PREPARE FOR POSSIBILITY

Dance, Vocal and Instrumental Music, Traditional and Digital Visual Art, Creative Writing, and Acting are a part of every student's schedule – ART EVERY DAY. Our extensive arts program is integrated into our solid academic curriculum. The Arts Academy in the Woods is chartered by the Macomb Intermediate School District's Board of Education

Arts Academy in the Woods Middle School Curriculum Guide

Arts Academy in the Woods

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2026-2027

Arts Academy in the Woods High School
32101 Caroline Fraser, MI 48026 I 586 294 0391 ArtsAcad.net

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GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students graduating from the Arts Academy in the Woods will have completed a well-rounded and rigorous study of both core academic and artistic coursework. A primary goal of the Academy is to integrate the arts across the curriculum providing students with many opportunities to make connections between the different disciplines and experience the richness of creative expression throughout their high school career.

Students take the appropriate coursework in Middle School to prepare them for the high school graduation requirements. The chart below gives a breakdown of specific requirements. Students must earn a total of 26.5 credits for graduation. All students will adhere to the Michigan Merit Curriculum as part of their graduation requirements.

Graduation Requirements

SUBJECT AREA	***CREDITS***	**SUBJECT AREA**	***CREDITS***
ART		***MATHEMATICS***	
Art Major	6	Algebra I	1
Senior Project	0.5	Geometry	1
Electives	3	Algebra II	1
ENGLISH		Senior Math	1
English 9	1	***SCIENCE***	
English 10	1	Biology	1
English 11	1	Chemistry or Physics	1
English 12	1	Science Elective	1
WORLD LANGUAGE		***SOCIAL STUDIES***	
Must be the same language at the high school level	2	American History	1
HEALTH/PE		Civics	0.5
Health & Wellness	1	Economics	0.5
		World History	1

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ARTS DEPARTMENTS

The Academy's curriculum complies with the guidelines for the Standards, Benchmarks, and Grade Level Content Expectations for Visual Arts, Music, Dance, and Theater created by the Michigan Department of Education.

Fine and Performing Art

Middle School students will be introduced to a variety of art forms and styles of expression. The middle school fine and performing arts program will provide students with a well-rounded, sequential, and comprehensive arts education. Students in 8th grade can audition for high school introductory level fine and performing arts classes.

All middle school students will have the chance to select semester-long courses aligning with the high school fine and performing arts classes.

Middle School Performing Arts (6th grade only)
Middle School Fine Arts (6th grade only)

Middle School Music
Middle School Show Choir
Middle School Dance
Middle School Creative Writing
Middle School Visual Art
Middle School Digital Art

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The fine and performing arts classes introduce students to project-based learning that lets them explore different opportunities for artistic learning and expression. Students are encouraged to audition and perform in student assemblies.

Advisory (Grades 6-8)

Each Advisory is composed of 15-20 students organized by grade level. Each small advisory group will work and grow together, and the advisor will strive to create an atmosphere of mutual trust where students can feel safe to discuss a wide range of academic and personal matters in a supportive setting. The content of the Advisory curriculum will be grade-specific and focused on building community, ensuring that students are engaged in experiences meaningful to their academic and personal development. Potential curricular topics include: life-readiness and bullying prevention, preparing for high school, testing strategies. Advisory is graded pass/fail.

Health & Wellness

The Academy's Health and Wellness curriculum includes focus on many life skills to help improve and maintain physical, mental, emotional, and academic wellness, with an added emphasis on mental health. The Academy's Middle School Health and Wellness curriculum combines standards and activities from traditional Physical Education and Health classes.

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS

The academic curriculum followed at the Academy is in accordance with Michigan's Content Standards or the Common Core State Standards. These standards are a set of learning expectations developed by parents, educators, business leaders and university professors to assist schools in the development of local district curricula. These standards and more detailed learning objectives called benchmarks are contained within the Michigan Curriculum Framework.

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6th Grade Academic Course Descriptions

Language Arts (Grade 6)

Language Arts courses build upon students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage and the mechanics of writing, and include the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. These courses may emphasize the use of language for different effects, in different contexts, and for different purposes. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 6.

Mathematics (Grade 6)

Mathematics courses typically emphasize skills in numerical operations (including basic operations and their proper order); measurement; patterns; simple functions; geometry; and concepts of data analysis, including statistics and probability. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 6.

Science (Grade 6)

Science courses typically include subject matter from several strands of science, including earth/space sciences, physical sciences, and life or environmental sciences, and may organize material around thematic units. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 6.

Social Studies (Grade 6)

Social Studies courses provide a greater understanding of social studies disciplines, including history, geography, civics and government, and economics. These courses often focus on the history, culture, and government of various specific world societies. Typically, students develop skills used in the social studies disciplines. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 6.

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7th Grade Academic Course Descriptions

Language Arts (Grade 7)

Language Arts courses build upon students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage and the mechanics of writing, and include the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Beyond emphasizing different uses for language, these courses may also include using language (particularly written text) to construct meaning and connections. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 7.

Mathematics (Grade 7)

Mathematics courses typically emphasize proficiency in skills involving number and operations; measurement; patters; functions; algebraic formulas; geometry; and concepts of data analysis, including statistics and probability. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 7.

Science (Grade 7)

Science courses build on previous years of scientific inquiry and typically include subject matter from several strands of science, including earth sciences, physical sciences, and life or environmental sciences, and may organize material around thematic units. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 7.

Social Studies (Grade 7)

Social Studies courses provide continued development of understanding and skills in the social studies disciplines: history, geography, civics and government, and economics. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 7.

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8th Grade Academic Course Descriptions

Language Arts (Grade 8)

Language Arts courses build upon students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage and the mechanics of writing, and include the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Typically, these courses use various genres of literature to improve reading skills, and they link writing exercises for different purposes to those reading selections. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 8.

Mathematics (Grade 8)

Mathematics courses typically emphasize proficiency in skills involving numbers and operations, measurement, patterns, simple functions, algebra, geometry, statistics, and probability. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 8.

Science (Grade 8)

Science courses typically include subject matter from several strands of science, including earth sciences, physical sciences, and life or environmental sciences, and may organize material around thematic units. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 8.

Social Studies (Grade 8)

Social Studies courses provide continued development of understanding and skills in the social studies disciplines: history, geography, civics and government, and economics. Typically, these courses focus on single disciplines at a time (e.g., state-specific history and government, U.S. history, world history, or civics) to develop discipline-related skills. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 8.