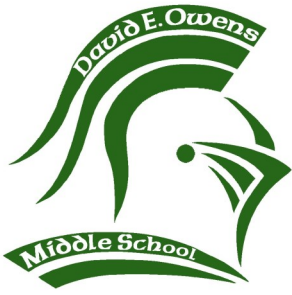


DAVID E. OWENS MIDDLE SCHOOL



Grade 8 Course Offerings

After School Opportunities

- Student Council
- Peer Tutoring
- Extra help in all content areas
- Intramurals (Before School)
- Clubs
- Band and orchestra rehearsals

Language Arts/Literacy

Instruction in Language Arts Literacy reflects a balanced approach that provides students with the learning opportunities they need in order to develop their abilities as readers, writers, listeners and speakers. Independent reading and writing are required at this level. Students will continue to refine the research process throughout the year. Skills and strategy instruction scaffolds, or builds upon prior learning with each successive year of study. At this level, critical thinking is immersed throughout the lessons.

Recommended writing units involve responses to a wide variety of interdisciplinary themes in literature and non-

fiction. Students will deepen their studies in poetry, narrative, persuasive, and expository essays, as well as more informal writing opportunities like reader response, journal and notebook entries. Direct instruction in language arts also includes ongoing units in vocabulary, spelling, and grammar. Proper usage and mechanics are taught explicitly and are integrated into the writing process along with identification and use of literacy devices in writing.

Language arts Literacy instruction includes reading skills and strategies as well as providing opportunities for students to comprehend, analyze, and synthesize textual information.

Students will increase their fluency in reading. Key to the instruction of reading across all grade levels is independent reading. Students have access to classroom libraries and media center books of various genres and reading levels, and teachers assist students in selecting books appropriate for their demonstrated ability. Students hone their inferential and comprehension skills as teachers implement a balance of instructional approaches, to include read-alouds, guided reading, modeling, reading notebooks, and author/genre study. Regular opportunities are provided for in-class reading, discussion, and writing about reading.

Mathematics

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) standards for middle level learners recognizes the need for all students living in the 21st century to have a broad expertise in mathematics. The eighth grade mathematics course will continue a standards based mathematics program rich in algebraic and geo-

metric concepts. Eighth grade students will be enrolled in Connected Math unless recommended for Honors Mathematics. This program will better prepare students with the foundations necessary to be successful at high school level mathematics. Making real-life connections with the mathematical content is a pri-

ority along with conceptual development and independent thinking. A variety of activities are implemented using critical thinking, problem solving and technology. In addition to the core text, supplementary materials are used to further enhance and reinforce the skills and concepts taught including hands-on materials.

Science

The eighth grade is in its second year of PBIS, which is Project-Based Inquiry Science. Through this program the students learn the way scientists learn, explore interesting challenges and questions and read about what scientists have discovered. The process has students investigating, experimenting, gathering evidence and forming explanations. Students investigate scientific content and learn science practices in the context of attempting to address challenges in or answer questions about the world around them. Students investigate as scien-

tists would-through observations, designing and running experiments, designing, building and running models and reading written material. The eighth grade teachers support and guide the student inquiries by framing the guiding challenges or questions, presenting crucial lessons, eliciting and steering discussions along with managing collaboration among the students. Each unit focuses on helping students acquire qualitative understanding of targeted science principles and move toward quantitative understanding infused with technology. These practices provide

a foundation in reasoning skills, science content and science process that will ready them for more advanced science.

At DEOMS each of our science labs are equipped with a digital projection camera and an interactive Smart Board. Our school wide science fair will be in the spring.

Social Studies

The social studies curriculum in grade eight is organized into knowledge and skill objectives that engage the student through problem solving and writing. Many social studies activities are integrated with other curriculum areas including mathematics and Language Arts. History, civics, geography, and current events are broad topics that run throughout the year. History and geog-

raphy are taught concurrently, divided into chronological sections, while civics is taught as a separate unit, and then linked together. Current events are taught throughout the year. Students will problem-solve, use their knowledge to analyze the world around them, and tap a variety of resources to enhance their understanding and forward their research. Several projects are woven into

the course including a medieval newspaper, mapping the governments of the world and a first amendment podcast project which the students create.

The eighth graders will be exposed to DBQs which are Document Based Questions. A DBQ evaluates the students ability to formulate and support an answer from a documentary evidence.

Art

Students selecting art as a **one semester** selective course will explore different types of medium sparking a lifelong interest in art. The course offers a challenging cycle of projects which are designed to expose the student to a wide variety of media. The projects covered

will dramatically improve a student's capability with aspects of fine art such as composition, shadowing, gestures, life-drawing, proportions and more. Lessons are designed to build upon concepts and skills taught throughout the earlier grades. Additionally, students

will learn art history through the individual study of famous artists. A more mature and advanced approach is encouraged while stressing creative problem solving. This course is designed for students that wish to pursue art at the high school level and beyond.

Performing Arts

The Performing Arts program is designed to give students experience in performance as well as learn about and utilize different skills for the understanding and appreciation as music as an art form. The three areas of focus are band, orchestra and chorus. The band and orchestra courses are **full year** courses and replace two selective courses. Students in band or orchestra participate in a large group ensemble. This experience helps provide confidence and builds self-esteem in

our young players as well as a sense of accomplishment when they perform in front of an audience. After school rehearsals are held once a week. The chorus program meets five days per week during the lunch period. Students learn about music notation and vocal production. Students will also learn to critique their own work and other performances. All students participating in the performing arts are expected to participate in two concerts per year. Students

selecting chorus will rehearse during their lunch period five days per week and may still register for selective courses, band or orchestra.

Physical Education/Health

The Physical Education program encourages students to develop physical skills, coordination, and fitness and teaches concepts related to health fitness enhancement. The goal of the physical education program is to provide students with a foundation for a lifetime of healthful pursuits. Age-appropriate activities are designed to promote the psychomotor and affective develop-

ment of students in team, individual, fitness and adventure-based learning. The emphasis is placed on basic skill development and organized games. Each unit strives to enhance personal wellness through the use of competitive, non-competitive and cooperative group activities.

The health education curriculum addresses four major are-

as: wellness, integrated skills, drugs and medicines and human relations and sexuality. Each of these areas, identified by the New Jersey Core Content standards, is addressed each year in developmentally appropriate succession. All students in grades 6-8 receive health education two days per week for the entire year.

Advanced Computers

Throughout the course, students will investigate and increase their understanding of a computer's advanced abilities at a higher level. Using hands-on problem solving, a spreadsheet's more advanced functions will be explored as well as investigating databases and mining. During this **one semes-**

ter course, Computer Aided Design (CAD) and three-dimensional graphics will be studied in-depth providing problem solving skills associated with a STEM initiative. Project work is dynamic with hands-on challenges. Various projects will be completed both individually and working

in a collaborative nature. Students will be encouraged to search for solutions beyond the first correct answer. If possible, during the course, the creation and digital editing of a video may be incorporated. Enrollment is limited due to computer lab space.

Robotics

As students will come into contact with an increasing number of robots during their life and focusing on the STEM initiative the robotics course will have students working in teams to learn how to build, program and test a LEGO NXT robot. Students will be introduced to the history, theory and actual experimental robots as part of the practical

basis of this course. Students will research ancient mechanical creations through modern silicon and plastic automatons. In addition, locomotion, vision, hearing and touch systems will be analyzed. Then theory will be put into practice with the creation and programming of experimental LEGO NXT robots. Students will create and develop

programs to upload to the robots, instructing them to complete a specific task. This is a semester course and enrollment is limited due to the number of computers in the lab.

Digital Music

In Digital Music Class, 8th-grade students enter into the realm of music creation and production. The course centers around the utilization of Logic Pro, a professional digital audio workstation, as students delve into the intricacies of music theory, music production, sound design, and composition. With a focus on hands-on learning, students gain proficiency in navigating the software to

manipulate and refine digital audio. The curriculum covers comprehensive music theory, providing a strong theoretical foundation for their creative endeavors. Through practical exercises, students explore the art of sound design, learning to craft unique and impactful audio elements. The course also delves into composition techniques, empowering students to express their

musical ideas. By the end of the class, students emerge with a well-rounded skill set in digital music production, ready to apply their knowledge in the creation of their own innovative musical pieces.

Jr STEM

This elective course will have students thinking like a scientist and performing tasks like a scientist. Students will create, investigate, observe and draw conclusions while having fun with science. The students will make observations and predictions, observe variables and make conclusions about how

that variable influences something else and how they would like to control it. In this hands-on course students will participate in many activities including designing an original Rube Goldberg Invention, creating and racing an edible car, they will make catapults to hurl objects at a target. Students

will also make roller coasters and launch rockets. If you love science this is the course for you!

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www.newmilfordschools.org.

The Junior Academy @DEOMS offers honors classes in all four core content areas. These courses require students to be highly motivated, academically-abled and desire a more in-depth study of a content area. Students must be independent workers as honors classes require participation outside of the classroom in their course of study. The honors mathematics program is a rigorous high school level Algebra I course for students who demonstrated excellence in seventh grade mathematics and on school and state assessments. The Honors Language Arts course will require students to write regularly and with fluency. The course will emphasize higher-order thinking skills in reading and critical analysis of literature with particular attention to structure, style and theme. For Honors Social Studies, all students will be required to view themselves as members of a global community who appreciate diversity in the world. They will apply their knowledge to gain a deeper appreciation of history and world events and are expected to make connections between the areas they are studying and current events. All students enrolled in Honors Social Studies are required to apply their learning in and beyond the classroom through essay contests and independent reading and research. Honors Science establishes the foundation for success in high school STEM courses by providing exposure through scientific inquiry and writing scientific explanations using claim, evidence and reasoning. All students enrolled in Honors Science will be required to participate in the Spring Science Fair.

World Languages and Cultures

We hope in our World Languages program to inspire each student to pursue the study of a world language throughout their life with education and a continued awareness of the world and its people.

Beginning in eighth grade, all students will have a choice between Spanish I, French I or Mandarin I.

These courses will offer everyday conversational patterns in culturally authentic situations and introduce reading and writing as part of the course of study. The grammar study is extended to tenses of regular

and irregular verbs, questioning, comparison with adjectives, masculine and feminine nouns, prepositions, possession and pronouns. The eighth grade course is designed to promote oral proficiency and give students insight into the beliefs and cultures represented by each language. Art, history, music, dance and customs of each society are examined through media, games, cultural event projects and activities.

Each year the advancements in technology help bring the students even closer to the people

of the world they are studying. Computer programs are utilized to practice and increase vocabulary and various language skills.

Students must demonstrate sufficient mastery of level I courses to be promoted to level II classes.