

# ROBERT FROST

**Livonia Public Schools**

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**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

## **GRADE 8 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2023-24**

*“Preparing for Tomorrow’s Challenges”*



# Frost Middle School

## *Eighth Grade Course Descriptions*

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### **Required Courses**

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**1182/2182**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8**

**Full Year**

The eighth grade English Language Arts curriculum builds from the continuum of literacy skills established in the seventh grade, with an increased emphasis on higher level thinking skills. As in grade seven, students are engaged regularly with multiple types of authentic reading and writing processes. Units of study continue to follow a carefully sequenced set of building blocks that students mastered in seventh grade in both reading and writing. The units offer students an authentic and predictable structure that help them live more authentically as readers and writers, it provides them with an intentional way to continue teaching themselves after the unit is over.

A variety of texts will be read and discussed in a reader's workshop approach, wherein teachers immerse students in close reading and talking about texts, thus helping students to analyze how these texts are written. A writer's workshop approach to teaching writing helps support students' development as writers. This approach provides students with continuous evaluation of their work and the work of other writers.

**1282/2282**

**US HISTORY 8**

**Full Year**

The 8th grade American History course focuses on the period from 1763 to 1880. Emphasis will be placed on political themes, major events and people who have contributed to shaping our nation into the country it is today. Students are required to use a variety of resources and means to acquire, process, and communicate information. This will include the analysis and application of primary sources, such as original documents and objects which were created at the time under study, and secondary sources, such as accounts or interpretations of events created by someone without firsthand experience.

Examining primary sources gives students a powerful sense of history and the complexity of the past. Helping students analyze primary sources can also guide them toward higher-order thinking, and better critical thinking and analysis skills. With these developing skills, students will emerge with an improved civic competency and the knowledge to improve our democratic way of life.

**1382/2382**

**MATH 8**

**Full Year**

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.

**1383/2383**

**ALGEBRA 1**

**Full Year**

**Prerequisites: *By invitation only.*** 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 PreAlgebra 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.

**Note: *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.

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## Full Year Electives

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**1881/2881**

**CONCERT CHOIR**

**20 weeks/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! **Note: Concert Choir may be taken as a semester elective or a full year 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. 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, 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 yearlong 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, and movie styles and performs 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, 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 with previous music experience 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.

**1885/2885**

**CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

**Full Year**

The Chamber Orchestra is for eighth graders with previous music experience 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.

**1889/2889**

**FUNDAMENTS OF GUITAR**

**Full Year**

In this class students will be learning the basic fundamental skills needed for learning to play the guitar. Students will work on fundamental music theory skills, note reading, finger mechanics, rhythm, melody, chords, and building their ears to excel in music. Students will also explore various genres of music. No prior music experience is needed. You will learn the fundamentals of music and the basic skills necessary to play a wide variety of music styles. This class is open to all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and meets all school year.

**1791/2791**

**FRENCH 1**

**Full Year**

This is a year-long (two semester) course. Successful completion of French 1 will enable students to take French 2 (second year French) in 9th grade and will earn them one credit needed for high school graduation. The earned grade will not be factored into the high school GPA.

**Note: 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**

This is a year-long (two semester) course. Successful completion of German 1 will enable students to take German 2 (second year German) in 9th grade and will earn them one credit needed for high school graduation. The earned grade will not be factored into the high school GPA.

**Note: 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**

This is a year-long (two semester) course. Successful completion of Spanish 1 will enable students to take Spanish 2 (second year Spanish) in 9th grade and will earn them one credit needed for high school graduation. The earned grade will not be factored into the high school GPA.

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

**1951/2951**

**PEER CONNECTIONS**

**Full Year**

Students enrolled in the Peer Connections class will be a friend, mentor and role model working with students of differing abilities. In addition, the peer will work side by side with students and learn appropriate classroom behavior/social skills, staying on task and assisting with activities as needed. Students will spend some of their class time learning about various disabilities, working with peers directly, planning activities, and reflecting/discussing. **Students who sign up for this course will receive a small application via school email they must complete.**

**1190/2190**

**YEARBOOK**

**Full Year**

Students work together in creating an inclusive yearbook for the entire school. Students are responsible for taking photographs, creating layouts, interviewing staff and students, attending school events, writing articles, assembling pages, and editing. In addition to the yearbook, students also work together in publishing the school newspaper. This class is open to all students. Students must be responsible, reliable, trustworthy, and self-motivated. **Students who sign up for this course will receive a small application via school email they must complete.**

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## **Semester Electives**

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**0981**

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8**

**20 weeks**

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. **Note: All students are required to complete one semester of physical education during 7<sup>TH</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade.**

**1881/2881**

**CONCERT CHOIR**

**20 weeks/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! **Note: Concert Choir may be taken as a semester elective or a full year class.**

**0677**

**EXPLORING FOODS**

**20 weeks**

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. Come join the fun and sample the food!

**0676**

**FOODS & FABRIC**

**20 weeks**

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.

**0953**

**PEER LINK**

**20 weeks**

This Peer Connections Link class is designed for student leaders who have a desire to mentor and work with students in special education, but do not have room in their schedule for the full year class. Leadership skills, communication skills, goal setting, patience, empathy, and advocacy are crucial for success in a peer

connections link elective. Students enrolled in this class will be a mentor, role model and friend to special education students and will be scheduled into one of their elective class periods. Class numbers are limited, and placement is not guaranteed. **Students who sign up for this course will receive a small application via school email that they must complete.**

**0569**

***TOOLS & MATERIALS PROCESSING***

***20 weeks***

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, airpower 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!

**0469**

***WORLD LANGUAGE ADVENTURES***

***20 weeks***

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. However, the class will not earn a credit towards a language 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.

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## **10-Week Electives**

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**0670**

***ART AND DESIGN I***

***10 weeks***

Students explore the elements of design and incorporate these principles into creating their own works of art. Projects will be based on real life art surrounding us in our everyday lives. Students will create art using their imaginations and creativity while experiencing drawing, painting, paper mache, ceramics, oil pastels, and many other techniques.

**0671**

***ART AND DESIGN II***

***10 weeks***

Students will continue in the exploration of real-life everyday art by looking at the art that surrounds them on a daily basis. They will have the opportunity to look at everyday items in a new and exciting way and will also look at how art is used in different careers. In addition to drawing, painting, and sculpture, students will be discovering their creativity in graphic design, photography, printmaking, and cartooning.



**0191**

**CREATIVE WRITING**

**10 weeks**

Seventh and eighth grade students in this course will experiment with different genres of 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.

**0574**

**DIGITECH**

**10 weeks**

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.

**0982**

**SPORTS AND FITNESS I (Outdoor)**

**10 weeks**

Sports & Fitness I is a semester course for 7th and 8th grade students who enjoy physical activity, conditioning, and exercise. Sports & Fitness units may include team sports (basketball, volleyball, soccer, floor hockey, softball), yoga, fitness training, individual sports (pickleball, badminton, disc golf), etc. **Outdoor sports will be in the first and last 10-week marking periods.** Foundational units covered in PE 7 or PE 8 will be expanded on to include tournaments and higher-level play. **Sports & Fitness is an elective class which can be taken in addition to (not in place of) PE 7 or PE8. Students will minimally have 1 semester of PE during middle school and a maximum of 4 semesters with a combination of PE7, PE8 and Sports & Fitness classes.**

**0983**

**SPORTS AND FITNESS II (Indoor)**

**10 weeks**

Sports & Fitness I is a semester course for 7th and 8th grade students who enjoy physical activity, conditioning, and exercise. Sports & Fitness units may include team sports (basketball, volleyball, soccer, floor hockey, softball), yoga, fitness training, individual sports (pickleball, badminton, disc golf), etc. **Indoor sports will be in the second and third 10-week marking periods.** Foundational units covered in PE 7 or PE 8 will be expanded on to include tournaments and higher-level play. **Sports & Fitness is an elective class which can be taken in addition to (not in place of) PE 7 or PE8. Students will minimally have 1 semester of PE during middle school and a maximum of 4 semesters with a combination of PE7, PE8 and Sports & Fitness classes.**

**0185**

**STAGE & PERFORMANCE BASICS I**

**10 weeks**

Would you like to improve your public speaking ability? **Stage & Performance I is a 10-week course** that aims to make students more comfortable presenting to an audience. Activities include giving speeches and storytelling. The goal is to improve articulation, control breathing, and learn how to project. We will work towards helping students speak confidently in front of a crowd, a skill which has immediate and lifelong benefits.

**0186**

**STAGE & PERFORMANCE BASICS II**

**10 weeks**

Are you interested in performing? Stage & Performance II is a 10-week course that teaches acting basics. Students will learn basic stage direction, body positioning, blocking, memorization and more! This is a fun, energetic class that encourages cooperation, giving and receiving feedback in a positive way, active listening, and observational skills. Whether you want to perform on stage or simply get better at giving class presentations, this class can help!

**0668**

**VISUAL ART I**

**10 weeks**

Students will create two- and three-dimensional artwork inspired by several different artists. This class explores famous artwork and artists and encourages students to use their own creativity, adding a twist to their artwork. Students are given the opportunity to work with watercolor, paint, oil pastels, colored pencils, paper mache, and clay.

**0669**

**VISUAL ART II**

**10 weeks**

Students will continue to use their creativity in making two- and three-dimensional artwork, while focusing on many different types of media. The projects continued in this class will include drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and etching.

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**Project Lead the Way**

**10-Week Electives**

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PLTW students engage in hands-on activities, projects, and problems that are reflective of real-world challenges. This compelling, real-world approach empowers students to learn essential, in-demand skills validated by the world's leading companies, while also providing an invaluable connection between what students are learning in the classroom today and how it applies to the paths they'll take in the future.

**0578**

**AUTOMATION AND ROBOTICS**

**10 weeks**

Students learn about the history and impact of automation and robotics as they explore mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Using the VEX Robotics® platform, students apply what they know to design and program traffic lights, robotic arms, and more.

**0577**

**COMPUTER SCIENCE FOR INNOVATORS AND MAKERS**

**10 weeks**

Throughout this STEM class, students to discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible, and shareable projects. Throughout the unit, students will learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development. They will design and develop a physical computing device, interactive art installation, or wearable, and plan and develop code for microcontrollers that bring their physical designs to life.

**0588**

***DESIGN AND MODELING***

***10 Weeks***

In this STEM class 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.

**0579**

***MEDICAL DETECTIVES***

***10 Weeks***

In this STEM class students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, examine nervous system structure and function, investigate disease outbreaks, and explore how a breakdown within the human body can lead to dysfunction. This class will include a dissection lab activity.