7th and 8th grade students.

**0569 INTRO TO TOOLS & MATERIALS PROCESSING One Semester**

This introductory shop class is open to all 7th and 8th grade students wanting to learn how to work with tools and build things. Class will focus on shop safety and will cover basic hand and power tool use. Students will practice what they learn by working with woods, plastics, and metals that are commonly used in industry today. Some of the in class hands-on projects are the sculptured fish, jig saw puzzle, aluminum rings, air-power race car, airplane, hockey board, etc. (Projects are subject to change.) Emphasis is placed on safety, time management, behavior, and responsibility. This is an excellent life-skills class for all students and will give insight towards related jobs and high paying skilled-trade careers. Class can be continued into various high school and career center programs. This life-skills, activity-based, hands-on class is one that every student should have! (*S.T.E.M. Pathway*)

**0574****DIGITECH****One Semester**

This course will guide students deeper into technology as they learn about programming by blending hardware design and software development, allowing students to discover computer science concepts and skills. Students will create relevant, tangible and shareable projects. Students will use computers and other digital devices. *(S.T.E.M. Pathway utilizing Project Lead the Way Curriculum, Computer Science for Innovators and Makers)*

**0579****DESIGN AND MODELING****One Semester**

Students discover the engineering design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. Students will work both independently and as part of a team to develop design skills such as 2D and 3D sketching, measuring, and 3D modeling using computer aided drawings (CAD) to accurately communicate design ideas to others. Students are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned throughout the semester to design and present a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy. This entry level class will give insight towards related career pathways and can be continued into several related high school or career center programs. *(S.T.E.M. Pathway utilizing Project Lead the Way Curriculum)*

**0578****AUTOMATION AND ROBOTICS****One Semester**

Students learn about the history and impact of automation and robotics as they explore mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students will work both independently and as part of a team to create a variety of mechanical systems. Using the VEX Robotics® platform, students apply what they know to design and program unique robotic systems. This entry-level class will give insight towards related career pathways and can be continued into several related high school or career center engineering programs. *(S.T.E.M. Pathway utilizing Project Lead the Way Curriculum)*

**0669****VISUAL ART****One Semester**

Unleash the artist within! Come and discover new ways to showcase your creativity and express who you are. This course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to work with a wide variety of media and produce quality two and three-dimensional works of art. Drawing, painting, and sculpture will be explored with emphasis on the principles and elements of art. Media may include pencil, colored pencil, scratchboard, paint, clay, and paper mache. Remember....art fosters creativity and problem solving techniques that are beneficial in other classes and essential in life. Visual Art is open to both 7th and 8th grade students.

**0670****ART AND DESIGN****One Semester**

Did you realize that art is all around us? Behind the images and objects in our everyday world is an artist who turned an idea into reality. You can be that artist! In this imaginative course students will use drawing, painting, sculpture, and other techniques to create art with a purpose. In addition, graphic design, cartooning, and photography may be explored. An emphasis will be placed on the elements and principles of design to create eye catching and well-crafted works of art!

**0676****FOODS & FABRIC****One Semester**

Want to have an opportunity to be creative? Here is your chance to learn new skills in the areas of cooking and sewing. Most students who take this class have never used a sewing machine before, but they all learn to use the sewing machine to make a drawstring backpack and a stuffed animal. Students practice hand sewing and sewing on a button. There is a materials fee for these projects.

During the food portion of the class, students prepare cookies, biscuits, scones, muffins, breadsticks, cinnamon rolls and eggs. Lessons focus on kitchen safety, proper measuring, correct use of kitchen tools, basic cooking procedures, and teamwork. We wrap the semester up with a Next Great Cafe contest. This course is offered to 7th and 8th grade students.

**0677****EXPLORING FOODS****One Semester**

Do you like to cook? Are you interested in learning? Whether you are a beginner or more experienced, Exploring Foods could be right for you. Exploring Foods provides hands-on experience in the kitchen. The goal is to help you grow more independent in the kitchen so you will be better prepared to live on your own someday. Topics covered include safety, following a recipe, nutrition, budgeting/grocery shopping, and career opportunities. Various cooking units will be covered such as desserts (cookies, pies & cakes) quick breads (pancakes, muffins, and biscuits), breakfast foods (various style eggs and omelets), and extras like tacos, spaghetti, quesadillas and crepes. We also have creative food days, Chopped style cook-offs, and a Next Great Restaurant contest. This course is offered to 7th & 8th grade students. You may take the course once as a 7th grader and again as an 8th grader because the content is varied every other year. Come join the fun and sample the food!

**1881/2881****CONCERT CHOIR****1 Semester/Full Year**

This course will cover varying styles of choral music, along with some exploration of musical theatre and movement. Students will have multiple opportunities to perform, including at least two required concerts per semester. Opportunities will include whole group, small ensemble, and solo singing.

Students will also be introduced to basic music theory, sight singing, and vocal health and maintenance. If you have a desire to be part of a supportive and welcoming group, while enjoying the process of making music together, Concert Choir is for you!

**Counselors**

❖ **Mrs. Lee:** A-Mc [mlee9@livoniapublicschools.org](mailto:mlee9@livoniapublicschools.org) (734) 744-2670 / 37951

❖ **Mr. Satarino:** Me-Z + ESL + MACAT [jsatarin@livoniapublicschools.org](mailto:jsatarin@livoniapublicschools.org) (734) 744-2670 / 37952