

MIDMESTER ACADEMY®  
& BEYOND

**PERSONALIZE  
YOUR  
PATHWAY.**



OKOBOJI MIDDLE SCHOOL

# OKOBOJI MIDMESTER ACADEMY

Okoboji's mission is to prepare each learner with the knowledge and skills necessary for a productive life in a changing world. The Midmester Academy is one way we are putting our mission into action at Okoboji Middle School. The Midmester Academy is founded on principles of problem-based learning (PBL). PBL is a teaching method in which students gain knowledge and skill by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging and complex question, problem, or challenge. In Gold Standard PBL, projects are focused on student learning goals and include 8 essential project design elements.

TERM	PURPOSE	DATES	DAYS
TRIMESTER I	5TH-8TH CORE; 5TH-6TH EXPLORATORIES & MUSIC	AUG 23-OCT 27	45 DAYS
MIDMESTER I	5TH-8TH PROJECT-BASED LEARNING COURSES	OCT 31-NOV 21	15 DAYS
TRIMESTER II	5TH-8TH CORE; 5TH-6TH EXPLORATORIES & MUSIC	NOV 27-FEB 15	46 DAYS
MIDMESTER II	5TH-8TH PROJECT-BASED LEARNING COURSES	MAR 28-APR 20	15 DAYS
TRIMESTER III	5TH-8TH CORE; 5TH-6TH EXPLORATORIES & MUSIC	FEB 20-MAR 27 & APR 24-MAY 25	51 DAYS
SEMESTER I	7TH-8TH ELECTIVES AND MUSIC 90 MINUTES PER DAY	AUG 23-JAN 19	89 DAYS
SEMESTER II	7TH-8TH ELECTIVES AND MUSIC 90 MINUTES PER DAY	JAN 23-MAY 25	83 DAYS

## 8 ESSENTIAL PROJECT DESIGN ELEMENTS

### KEY KNOWLEDGE, UNDERSTANDING, AND SUCCESS SKILLS

The project is focused on student learning goals, including standards-based content and skills such as critical thinking/problem solving, communication, collaboration, and self-management.

### CHALLENGING PROBLEM OR QUESTION

The project is framed by a meaningful problem to solve or a question to answer, at the appropriate level of challenge.

### SUSTAINED INQUIRY

Students engage in a rigorous, extended process of asking questions, finding resources, and applying information.

### AUTHENTICITY

The project features real-world context, tasks and tools, quality standards, or impact – or speaks to students' personal concerns interests, and issues in their lives.

### STUDENT VOICE + CHOICE

Students make some decisions about the project, including how they work and what they create.

### REFLECTION

Students and teachers reflect on learning, the effectiveness of their inquiry and project activities, the quality of student work, obstacles and how to overcome them.

### CRITIQUE + REVISION

Students give, receive, and use feedback to improve their process and products.

### PUBLIC PRODUCT

Students make their project work public by explaining, displaying and/or presenting it to people beyond the classroom.

# INNOVATIVE COMPONENTS OF MIDMESTER ACADEMY

- **OPEN SCHEDULE** WITH THREE 95-MINUTE BLOCKS PER DAY
- ALL COURSES FOCUS ON SIGNIFICANT **INTERDISCIPLINARY CONTENT** IN ONE OF THREE STRANDS OF LEARNING: STEM, HUMANITIES, ARTS & EXPLORATORY
- EACH COURSE TEACHES AND ASSESSES CORE COMPETENCIES OF AT LEAST ONE **UNIVERSAL CONSTRUCT**: CRITICAL THINKING, GROWTH MINDSET, CREATIVITY, COMPLEX COMMUNICATION, AND PRODUCTIVITY & ACCOUNTABILITY
- ALL COURSES ARE CRITIQUED TO ENSURE THEY MEET **GOLD STANDARD PBL** CRITERIA
- **MULTI-AGE CLASSES** FOR STUDENTS TO SUPPORT STUDENT INTEREST AND ABILITIES
- **PERSONALIZED SCHEDULING** -- OVER 75% OF COURSES ARE BASED ON LEARNING NEEDS AND CHOICE OF STUDENT/FAMILY
- CULMINATING **CAPSTONE COURSE** IN 8TH GRADE WHERE STUDENTS SHOWCASE AND DEFEND THEIR MIDDLE SCHOOL LEARNING TO A TEAM OF TEACHERS, FAMILY, STUDENTS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS.



OKOBOJI MIDDLE SCHOOL

# MIDMESTER ACADEMY & EXPLORATORIES

2017-18 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## REQUIRED COURSES

### A WORLD IN MOTION: JET TOY CHALLENGE

LAMBERTUS/JOSTAND

Grade: 5th Strand: STEM Availability: Fall & Spring Blocks: 1

**Driving Question:** Are you able to engineer a balloon powered vehicle to meet the specific needs of a consumer?

**Course Summary:** Students will use the scientific process to build a vehicle with specific performance goals. Students will use their collected data to drive their decision making throughout the entire engineering process.

**Universal Constructs:** Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Productivity & Accountability

### WHAT TRIBE ARE YOU?

BRECHER/WASSON

Grade: 5th Strand: Humanities Availability: Spring Blocks: 1

**Driving Question:** How did culture and location affect the way early Native Americans lived?

**Course Summary:** Students will research and synthesize information about past Native American tribes living in North America. Students will use this information to help them create a final project of their choice that answers the driving question.

**Universal Constructs:** Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Productivity & Accountability

### MINDSET CHALLENGE

MUELLER

Grade: 5th Strand: Art & Expl. Availability: Fall & Spring Blocks: 1

**Driving Question:** How can I demonstrate that I have a growth mindset?

**Course Summary:** Our job as learners will be to embrace the growth mindset. To do so, we have to be in a constant state of learning and in a safe environment. Will you embrace this opportunity to learn, grow, and live? *The Choice is Yours!* Join this adventure to discover and share the science and art of learning.

**Universal Constructs:** Complex Communication, Collaboration, Growth Mindset, Productivity & Accountability

### OUTBREAK!

HILSABECK

Grade: 7th Strand: Humanities Availability: Fall Blocks: 1

**Driving Question:** How can we use geographic skills to survive a viral outbreak and rebuild a society?

**Course Summary:** Students will use geography skills to determine zones that are safe from a viral outbreak and then create a successful new settlement using Sim City.

**Universal Constructs:** Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Productivity & Accountability

### THE HOLOCAUST

HILSABECK/FISHER

Grade: 8th Strand: Humanities Availability: Spring Blocks: 1

**Driving Question:** How can learning about the Holocaust help us understand the effects of intolerance?

**Course Summary:** Students will examine key events leading up to and during the Holocaust, and “meet” survivors of the Holocaust to help determine the effects that intolerance had on people of that time period as they compare it to similar events in today’s world.

**Universal Constructs:** Critical Thinking, Complex Communication, Productivity & Accountability

### CAPSTONE-JOURNEY OF ACADEMIC MASTERY

FISHER/FRERICHS/THOMPSON/  
7-8TH CORE TEAM

Grade: 8th Strand: ALL Availability: After Midmester Term II

**Driving Question:** What have you learned about yourself as a person, learner, and contributor to society? How does this information influence your future?

**Course Summary:** Through this course, students will investigate their learning and personality strengths and weaknesses, and how this will affect their next 4 years of high school. They will work closely with a student support group to analyze Universal Constructs and align them with their learning experiences. Students will create a culminating digital showcase portfolio of their learning throughout their middle school years and present to a panel of teachers with an extemporaneous speech.

**Universal Constructs:** Complex Communication, Collaboration, Growth Mindset, Productivity & Accountability

# HUMANITIES ELECTIVE COURSES

## AMERICAN LEGENDS

PATTERSON

Grade: 5th Availability: Fall Blocks: 1

**Driving Question:** What purpose do folktales serve in the American Culture?

**Course Summary:** To explore the folktale genre of traditional literature including legends, myths, tall tales, and fairy tales.

**Universal Constructs:** Growth Mindset, Complex Communication

## CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

BRECHER

Grade: 5th Availability: Fall Blocks: 1

**Driving Question:** What happens when you take a risk?

**Course Summary:** Students will explore the decision making process of taking healthy risks. Through interviews with older students, risk-taking examples from adults, and their own risk-taking examples and activities, students will learn the benefits of stepping outside the box and trying new things. Students will demonstrate their learning with the creation of a “choose your own adventure” project to show how different choices can lead to different outcomes and paths.

**Universal Constructs:** Growth Mindset, Critical Thinking

## WALK THE PLANK

BRECHER

Grade: 5th Availability: Fall Blocks: 1

**Driving Question:** What role did pirates have in history and how do they impact life today?

**Course Summary:** Ahoy, mateys! Are you ready to raise the jolly roger and set sail for the course? This unit will educate students about the history of pirates and where they are today. Students will distinguish fact from fiction about pirates and analyze the causes of piracy for both today and in the past. Along the way, students will dig into the unique culture of the pirate lifestyle.

**Universal Constructs:** Growth Mindset, Critical Thinking

## WRITE ON!

PATTERSON

Grade: 5th Availability: Fall Blocks: 1

**Driving Question:** Is cursive handwriting important for your future?

**Course Summary:** Is cursive writing cursed with extinction? Students will be stepping away from their computer keyboards and learning how to write in cursive, determining if there is a purpose and/or need for this unique skill.

**Universal Constructs:** Growth Mindset

## WHAT'S A MIDMESTER

PATTERSON

Grade: 5th Availability: Spring Blocks: 1

**Driving Question:** What higher order thinking is taking place in each Midmester class?

**Course Summary:** Students will have the opportunity to take an inside look into all of the Midmester classes by creating a newspaper revolving around the Midmester classes. Students will be interviewing, taking pictures, videos, and most importantly, writing about great things happening in each Midmester class.

**Universal Constructs:** Growth Mindset, Collaboration, Productivity & Accountability

## LET'S GO HERE

WASSON

Grade: 5-6th Availability: Fall & Spring Blocks: 1

**Driving Question:** What is a walking tour and how do I create one?

**Course Summary:** Students will have the opportunity to create their own walking tour of the Iowa Great Lakes. Through research, pictures, and possible field trips will produce a brochure, as well a presentation (there are many presentation options) to a panel of local professionals in the region.

**Universal Constructs:** Complex Communication, Productivity & Accountability

## HEROES IN HISTORY

STOLTENBERG

Grade: 5-6th Availability: Fall Blocks: 1

**Driving Question:** Can men & women from the past be considered heroes, and if so, how have their footprints made an impact on society and a difference in our lives today?

**Course Summary:** “Become Your Hero!” After identifying characteristics or qualities of a hero, students will research a hero from the past and write a biography on their hero. Students will then create a speech or portrayal of their “hero in history” and present to a group of students who will try to identify which hero they are presenting and the heroic qualities they possess.

**Universal Constructs:** Growth Mindset, Productivity & Accountability

## WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!

HINSHAW

Grade: 6-8th Availability: Fall & Spring Blocks: 1

**Driving Question:** What can we do to promote inclusion,

tolerance, and unity in our school and community?

**Course Summary:** The class will explore the importance of understanding everyone’s differences and learning that with empathy and understanding, everyone can be a valued member of society with new perspectives to share.

**Universal Constructs:** Collaboration, Growth Mindset

## TITANIC: THE UNSINKABLE?

WASSON

Grade: 5-6th Availability: Fall & Spring Blocks: 1

**Driving Question:** Why are people still interested in learning about the Titanic?

**Course Summary:** The central focus of this unit is to provide students with an understanding about the importance of the Titanic. Students will explore through the content areas why the Titanic was important in the past and why it remains important today. Students will be engaged in hands on activities (what really made the ship sink?), reading real newspaper clippings from 1912, and will be immersed in the art, music, and social class standards of the time period through the use of technology.

**Universal Constructs:** Collaboration

## PIONEER APPRENTICE

STOLTENBERG

Grade: 6-8th Availability: Fall & Spring Blocks: 1

**Driving Question:** Do you have the ability to effectively collaborate with your peers and the public relations skills needed to become the next great entrepreneur? “Money, Money, Money....Money!”

**Course Summary:** You won’t want to miss out on this opportunity to participate in the newest reality competition.... Pioneer Apprentice! You and your teammates will be responsible for creating a promotional commercial and organizing & implementing a fundraiser for this years designated business & charity. You will be scored on the following criteria: brand messaging, promotion of product, and collaboration & communication.

**Universal Constructs:** Complex Communication, Collaboration

## SOAR

FISHER/JONES

Grade: 6-8th Availability: Fall & Spring Blocks: 1

**Driving Question:** How can we SOAR to new heights by reaching out to become active and responsible citizens to help ourselves and others?

**Course Summary:** We will investigate different levels of service, chose how to reach out to our community, foster the pillars of character, and reflect upon our experiences to become a lifetime humanitarian.

**Universal Constructs:** Complex Communication, Productivity & Accountability

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE

FRERICHS

Grade: 7-8th Availability: Spring Blocks: 1

**Driving Question:** What can I as a student, we as a class and school, do to create an environment of respect for all people and make a difference in our class, school, community, and world?

**Course Summary:** Students will complete a book study of Bystander by James Preller, which will lead to them developing the skills and strategies to stand up for themselves and/or others when injustices are occurring. Students will also be working on a community project to correlate positive behaviors into positive relationships. An understanding of respect for all people, regardless of differences, will be a driving component in this course.

**Universal Constructs:** Critical Thinking, Growth Mindset, Collaboration

## WHO AM I?

DUVALL/WASSON

Grade: 7-8th Availability: Fall & Spring Blocks: 1

**Driving Question:** How has my past and my family’s past shaped who I am today and where I am going in the future?

**Course Summary:** Students will learn about their family history and discover events that have shaped who they are today. Students will get the opportunity to interview family members, research their origin, journal, and prepare an autoethnography presentation. **DISCLAIMER:** This class could cause some difficult conversations within your family, but is intended to help students understand life experiences and how those experiences shape what kind of people they are and want to become.

**Universal Constructs:** Critical Thinking, Growth Mindset, Collaboration

## EVERYONE HAS A STORY

FETTIG

Grade: 7-8th Availability: Fall & Spring Blocks: 1

**Driving Question:** How will listening to and telling life stories improve the quality of your life, as well as, the lives of those in your school, family, and friends?

**Course Summary:** Do you really know the person sitting next to you? Do you really know your parent’s life story? Each day you will participate in group and 1:1 conversations that will lead to a better understanding of each other. You will provide others with the opportunity to record, share, and preserve the stories of (their) lives. The purpose is to be able to spend time with community members, family members, and peers while learning how to engage in meaningful conversations using thought provoking questions.

**Universal Constructs:** Complex Communication

# STEM ELECTIVE COURSES

## FOOD TRUCK FRESH

LAMBERTUS

**Grade:** 5th      **Availability:** Fall & Spring      **Blocks:** I

**Driving Question:** How can we make quick and healthy eating options available to more people in our community?

**Course Summary:** Students will work in teams using a business plan to design a food truck menu. The menu will include healthy options that can be quickly prepared. Students will create a 3D food truck design and prepare foods on the menu to serve to students, staff, and parents.

**Universal Constructs:** Growth Mindset, Critical Thinking, Collaboration

## IMAGINATION OVERLOAD

JOSTAND

**Grade:** 5th      **Availability:** Fall & Spring      **Blocks:** I

**Driving Question:** How will you succeed as a critical thinker in our ever-changing world?

**Course Summary:** A fun, hands-on way of learning that encourages students to be courageous and curious through academic challenges. Students will learn to be flexible, patient, persistent, and have respect for other’s and their ideas.

**Iowa Core Universal Constructs:** Growth Mindset, Critical Thinking, Collaboration

## WHODUNNIT?

LAMBERTUS

**Grade:** 5th      **Availability:** Fall & Spring      **Blocks:** I

**Driving Question:** Can you piece together crime scene evidence to solve a murderous mystery?

**Course Summary:** Students will discredit preconceived ideas while using scientific strategies to solve a murder mystery. Students will learn about the “CSI Effect,” fingerprinting, and blood typing in an introduction to the growing area of Forensic Science.

**Universal Constructs:** Critical Thinking, Collaboration

## ADVANCED 3D DESIGN

SPOONER

**Grade:** 6-8th      **Prereq:** 6th Grade PLTW Design and Modeling

**Availability:** Fall & Spring      **Blocks:** I

**Driving Question:** How can you use the design process to design your own artifact and, if time allows, design a group project using Autodesk Inventor 3D software?

**Course Summary:** Students will complete a variety of tutorials to review the basics to Autodesk Inventor 3D software. Students will then use the PLTW design process to create their own innovate product to be printed in 3D. If time allows, students will have an opportunity to create a group project.

**Universal Constructs:** Critical Thinking, Growth Mindset, Productivity & Accountability

## CARDBOARD CHALLENGE

FETTIG

**Grade:** 6-7th      **Availability:** Spring      **Blocks:** I

**Driving Question:** How can I make something useful for others out of cardboard?

**Course Summary:** Be inspired to build something amazing out of cardboard, recycled materials, and imagination. Based off The Global Cardboard Challenge, you will be challenged to collaborate, learn, and build things you imagine. (imagination foundation) Your challenge will be inspired by Caine’s Arcade as you will design and build a cardboard arcade! The type of games you make will only be limited by your imagination and skill to make the game come alive. What are your favorite arcade games? As a class, you will create and set up an arcade for peers and others to pay and play. The money raised will be donated to the organization chosen by the class. So, these games have to work! These games have to be fun! And, these games have to be amazing!

**Universal Constructs:** Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Productivity & Accountability

## DESIGN ON

FISHER

**Grade:** 6-8th      **Availability:** Fall & Spring      **Blocks:** I

**Driving Question:** What can I design using Minecraft as a tool for learning?

**Course Summary:** Students will explore the game of Minecraft and develop their own driving question based upon interest and the application of the design process as they ask, imagine, plan, design, improve, and present their work. Communicating and collaborating with others will lead to understanding how Minecraft can be an engaging tool for their learning, a place to develop their creativity, and a way to explore their own imaginations.

**Universal Constructs:** Critical Thinking, Complex Communication, Growth Mindset

## DESIGNING FOR THE FUTURE

JONES/KNUDTSON

**Grade:** 6-8th      **Availability:** Fall & Spring      **Blocks:** I

**Driving Question:** Can you come up with a quality, well thought out design that will satisfy generations to come?

**Course Summary:** The class will explore the world of computer aided drafting and 3D design while designing various projects geared towards student’s educational needs in an ever changing world.

**Universal Constructs:** Growth Mindset, Critical Thinking, Collaboration

## EXPLORATION 101: MAKERSPACE JOURNEY

FETTIG/JONES

**Grade:** 6-8th      **Availability:** Fall & Spring      **Blocks:** I

**Driving Question:** What is the process and mindset needed to become a successful inventor or maker?

**Course Summary:** Makey-Makey, Sphero, Cubelets, littleBits, Snap Circuits, Robots, Lego’s, 3-D printing.... What do they have in common? They all will inspire you to expand your imagination while you are having fun. You will play your way to an inventio of your won in this ultimate learning environment. We offer information-based stations with with tools that will promote your learning on your terms, at your pace, and at your skill level. Our makerspace stations will encourage peer-to-peer advising and team collaboration opportunities. You have our permission to tinker, make, re-make, laugh, and struggle as you test drive the tools that will help you become the inventor you never knew you were. JOIN US AND BECOME A MAKER!

**Universal Constructs:** Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Productivity & Accountability

## KAN U K’NEX

FETTIG

**Grade:** 6-8th      **Availability:** Fall      **Blocks:** I

**Driving Question:** What is the process that engineers go through when designing a new machine?

**Course Summary:** Will you be the next famous design engineer? Well, you need to start somewhere so why not here? In this years K’nex challenge, you will use the design process as you collaborate with partners and teams to accomplish a specific challenge. There will be levels of building challenges to meet. From roller coasters to motorized vehicles, the students will be brainstorming ideas for what the end product of K’nex parts will look like and what it will do. Challenges might change with each course offered. Students will demonstrate how they used the design process to complete their challenge.

**Universal Constructs:** Collaboration, Critical Thinking

## RUBE GOLDBERG MACHINES

MILLER

**Grade:** 6-8th      **Availability:** Fall & Spring      **Blocks:** I

**Driving Question:** How can I design and build a machine that will move an object?

**Course Summary:** A Rube Goldberg Machine is “a comically involved, complicated invention, laboriously contrived to perform a simple operation”. Students will understand simple machines and use this knowledge to build two different Rube Goldberg Machines. They will keep an inventor’s journal to document what worked, what didn’t, and their daily progress.

**Universal Constructs:** Critical Thinking, Collaboration

## HOW FAST CAN YOU GO? ROBOTIC RACING

SPOONER

**Grade:** 7-8th      **Availability:** Fall & Spring      **Blocks:** I

**Driving Question:** How can I collaborate with others to design, build, and modify a robot to maximize its speed?

**Course Summary:** Students will work in teams to design, build, and modify a robot to simulate a race car. They will need to research different mechanisms, analyze gear relationships, and code their robot to reach top speed.

**Universal Constructs:** Collaboration, Growth Mindset, Critical Thinking, Productivity & Accountability

## OUTDOORS IN IOWA

ALLEN/HUNZIKER

**Grade:** 7-8th      **Availability:** Fall & Spring      **Blocks:** II

**Driving Question:** How can we manage our natural resources and sustain them for future generations?

**Course Summary:** Students will learn about the outdoors through hands on experiences, labs, field trips, and lectures. Topics included will be waterfowl identification and anatomy, hunter safety education, primitive weapons, orienteering, prairie ecology, and conservation. ***SOME OF OUR FEATURED ACTIVITIES:*** Making wood duck boxes and duck and goose nesting structures, making atl-atls (primitive spear throwers), pellet gun shooting, trap shooting and rifle shooting, wild game processing, & cooking, and field trips to wildlife areas.

**Universal Constructs:** Growth Mindset

## CHANCES ARE...

JONES

**Grade:** 7-8th      **Availability:** Fall & Spring      **Blocks:** I

**Driving Question:** Can Probability and Statistics be fun and easy to understand?

**Course Summary:** Students will explore the fields of probability and statistics through hands-on and creative activities. Students will gain an understanding of the value of these subjects.

**Universal Constructs:** Critical Thinking, Productivity & Accountability, Collaboration

## ENERGY 101

ALLEN

**Grade:** 7-8th      **Availability:** Fall & Spring      **Blocks:** I

**Driving Question:** How can we use solar technologies to make life better for people like the astronauts in the International Space Station or people here in Okoboji?

**Course Summary:** Students will work together in groups to investigate, evaluate, and construct various devices utilizing several renewable energy sources.

**Universal Constructs:** Growth Mindset, Collaboration, Critical Thinking

# ARTS & EXPLORATORY ELECTIVE COURSES

## STRONGER THAN YESTERDAY JOSTAND

**Grade:** 5th      **Availability:** Fall & Spring      **Blocks:** 1

**Driving Question:** How will you find your strength?

**Course Summary:** Students will be exposed to a variety of popular strength building techniques. They will gain experiences with kickboxing, HIIT, tabata, yoga, Zumba, kettlebell, Just Dance, etc. in hopes of becoming stronger than yesterday.

**Universal Constructs:** Growth Mindset, Collaboration, Productivity & Accountability

## DESK TO DISTANCE SPOONER

**Grade:** 6th      **Availability:** Fall & Spring      **Blocks:** 1

**Driving Question:** What does it take to go from your everyday school desk to running long distance?

**Course Summary:** Students will have the opportunity to challenge their body and mind as they get up from their desks and set out to run to a set location as a class. Individually, students will track their own distances, add to the class total and track where they are located throughout the journey. As a group, students will create workouts that they will run the class through to contribute to the ultimate goal.

**Universal Constructs:** Growth Mindset, Collaboration, Productivity & Accountability

## FASHION UPCYCLING: FAB FASHION FROM RECYCLED THREADS CLARK

**Grade:** 6-8th      **Availability:** Spring      **Blocks:** 1

**Driving Question:** How can you explore the possibilities to turn clothing from drab to fab?

**Course Summary:** Creating one-of-a-kind clothing and accessories is a huge fashion trend. Ideas include but are not limited to customizing shirts, creating scarves/gloves from sweaters or sweatshirts, adding conductive thread to gloves so they can be used with smartphones, creating custom stencils for shirts or bags with scrapbooking machines, and more. Learn to sew by machine or hand, applique, dye, trim, and more. Why? Create unique fashions and help our environment by reducing landfill waste and water use.

**Universal Constructs:** Growth Mindset, Critical Thinking

## MODERN MASTERS IN ART HISTORY KRUEGER

**Grade:** 6-8th      **Availability:** Spring      **Blocks:** 1

**Driving Question:** How have modern artists impacted 20th and 21st century art?

**Course Summary:** Students will learn about a variety of artists in the modern era. They will explore “Modern Masters” such as Andy Warhol and Dale Chihuly while creating self portraits, abstract art and pop art. They will learn about these artists all while creating their own art portfolio in the various artists’ styles.

**Universal Constructs:** Critical Thinking, Growth Mindset, Collaboration

## MORE FROM MOVIES! THOMPSON

**Grade:** 6-8th      **Availability:** Fall & Spring      **Blocks:** 1

**Driving Question:** Besides entertainment, what important lessons can we take from the movies we watch and enjoy?

**Course Summary:** Students will explore various topics and lessons from classic and/or current movies! Students will then create movie reviews about a movie(s) & what we can take (or gain from) by watching the movie!

**Universal Constructs:** Creativity, Collaboration, Complex Communication

## PIONEER PICS STOLTENBERG

**Grade:** 6-8th      **Availability:** Spring      **Blocks:** 1

**Driving Question:** How can you confidently & creatively express yourself through the art of photography?

**Course Summary:** The Power of Pictures : Everyone has heard the saying, “A picture is worth a thousand words.” Learn about the art of photography and how to use it to express yourself in multiple ways. *Wait until you see the NEW ways of presenting your photos!*

**Universal Constructs:** Growth Mindset, Productivity and Accountability

## SPEAK WITH CONFIDENCE CLARK

**Grade:** 6-8th      **Availability:** Fall & Spring      **Blocks:** 1

**Driving Question:** What’s the key for you to be a confident speaker?

**Course Summary:** Great speakers inspire us, make us laugh, teach us, and connect us. How do they do it? Can we use the same tools to build our speaking confidence? We’ll try several different types of speaking such as storytelling, improv, a duo comedy routine, and reader’s theatre. Students will discover one or more keys to move past nerves to confident speaking.

**Universal Constructs:** Complex Communication, Growth Mindset

## YOU, TOO, CAN YOUTUBE FRERICHS/DUVALL

**Grade:** 6-8th      **Availability:** Fall      **Blocks:** 1

**Driving Question:** How can YouTube be used to learn new skills?

**Course Summary:** Students will use YouTube to learn a skill they have a passion about or something they’ve always wanted to learn. Students will evaluate YouTube videos based on their effectiveness and quality and use the videos to learn the skill. A final project will be created to show student growth and learning of said skill. In some instances, several skills may be mastered.

**Universal Constructs:** Critical Thinking, Growth Mindset, Productivity & Accountability

## BECOME A GENIUS FRERICHS/THOMPSON

**Grade:** 7-8th      **Availability:** Spring      **Blocks:** 1

**Driving Question:** What’s your passion?

**Course Summary:** Commit to the daily battle, make the choice, embrace the wild, and appreciate and experience it ALL! Now is your chance to design your learning around your passion. Students will identify their passion and design their own driving question, project, and determine their demonstration of learning.

**Universal Constructs:** Critical Thinking, Complex Communication, Growth Mindset

## BOJI THEATRE WORKSHOP CLARK/KNUDTSON

**Grade:** 7-8th      **Availability:** Fall & Spring      **Blocks:** 1

**Driving Question:** What makes actors successful?

**Course Summary:** Students will learn what it takes to create and perform a character successfully. They will explore movement, makeup, and costuming as they perform a variety of characters. On with the show!!

**Universal Constructs:** Complex Communication, Collaboration, Growth Mindset

## BON APPETIT OKOBOJI FRERICHS/INGWERSEN

**Grade:** 7-8th      **Availability:** Fall & Spring      **Blocks:** 1

**Driving Question:** What does it take to create a multi-course gourmet meal to be served in a 5-star restaurant format?

**Course Summary:** Students will learn the various types of food served in a multi-course dinner. They will learn about menu planning, budgets, nutrition, place setting, and how to prepare a meal. For their final projects, students will be responsible for preparing one course of a multi-course meal to be served to their class in a 5 star restaurant format.

**Universal Constructs:** Complex Communication, Collaboration, Growth Mindset

## LIFETIME RECREATION SPORTS HUNZIKER

**Grade:** 7-8th      **Availability:** Fall & Spring      **Blocks:** 1

**Driving Question:** What activities can I participate in to remain active throughout my life?

**Course Summary:** Students will participate in lifetime sports that will keep them active throughout their lives.

**Universal Constructs:** Growth Mindset, Collaboration

## WHAT'S YOUR STYLE MIER

**Grade:** 7-8th      **Availability:** Fall & Spring      **Blocks:** 1

**Driving Question:** Do I learn best by listening, watching, or doing?

**Course Summary:** If someone asked how you learn best, would you know the answer? Would you rather listen to a lecture or watch a science experiment? Do you learn better while doodling or taking notes? Does your learning increase when you are moving?

**Universal Constructs:** Growth Mindset, Productivity & Accountability

# BEYOND MIDMESTER

## OMS MUSIC AND EXPLORATORY COURSES

### 5TH GRADE

#### COMPLEX COMMUNICATION

CLARK

Grade: 5th Term: One Trimester (M-F) Requirement

**Course Summary:** Gain visual communication skills in photography and graphic design for posters and slide presentations; develop nonverbal and verbal communication skills for presentations and drama; and learn digital communication skills with Code.org and keyboard review.

#### ART

KRUEGER

Grade: 5th Term: One Trimester (M-F) Requirement

**Course Summary:** A mix of art lessons, mediums, and techniques.

#### GUIDANCE FOR LEARNING AND LIFE

THOMPSON

Grade: 5th Term: One Trimester (M-F) Requirement

**Course Summary:** Students will get acclimated to OMS, learn about health & wellness, relationships, good character, leadership, and themselves!

#### CHORUS

KNUDTSON

Grade: 5th Term: One Year/Three Trimesters (T or Th) Requirement

**Course Summary:** Chorus will be filled with music from different genres and different time periods. We will impress the community, friends, and family members through our wonderful concerts, as we showcase all we have learned about being part of a team in choir.

#### BAND

INGWERSEN

Grade: 5th Term: One Year/Three Trimesters (MWF) Elective

**Course Summary:** Students will choose an instrument to play guidance from an instructor. They will learn how to play these instruments through individual practice at home, lessons with an instructor, and large group ensemble.

### 6TH GRADE

#### DESIGN AND MODELING I

SPOONER

Grade: 6th Term: Trimester I, II, or III (M-F) Requirement

**Course Summary:** Learn the basics of the design process to apply to real-world challenges. Students will also be exposed to 3D software.

#### LIFE SKILLS

CLARK

Grade: 6th Term: Trimester I, II, or III (M-F) Requirement

**Course Summary:** What are some life skills you need so you'll be able to pay the bills? Personal finance, the art of conversation, research, listening, teamwork, and more.

#### ART

KRUEGER

Grade: 6th Term: Trimester I, II, or III (M-F) Requirement

**Course Summary:** A mix of art lessons, mediums, and techniques.

#### GUIDANCE FOR LEARNING AND LIFE

THOMPSON

Grade: 6th Term: Year/ Every 6th Day Requirement

**Course Summary:** We will dive further into healthy relationships, effective communication, leadership, substance abuse information, good character, current real-world topics, career ideas, and other pressing life topics.

#### CHORUS

KNUDTSON

Grade: 6th Term: One Year/Three Trimesters (M or W and Alternating F) Requirement

**Course Summary:** Chorus will be filled with music from different genres and different time periods. We will impress the community, friends, and family members through our wonderful concerts, as we showcase all we have learned about being part of a team in choir.

#### BAND

INGWERSEN

Grade: 6th Term: One Year/Three Trimesters (TTH and Alternating F) Elective

**Course Summary:** Students will continue to progress on their individual instruments through practice at home, lessons with an instructor, and large group ensemble.

### 7TH & 8TH GRADE

PERIOD 1

#### GUIDANCE FOR LEARNING AND LIFE

THOMPSON

Grade: 7-8th Term: Year/ Every 7th Day Period: One Requirement

**Course Summary:** You will explore various topics such as: careers, health, good character, healthy relationships, MS and HS planning, financial literacy, current events and how they affect us, and anything else that comes up from time to time.

#### ART AND ABOUT

KRUEGER

Grade: 7-8th Term: Semester I or II (M-F) Period: One Elective

**Course Summary:** In this class, students will cover various art topics including art techniques, mediums, elements of art, and art history.

#### AUTOMATION AND ROBOTICS

SPOONER

Grade: 7-8th Term: Semester I or II (M-F) Period: One Elective

**Course Summary:** Students will learn about industry automation and the use of robotics in the real world. Students will then build and analyze mechanical gears. Finally, students will work through a variety of tasks to build automated mechanisms.

#### BEAUTY & THE BEAST

INGWERSEN/HUNZIKER

BEAUTY: STRING THEORY

Grade: 7-8th Term: Semester I or II (TTH) Period: One Elective

**Course Summary:** Introduction to playing the acoustic guitar. Students will learn basic guitar technique and chords.

THE BEAST: PERSONAL FITNESS & OTHER HEALTHY STUFF

Grade: 7-8th Term: Semester I or II (MWF) Period: One Elective

**Course Summary:** If you enjoy working out and doing healthy activities, this is the class for you!

## INTRO TO CODING

CLARK

<b>Grade:</b> 7-8th	<b>Term:</b> Semester I (M-F)	<b>Period:</b> One	<b>Elective</b>
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**Course Summary:** Learn the basics of block coding, a drag and drop visual programming technique. Students will code to personalize stories, create animated art, and design video games using Scratch.

## PLUGGED INTO MUSIC

KNUDTSON

<b>Grade:</b> 7-8th	<b>Term:</b> Semester I & II (M-F)	<b>Period:</b> One	<b>Elective</b>
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**Course Summary:** We will be exploring how technology has changed the world of music making, as well as how easy it can be for the average person to create and even compose music using various pieces of technology, software, and apps.

## ALTERNATE ENDINGS

CLARK

<b>Grade:</b> 7-8th	<b>Term:</b> Semester II (M-F)	<b>Period:</b> One	<b>Elective</b>
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**Course Summary:** Read the book. Watch the movie. Then ask, “what if?” Create a short film (acted or animated) with an alternate ending. Run the Student Advisory group which will select new library books and assist in running the OMS library .

## WOOD TECH

MARX

<b>Grade:</b> 7-8th	<b>Term:</b> Semester I (M-F)	<b>Period:</b> One	<b>Elective</b>
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**Course Summary:** Students will learn the basics of woodworking through classroom instruction and hands on work. Students will use various machinery to create animal themed birdhouses.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

MARX

<b>Grade:</b> 7-8th	<b>Term:</b> Semester II (M-F)	<b>Period:</b> One	<b>Elective</b>
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**Course Summary:** Students will work collaboratively to explore energy resources. This class will be a mix of classroom instruction and hands on work. Students will construct their own adaption of alternative energy sources.

## FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES I: COOKING AND SEWING

HOSKINS

<b>Grade:</b> 7-8th	<b>Term:</b> Semester I (M-F)	<b>Period:</b> One	<b>Elective</b>
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**Course Summary:** Students will get the chance to experience a taste of what the high school FCS classes offer. In this class the student will learn about kitchen and sewing safety. They will get to experience 4 cooking labs and will also get to make a t-shirt pillow.

## FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES II: INTERIOR DESIGN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

HOSKINS

<b>Grade:</b> 7-8th	<b>Term:</b> Semester II (M-F)	<b>Period:</b> One	<b>Elective</b>
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**Course Summary:** Students will get to explore the skills needed for taking care of a child and what it all takes to be a parent. The student will then learn about the aspects that are required for decorating a home.

## PERIOD 2

## ART AND ABOUT

KRUEGER

<b>Grade:</b> 7-8th	<b>Term/Days:</b> Semester I (MWF or TTh)	<b>Period:</b> Two	<b>Elective</b>
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**Course Summary:** In this class, students will cover various art topics including art techniques, mediums, elements of art, and art history.

## ANIMATION: DIGITAL & STOP-MOTION

CLARK

<b>Grade:</b> 7-8th	<b>Term/Days:</b> Semester II (MWF)	<b>Period:</b> Two	<b>Elective</b>
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**Course Summary:** Use Scratch to animate stories and art. Create stop-motion movies using a variety of tools and software. Students may enter contests or create for the local community or school events.

## CHORUS

KNUDTSON

<b>Grade:</b> 7-8th	<b>Term/Days:</b> Semester I & II (TTh)	<b>Period:</b> Two	<b>Elective</b>
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**Course Summary:** Chorus will be filled with music from different genres and different time periods. We will impress the community, friends, and family members with our wonderful concerts and with all we have learned about being a part of a team in choir.

## MEDICAL DETECTIVES

SPOONER

<b>Grade:</b> 7-8th	<b>Term/Days:</b> Semester I(MWF) <i>or</i> Semester II (TTh)	<b>Period:</b> Two	<b>Elective</b>
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**Course Summary:** Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they analyze genetic testing results to diagnose disease and study DNA evidence found at a “crime scene.” They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs, and learn how the systems of the human body work together to maintain health.

## PLUGGED INTO MUSIC

KNUDTSON

<b>Grade:</b> 7-8th	<b>Term:</b> Semester I & II (MWF)	<b>Period:</b> Two	<b>Elective</b>
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**Course Summary:** We will be exploring how technology has changed the world of music making, as well as how easy it can be for the average person to create and even compose music using various pieces of technology, software, and apps.

## BAND

INGWERSEN

<b>Grade:</b> 7-8th	<b>Term/Days:</b> Semester I & II (MWF)	<b>Period:</b> Two	<b>Elective</b>
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**Course Summary:** Students will learn parade marching for the Homecoming Parade, continue large group concert ensemble, and have the option to audition for Jazz Band (meets @ 7:30 AM Wed. and Fri.)

## DESIGN AND MODELING II & III

SPOONER

<b>Grade:</b> 7-8th	<b>Term/Days:</b> Semester I(TTh) <i>and/or</i> Semester II (MWF)	<b>Period:</b> Two	<b>Elective</b>
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**Course Summary:** Students will continue to apply the design process as they work to design their own 3D projects. Students can take this course either semester or both semesters.

## OUTSIDE THE LINES

KRUEGER

<b>Grade:</b> 7-8th	<b>Term/Days:</b> Semester II (MWF or TTh)	<b>Period:</b> Two	<b>Elective</b>
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**Course Summary:** In this class, students will study various artists and art styles, and create art works accordingly.

## READING ADDICTS

CLARK

<b>Grade:</b> 7-8th	<b>Term/Days:</b> Semester I (MWF)	<b>Period:</b> Two	<b>Elective</b>
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**Course Summary:** Read and discuss your guided choice of books. Run the new Student Reading Advisory group, which will help select new library books and assist in running the library at OMS.

## MAKE IS SIMPLE I & II

CLARK

<b>Grade:</b> 7-8th	<b>Term/Days:</b> Semester I & II (TTh)	<b>Period:</b> Two	<b>Elective</b>
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**Course Summary:** Complete various makerspace challenges to build practical, inventive, or decorative items. Students can take this course either semester or both semesters.





OKOBOJI MIDDLE SCHOOL

MIDMESTER ACADEMY®