

**8th GRADE CURRICULUM**

**2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR**

*8TH GRADE CURRICULUM*

**ACADEMIC PREP**

Academic Prep is essentially a study hall for students, although from time to time teachers may have students participate in other activities. Students assigned to Band, RTI Reading and RTI Math will not have an Academic Prep on their schedule.  
  
Character Education is a big part of Wesclin Middle School. During your Homeroom Class the following themes, along with many anti-bullying messages and social situations will be discussed each month:  
  
August / September—Responsibility  
October—Confidence  
November—Honesty  
December—Generosity  
January—Determination  
February—Courtesy  
March—Self-Control  
April—Respect  
May—Health & Prevention

**STUDENT OF THE QUARTER**

“Winning Warriors” will be honored according to the character education themes and academics. Awards are given to two 8th grade students each quarter.

**REPORT CARDS**

1st Quarter report cards are given to parents at the Parent Teacher Conferences. 2nd Quarter (1st semester) Report Cards will be sent home with students after Christmas Break. 3rd Quarter Report Cards will be sent home with students. 4th Quarter (2nd Semester) Report Cards will be mailed after school is dismissed for the summer.

**OTHER INFORMATION**

•The School day begins at 8:15 a.m. and ends at 3:03 p.m.

•Most information will be sent home via TeacherEase, either from the 8th Grade Team Leader or the office.

**ELA – Mrs. Arentsen & Mrs. Miller**

**Writing**

* Basic paragraph structure
* Narrative
* Argumentative
* Formal preparation and presentation
* Persuasive
* Summary
* Description
* Comparison/Contrast

**Grammar/Conventions**

* Conjunction forms and usages
* Semi-colon, comma, and period usages
* Editing Skills

**Public Speaking**

* Bi-monthly recitations/presentations
* Impromptu presentation
* Group collaboration, cooperation & production
* Advertising Unit

**Research/Application**

* Reputable Resources
* Cited Text

**Technology**

* Google Docs
* Internet
* Smart Board
* Chromebooks

**Multiple Novel Selections:**

* *The Book Thief by Markus Zusak*
* *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
* *The Watsons Go to Birmingham- 1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis

**Fiction and Non-Fiction Readings:**

Students complete many extensive readings each year. The topics vary and are informational. Students will also read various short stories, poems, and the dramatization of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Students will also be responsible for reading fiction and nonfiction books of their choice.

**Interactive Notebook**

* Extensive literary reading and question set
* Questioning techniques
* Extended Response Essay
* Vocabulary Practice
* Utilizing maps, charts, graphs, and time lines
* Essays
* Characterization
* “Punny” Story

**Projects**

* Web Quest
* Story Books

**Writing Practice**

Classes spend extensive time learning the structure of response for an essay test question. Emphasis is placed on using logical argumentation skills as well as evidence from the literature itself.

**MATH – Mr. Behrman**

The following topics will be covered in 8th grade math:

* Rational and Irrational Numbers
* Square and Cube Roots
* Scientific Notation
* Linear Equations
* Functions
* Transformations
* Angle Relationships
* Pythagorean Theorem
* Volume
* Scatter Plots

**SOCIAL STUDIES – Mrs. McKillip**

8th Grade Social Studies addresses the time period during WWI up to the Cold War. Specific units of study include:

* WWI - The Great War
* The Roaring Twenties and the Jazz Age
* The Great Depression and the 1930’s
* WWII and the 1940’s
* The U.S. Constitution

The actual sequence of study may vary due to the school calendar and “special activities” that might be added. All students are required to pass the U.S. Constitution test for entry into 9th grade.

Students in this class learn through classroom activities, discussion, group interaction, and individual and team projects. We use a variety of technology tools such as Google Apps, Google Classroom and Microsoft Publisher. Coursework includes, but is not limited to the following:

**Daily Work:**

* Concept Cards
* Vocabulary Sentences
* Writing chapter headlines and articles
* Student-led chapter summaries
* Maps
* Timelines

**Projects:**

* Use of technology
* Writing
* Drawing/Designing
* Presentation
* Research
* Charting

**EARTH SCIENCE – Mrs. Emig**

**Interactive Notebook**

* Daily Buzz Questions
* Brainstorming
* Concept Maps
* Pictures/Diagrams
* Self Reflections
* Writing Prompts
* Daily Work
* Lab/Experiment Reports

**Earth’s Place in the Universe**

* The Universe
* Earth and the Solar System
* The History of Planet Earth

**Earth’s Systems**

* Earth Materials and Systems
* Plate Tectonics and Large Scale System Interactions
* The Roles of Water in Earth’s Surface Processes
* Weather and Climate
* Biology

**Earth and Human Activity**

* Natural Hazards
* Natural Resources
* Human Impacts on Earth Systems
* Global Climate Change

**Engineering Design and Links**

* Rockets
* Lab/Experiments

**Among Engineering, Technology, Science and Society**

* Lab/Experiments
* Interactive Notebook

**BAND - Mr. Washburn & CHORUS - Mrs. Page**

Both band and chorus meet during the school day and are considered part of the Middle School curriculum (as opposed to an extracurricular activity). The prerequisite for being a member of either band or chorus is participation in the Middle School Band or Chorus previously. All other students must have instructor permission before enrolling. A limited number of beginners may be accepted into the band if extreme circumstances occur (at the discretion of the band director). You can reach Mr. Washburn at washburr@wesclin.org or 224-7341 ext. 1219 and Mrs. Page at pagea@wesclin.org or 224-7341 ext. 1334 for more information.

Both groups typically present four concerts each year. Individual students are eligible to participate in a number of activities including the Illinois Music Education Association District Festival, the Clinton County Junior High Music Festival, and other events as they become available.

Students may enroll in both band and chorus. Band and chorus meet daily

#### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Mr. Moore**

P.E. Classes can consist of any of the following activities:

* Physical Fitness Testing
* Calisthenics
* Flag Football
* Dodge ball
* Floor Hockey
* Circuit Training
* Softball
* Basketball
* Soccer
* Town Ball
* Wall Ball
* Badminton
* Pickle Ball
* Kickball
* Volleyball
* Track & Field
* Team Handball

Girls are required to wear orange Wesclin t-shirts and black shorts or sweatpants. Boys are required to wear gray Wesclin t-shirts and black shorts or sweatpants. The students will be able to purchase shirts on Registration/Fee Days. The shirts will be designed for the students to put their name on the front with a permanent marker. Shorts or sweatpants can be any black shorts or sweatpants they have or they can be bought at any local suppliers.

Dressing out, participation, effort and good sportsmanship are all expected daily.

**STUDENT COUNCIL – Mrs. Marchal, Sponsor**

Elections for Student Council Representatives will be held in September. There will be four 8th grade, six 7th grade and four 6th grade representatives elected to the Council. Students must have a petition signed by twenty-five students in your grade level. This allows the student to be on the ballot for election. Student Council Representatives will serve on various committees throughout the year. Some activities include:

* Red Ribbon Week
* Courtesy Week
* Spirit Week
* Dances
* Val-o-grams
* Citizenship Projects
* Concessions at Home Basketball Games
* And many more fun activities!

Our purpose is to provide meaningful activities for our student body and to help train members in leadership qualities. The Wesclin Middle School Student Council enhances the school environment as it promotes school spirit and serves our community throughout the year.

Committee meetings are held during school, but our projects require preparation time at home. Being a representative is a demanding job that requires much dedication, responsibility, and organization. It is a position that requires you to be an example of good citizenship to your classmates. Members must attend all meetings and maintain a 2.0 or higher grade point average. Members who receive more than fifteen disciplinary points will be dismissed from the Council.

We are very proud of our Wesclin Middle School Student Council. Plan now to be a young leader in training on the Wesclin Middle School Student Council.

#### **HONOR SOCIETY – Mrs. Emig, Sponsor**

Activities Include:

* Three Honor Roll Parties
* Turkey Week
* Concessions at home Basketball games
* Egg Decorating Contest
* Rotten Forgotten Easter Egg Hunt
* Teacher Appreciation Week
* 8th Grade Dinner/Dance
* Cancer Fundraiser
* Friendship Week
* Bingo at Trenton Village

Students are eligible to apply for membership in the Honor Society immediately following the 1st Semester of their sixth grade year, the first week of their seventh grade year or their eighth grade year.

To apply for membership students must meet the following criteria:

* 6th grade students must achieve a 4.0 GPA during the first semester
* 7th grade students must achieve a GPA of 3.8 or better at the completion of their 6th grade year
* 8th grade students must achieve a GPA of 3.8 or better at the completion of their 7th grade year.

A letter will notify students if they are eligible to apply but they must complete the application process to become a member. Students are selected on the criteria of scholarship, service, leadership and character; therefore, members are expected to meet certain requirements in order to remain a member of the Chapter.

Requirements:

* Honor Society members receiving 6 or more discipline points will be placed on probation for a maximum of four weeks during which time he/she must complete point reduction sheets until their total points are below the 6 point level.

Honor Society meetings are held during the school day.

#### **HOMEWORK CLUB**

Homework Club is held four days a week after school until 4:00. A teacher supervises the students. Students must have a signed parent permission form and must provide their own transportation home.

**SPORTS**

Boys: Baseball Girls: Softball

Basketball Basketball

Track Track

Cheerleading Volleyball

Cross Country Cheerleading

Dance Team

Cross Country

#### **BASEBALL – “A” Team Mr. Dunning & “B” Team Mr. Groennert**

Baseball tryouts/practice will be held for 6th and 7th graders on Thursday, July 27, 2017 from 9:00-11:00 and for 8th graders on Friday, July 28, 2017 from 9:00-11:00. Tryouts are held at the Trenton Park. All boys who want to try out for the team should be present. Practice information will be given to those making the team after tryouts. Any questions, please call Coach Dunning 618-334-6904.

**SOFTBALL – “A” Team Mr. Behrman & “B” Team Miss Brown**

The Softball tryouts/practice will be Thursday, July 27th and Friday, July 28th for 6th, 7th and 8th grade girls. Times are 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM. These tryouts will be held at the Trenton Park. All girls who want to try out for the team should be present. Any questions, please call Coach Behrman 618-304-5806.

**DANCE - Lisa Middleton**

The Dance tryouts will be Monday, May 22nd, Tuesday, May 23rd and Wednesday, May 24th from 6:00-8:30 p.m. in the North gym. Any questions, please call Coach Middleton at 618-604-6590.

**CHEER – Mrs. Oliver**

The Cheer tryouts will be held Monday, May 22nd, Tuesday, May 23rd and Wednesday, May 24th from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Any questions, please call Coach Oliver at 618-593-2452.

**CROSS COUNTRY – Mr. Crail**

Cross Country tryouts will be August 21, 2017

**5th & 6th GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL**

5th & 6th grade girl’s basketball will begin September 5, 2017 from 3:15-4:30

**5th & 6th GRADE BOYS BASKETBALL**

5th & 6th grade boy’s basketball tryouts will be October 17th.

**7th & 8th GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL**

7th & 8th grade girl’s basketball tryouts will be September 28, 2017 or after softball ends.

**7th & 8th GRADE BOYS BASKETBALL**

7th & 8th grade boy’s basketball tryouts will be October 11th - October 13th from 4:30-6:00 or after baseball ends.

**5th & 6th GRADE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL**

5th & 6th grade girl’s Volleyball tryouts will be January 9, 2018 from 3:10-5:00

**7th & 8th GRADE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL**

7th & 8th grade girl’s volleyball tryouts will be January 16-17, 2018

**6th - 8th TRACK**

Track tryouts will be March 12, 2018.

**For our Softball, Baseball, Dance & Cheer Students**

**Sports Physicals and Insurance Waivers**

A current athletic physical and an insurance waiver must be on file in the Middle School Office prior to all athletic tryouts. Please make arrangements for these requirements to be completed over the summer or prior to the first day of tryouts/practice. We find it is best to get physicals over the summer, in order for the students to be eligible to try-out and/or participate in all athletics throughout the school year. Attached you will find an insurance waiver to be completed and brought to the coach on the day of tryouts. Also attached is a sports physical form if needed.

RESPECT-RESPECT-RESPECT-RESPECT

**WESCLIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**8th GRADE SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST**

**2017 - 2018**

The following items need to be brought in by all students.

* Box of markers (Basic Colors) 8 minimum – Boys
* Box of colored pencils – Girls
* Three or more boxes of tissues
* Students with last names beginning with A – K • Clorox Wipes
* Students with last names beginning with L – Z • Hand Sanitizer
* Dry Erase Markers

They will also need the following:

* 1 Notebook and folder for Math
* 3-ring binder (1–1 ½ ) and loose leaf paper for Science instead of notebook
* 1 3-subject notebook for ELA
* 1 Divided Binder. Example – Trapper Keeper or three ring binder
* 5 Folders that fit in the binder
* Loose Leaf Paper
* Blue or Black Pens
* Post-its
* Pencils/Erasers
* 1 Black Sharpie Marker
* 1 Calculator – Scientific or better
* Headphones

**Wesclin Middle School Registration Information**

2017-2018 School Year

**REGISTRATION - FEE DAYS**

This year’s registration will be held on

Wednesday, August 2nd  from 12:00 – 7:00 p.m.

and

Thursday, August 3rd from 12:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

It will be held in the cafeteria at Wesclin Middle School.

**Students will get their schedules/teacher assignments at Registration**

**Locks** – You will be able to purchase one combination lock from us on fee days for your hall and/or PE locker. We prefer that students buy their locks from us, because we have a key to access those locks in case we need to get into their lockers. The cost of each lock is $5.00. It should be a one-time purchase because the lock will be kept by the students up through 8th grade. **All 5th - 8th grade students need hall locks. 7th & 8th grade students need locks for their PE lockers.**

**PE Shirts** - All 7th and 8th grade students are required to wear Wesclin PE shirts during class. These will be available during registration to purchase. The cost of the shirts is $7.00.

**OPEN HOUSE/ORIENTATION NIGHT**

On Monday, August 14th, at 6:30 p.m. Wesclin Middle School will host an Open House for all returning students. Students can visit their classrooms and put their supplies away in their lockers. Please remember to bring your schedules with you that night.

**All 4th graders will meet in the South Gym from 6:00-6:30** for an Orientation meeting with Mr. Freeze and Mr. Brokering. The purpose of Orientation Night is to help the students overcome those first day “jitters.”

**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL IS TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2017**

Picture Day ♦ September 7, 2017

Picture Retake Day ♦ October 26, 2017