

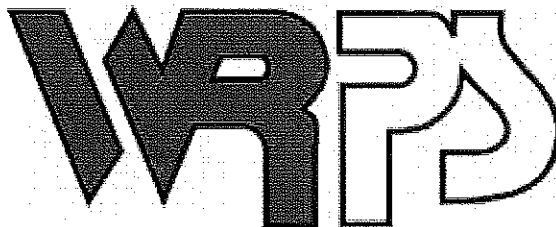
# Program of

# Studies Grades 6 & 7

# WRAMS

**2012-2013**

Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School



## **WISCONSIN RAPIDS AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL**

1921 27th Avenue South  
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin  
Phone: (715) 424-6740  
Fax: (715) 422-6187  
[www.wrps.org](http://www.wrps.org)

### ***The Mission of Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School is...***

*...to create an environment in our school that promotes a high level of performance and desire to learn. We are confident and expect that with students' effort and our support, students will develop a positive work ethic to grow academically now and in the future. We are prepared to work collaboratively with colleagues, students, and parents to achieve this shared educational purpose.*

### ***The Mission Statement of Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools is...***

*Working together with home and community, we are dedicated to providing the best education for every student, enabling each to be a thoughtful, responsible contributor to a changing world.*

**WISCONSIN RAPIDS AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL  
2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR  
PROGRAM OF STUDIES**

Welcome to Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School. This "Program of Studies" has been written with the intent of informing students and parents about the many learning opportunities available.

**REGISTRATION FOR CLASSES**

Course selection is a process that students and parents should take seriously. Parents are asked to approve all student course selections and are encouraged to contact school personnel with any questions or concerns. On behalf of the WRAMS staff, we wish you success and many enriching experiences while you are here.

*Mrs. Tracy Ginter, Principal*

**QUESTIONS? PLEASE CALL GUIDANCE AT**

**STUDENTS...**

...are reminded that decisions made in the registration process are important and not to be taken lightly.

...should make their course selections carefully and discuss them with their parents, teachers, and counselor.

...when registering for classes, should make choices based on their interests, needs, and career aspirations.

**PARENTS...**

...should encourage students to take full advantage of opportunities available at WRMS.

...must approve their student's registration requests.

...are reminded that careful planning now will assure a productive and beneficial education in both the short and the long term.

We wish you an enjoyable and pleasant school year.

The Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools do not discriminate against pupils on the basis of sex, race, national origin, ancestry, or creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability, or handicap in its educational programs or activities. Federal law prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or handicap.

The School District encourages informal resolution of complaints under this policy. If any person believes that the Wisconsin Rapids School District, or any part of the school organization, has failed to follow the law and rules of Wisconsin State Statute 118.13, or in some way discriminates against pupils on the bases listed above, he/she may bring or send a complaint to the administrative offices located at: Thomas Link Educational Services Center, 510 Peach Street, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494-4663.

**Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School**  
 1921 – 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
 Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

Included in this booklet are course descriptions for classes available to sixth and seventh grade students at WRAMS. It is our hope that both parents and students understand the sequence of required studies and make appropriate choices of elective classes.

	<u>6TH GRADE</u>	<u>7TH GRADE</u>
<b>CORE AREA:</b> (every day all year)	English Social Studies Science Math Reading	English Social Studies Science Math
<b>ROTATION CLASSES:</b>	Physical Education Art Keyboarding Health Guided Study	Physical Education Health Foreign Language Exploratory Art Teen Skills Technical Education Computer Applications General Music Let's Read Let's Write
<b>ELECTIVES:</b>	Band Orchestra General Music	Band* Orchestra* Choir*

\*If a 7<sup>th</sup> grader wishes to take Band, Orchestra, or Choir as an elective, then s/he is exempt from General Music, Let's Read, and Let's Write.

**GUIDES TO FOLLOW FOR SUCCESS:**

1. Attend classes regularly
2. Complete school work on a daily basis
3. Complete all assignments by required due date
4. Ask for help from your teacher when it is needed
5. Special help is available for anyone needing assistance
6. See your counselor as soon as you feel you have a problem affecting your progress

Thoughtful planning will prevent most potential disappointments and assure regular progress without unnecessary hurdles. As questions and concerns arise, feel free to call our Guidance Office at 715-424-6745.

# GRADE 6

**ENGLISH (Grade 6)—every day/all year**

Sixth grade English is a daily two-hour block of instruction: reading and language arts. The sixth grade English program includes grammar, spelling, 6+1 Traits writing, and literature. The reading component uses a variety of genres in literature. Language arts block coordinates the writing process, grammar, spelling, and mechanics related to the genres in reading. Speaking and listening skills are also part of language arts.

Topics in this course will allow students to experience the following Wisconsin Reading/Language Arts standards:

- A. Reading/Literature
- B. Writing
- C. Oral Language
- D. Language
- E. Media and Technology
- F. Research and Inquiry

**SOCIAL STUDIES (Grade 6)—every day/all year**

The sixth grade social studies curriculum focuses on the history of the peoples and the geography of the lands in the Western Hemisphere and Australia. Students will make historical and current connections to the United States and the world as they relate to topics covered throughout this course.

**SCIENCE (Grade 6)—every day/all year**

Sixth grade science (Comprehensive Natural Science 6) has four specific units of study. The Life Science unit focuses on classifying organisms and how they are adapted to live in the various biomes of the world. The Earth/Space Science unit is a survey of astronomy from the solar system to the vastness of the universe. Physical Science has two units of study. The Light unit covers the basic characteristics of light energy including color, reflection, refraction, mirrors and lenses. The Motion, Work and Machines unit covers the basics of forces and how forces affect the motion of objects and introduce the concept of work through simple machines.

**MATH (Grade 6)—every day/all year**

Math 6 provides students the opportunity to practice skills and learn about topics necessary for students to be successful in junior high and high school math. Students will study units dealing with algebraic expressions and integers; solving equations and inequalities; decimals, fractions, and percents; factors and multiples; exponents; ratios and proportions; graphing linear functions; measurement, area and volume; spatial thinking; and data analysis and probability.

**ART (Grade 6)—every day/1 quarter**

In Art 6 students will have art every day for nine weeks. They will study qualities of design, methods of artistic construction and the art of other cultures. They will understand how art can be decorative as well as functional in their daily lives. Students will work with topics such as drawing, ceramics, sculpture, fibers and computers.

**KEYBOARDING (Grade 6)—every day/1 quarter**

Students will be introduced and/or review the keys on the computer keyboard using proper technique and particularly emphasizing the “touch method” (keying without looking at the monitor or keyboard). A variety of assignments in MicroType 5 and Microsoft Office Word 2007 will be used to increase speed and reinforce concepts learned.

**HEALTH (Grade 6)—every day/1 quarter**

This health course delivers a comprehensive health education curriculum for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. It is designed to provide students with knowledge and skills that will have a positive long-term effect upon their health and the health of others. The course focuses upon the students’ immediate health needs and the long-term consequences of behaviors that occur during adolescent years. Units of study include emotional, intellectual, and social health, personal health and physical fitness, nutrition, disease prevention and control, drug use prevention, injury prevention, community and environmental health and family life, growth, and development. Each of these units varies in length depending upon the class makeup and needs.

**GUIDED STUDY (Grade 6)—every day/1 quarter**

Guided study is a combination of study hall and classroom lessons. The lessons are taught by school counselors and are based on the Wisconsin Comprehensive School Counseling model. Classroom topics will include academic performance, personal, social and career exploration. Students will be provided with interactive classroom activities including individual and group work. Our goal for students is to enhance their relationships, and also to help prepare them for academic and career successes.

## ELECTIVES

### **BAND (Grade 6)—every other day/all year**

The WRAMS Band Program is open to all students who would like to learn to play the flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, or percussion. Sixth grade band meets every other day as a year-long course and focuses on beginning woodwind, brass, and percussion techniques while concentrating on individual growth in a large group setting. There are two to three public concerts during the school year.

Students will choose an instrument, with the help of their instructor, during the start of classes in the fall. Most families choose to rent an instrument from a local music store. Some are able to borrow from friends or family. A few choose to purchase, although we discourage doing this at the start of the year. If you cannot afford an instrument and cannot borrow one, please contact the middle school music department: 715-424-6740 Ext. 3465. Students will need to purchase the *Essential Elements 2000, Book 1* for their specified instrument.

### **ORCHESTRA (Grade 6)—every other day/all year**

The WRAMS Orchestra Program is open to all students who would like to learn to play the violin, viola, cello, or double bass. Sixth grade orchestra class meets every other day and focuses on beginning string techniques while concentrating on individual growth in a large group setting. Rote learning (learning by ear) is an integral part of 6<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra curriculum so that students can focus on bow hold and left hand position while having fun making music! Learning to play a stringed instrument is not easy, but the rewards are great. The finger dexterity and the discipline required for learning to play a stringed instrument is something that will enhance all areas of learning. There are two to three public concerts during the school year.

Students must obtain an instrument and the *Essential Elements for Strings, Book 1* before the start of school in the fall. Stringed instruments can be **rented** from our local music store. (Please do NOT buy an instrument.) If you cannot afford to rent an instrument, please contact the middle school (Mrs. Marten) at 715-424-6740 Ext. 3465.

### **CHOIR (Grade 6)—every other day/all year**

Choir is open to all students who have a desire to sing and work together with others. Classroom rehearsals are designed to develop healthy singing voices, improve music knowledge and build confident music performance skills. Participation in all evening concerts is required. Solo and Ensemble Festival participation is encouraged to develop individual performance skills.

### **GENERAL MUSIC (Grade 6)—every other day/all year**

In this course, all students will participate in active music making through singing, playing instruments, and other modes of creative expression. Activities will be selected from a repertoire rich in ethnic and stylistic diversity that are aligned with the state and national music standards. The culminating experience of a public performance(s) is an integral part of the curriculum; and as such, attendance is required.

One soprano recorder will be purchased by the WRPS district for each student in 4<sup>th</sup> grade (through the book/material fee). If a replacement instrument is needed, it may be purchased through the music teacher at the cost of \$5. Students must be prepared for class with the recorder and music. Home practice is expected.



# GRADE 7

**ENGLISH (Grade 7)—every day/all year**

The seventh grade English program includes grammar, spelling, 6+1 Traits writing, and literature. The course introduces students to the study of literature using a variety of genres. Language arts concentrates on the writing process, grammar, spelling and mechanics related to the readings. Speaking and listening skills are also included in language arts.

Topics in this course will allow students to experience the following Wisconsin Reading/Language Arts standards:

- A. Reading/Literature
- B. Writing
- C. Oral Language
- D. Language
- E. Media and Technology
- F. Research and Inquiry

**SOCIAL STUDIES (Grade 7)—every day/all year**

The purpose of the seventh grade Social Studies program in WRPS is to give students an opportunity to become aware of the geographic, historic, economic, political, social and cultural diversity of selected nations and localities of the Eastern Hemisphere. Based upon the eighth grade performance standards, as developed by Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards for Social Studies, students will develop an understanding of the interaction and interdependency between the lands and people of the Eastern Hemisphere and students of the United States. Seventh grade curriculum, although based upon this document, can also be woven through thematic units decided upon by the individual interdisciplinary teams. The course is divided into six major units. The performance expectations identified by the district committee will guide the assessment of these units.

**SCIENCE (Grade 7)—every day/all year**

The seventh grade science course (Comprehensive Natural Science 7) emphasizes hands-on activities which help the student acquire skills for future scientific study. Topics covered include: lab skills, electricity and magnetism, patterns and cycles within the Earth, cells as the basis of life, science and technology and their role in society. This course allows students to experience the richness and excitement of the natural world. As adults they will face complex questions requiring scientific thinking, reasoning and the ability to make informed decisions. Scientific knowledge prepares students for the future and helps them acquire skills needed to hold meaningful and productive jobs.

**MATH (Grade 7)—every day/all year**

Math 7 provides students the opportunity to practice skills and learn about topics necessary for students to be successful in high school math. Students will study units dealing with algebraic expressions and integers; solving equations and inequalities; decimals, fractions, and percents; factors and multiples; exponents; ratios and proportions; graphing linear functions; area and volume; spatial thinking; and data analysis and probability.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Grade 7)—every other day/all year**

The middle school physical education staff is committed to state standards. The research is clear: In general, people who are physically active on a regular basis are healthier than those who are not. The staff is committed to accomplishing this by:

1. Teaching students motor skills necessary to participate in a wide variety of physical activities
2. Helping students understand the link between physical activity and good health
3. Convincing even the least athletic students that physical activity has the immediate benefits of reducing stress, building self-esteem, and controlling weight
4. Teaching respectful behavior in physical activity settings
5. Helping students understand diversity among their classmates and respecting their differences

Activities are taught in an age-appropriate manner with progressions emphasized by the instructor after assessing where the class is in the skill level, knowledge and understanding of the activity.

### **HEALTH (Grade 7)—every other day/1 semester**

The units of study that students participate in are Emergency Care First Aid; Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs; Self-Esteem; and Human Growth and Development. The unit of Emergency Care First Aid consists of up-to-date techniques and practical skills of American Red Cross first aid. In the area of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs, the students explore the reasons why people start using or abusing a chemical substance. This unit also covers the physical, mental, and psychological health factors that are affected by short-term or prolonged use of a particular substance. Alternatives to chemical highs are also a major part of this unit. The students develop an understanding of self-esteem development. They look at the factors that make up personality, value system, peer pressure, and its effects. Pubescent issues of development, hygiene, and safety are discussed during the Human Growth and Development unit.

### **FOREIGN LANGUAGE EXPLORATORY (Grade 7)—every other day/1 semester**

This course introduces students to the experience of learning a world language and to the study skills necessary for a successful language experience. Students will explore the languages and cultures of French, German, Japanese, and Spanish speakers. Students will explore topics such as holidays, currencies, food, folklore, music, customs, and non-verbal communication. Two weeks of the course will be spent with each language. After completing this course, students will be better prepared to begin in in-depth study of a world language of their choice.

### **ART (Grade 7)—every day/1 quarter**

In this 9-week course, Art 7 students will study art from modern, popular cultures, historical societies as well as the basics of abstraction. Through a variety of media, students will use personal experiences and self reflection to create decorative and functional art pieces. Students will study concepts in areas such as drawing, sculpture, metal, abstract design and computers.

### **TEEN SKILLS (Grade 7)—every day/1 quarter**

This 9-week class is an introduction to the higher level Family and Consumer Education courses. It focuses on the work of the family. Topics included are understanding self and family, safety, learning to care for children, the preparation of snacks, healthy eating, and basic sewing. Students will evaluate the role cooperation plays in the work of the family.

**TECHNICAL EDUCATION (Grade 7)—every day/1 quarter**

This course is designed to help 7<sup>th</sup> grade students explore a variety of technical concepts and practical applications. The areas of exploration are: general safety, identification and proper use of tools, measurement, transportation (airplanes and CO2 dragsters), metal, and woodworking. Creativity, craftsmanship, and safety are stressed in this course.

**COMPUTER APPLICATIONS (Grade 7)—every day/1 quarter**

After a quick review of the keyboard, students will explore the Microsoft Office 2007 productivity software—Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, and Access. Students will complete a variety of assignments in each of the software components to reinforce the many concepts learned.

**LET'S READ (Grade 7)—every day/1 quarter (for students not in Band, Orchestra, or Choir)**

Let's Read provides an opportunity for students to practice and enjoy reading. In this course, students read poems, plays, and stories (both fiction and nonfiction). Titles are provided for some independent reading time as well. The emphasis is on story vocabulary and comprehension. Students utilize previously learned reading strategies as they read. For the final project, students choose a book for independent reading and present a book summary/creative project based on the book they chose.

**LET'S WRITE (Grade 7)—every day/1 quarter (for students not in Band, Orchestra, or Choir)**

This course provides an opportunity for students to develop and extend their writing skills. They will, through a progression, develop organizational skills, compare and contract information, use framed paragraphs, research and write a 5-paragraph essay, develop an essay in a demand writing activity, use technology to research and write a research paper, and write descriptive essays and friendly letters.

## ELECTIVES

### BAND (Grade 7)—every day/all year

The Band program is open to all interested students. Lessons using the best available materials under the guidance of qualified personnel are included. Development of technique and musical expression is stressed. Daily band rehearsals are a part of the student's schedule. Participation in all evening concerts is required. Solo and Ensemble Festival participation is encouraged for a complete band experience.

Band instruments can be **rented** from local music stores. If you cannot afford an instrument rental, please contact the music department: 715-424-6740 Ext. 3465.

### ORCHESTRA (Grade 7)—every day/all year

Seventh grade Orchestra meets every day and the curriculum focuses on honing and expanding skills acquired in 6<sup>th</sup> grade such as tuning one's own instrument. However, beginning string students are also welcome with the instructor's approval. There are three to four public evening concerts during the school year.

Students must obtain an instrument and the *Essential Elements for Strings, Book 2* before the start of classes in the fall. Stringed instruments can be **rented** from our local music store and the *Essential Elements* books are available for purchase. If you cannot afford stringed instrument rental, please contact Mrs. Marten at 715-424-6740 Ext. 3465.

### CHOIR (Grade 7)—every day/all year

Choir is open to all students who have a desire to sing and work together to make music. Daily rehearsals are designed to develop a healthy singing voice, improve music reading, and performance skills. There are four evening concerts each year. Participation in all concerts is required. Solo and Ensemble Festival participation is encouraged to gain confidence in individual performance skills.

### GENERAL MUSIC (Grade 7)—every day/1 quarter

Music is all around us and is an integral part of our daily lives. In General Music, the students will have the opportunity to explore the music they know and love, explore music from other cultures and time periods, and explore the musical opportunities available in our own community. The topics covered will include a review of the basic elements of music, musical instruments and voices, the musical styles of classical traditions as well as the popular music of today, Broadway musicals, music technology, career awareness and understanding of music. Students will become more discriminating music listeners and well informed music consumers and develop a greater appreciation of music that will remain with them throughout their lives.

# Guidance Department

The Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School Guidance Program is set up to help the students adjust to the normal problems of growing up and to receive maximum benefit from their school experiences.

## **GUIDANCE COUNSELORS ARE HERE TO HELP STUDENTS:**

- Learn how to make good decisions.
- Realize that they are responsible for the way they feel and behave, and that they can decide to feel and act differently if they wish.
- Learn more about their strengths and weaknesses in order to make better plans for themselves.
- Change the things they are dissatisfied with or learn to accept the things they cannot change.
- Learn about occupational and educational information.
- See that they are “okay people” and worthwhile individuals.
- Talk about things that concern them in a group or in private and help find solutions for them.

### **Confidentiality**

We respect the confidential nature of these student interactions in order to provide a “safe” place where students feel free to talk about their concerns.

### **Common Ways Counselors Meet With Students**

Individual Counseling  
Group Counseling  
Mediation  
Occupational Information

**Questions or concerns about registering for classes should be directed to the counselors.**

A-H Mr. Chip  
I-Sm Mrs. Niedbalski  
Sn-Z Mrs. Van De Hey

## Library Media Center

Located in the center of the middle school is the LMC, or Library Media Center. This hub offers a wealth of materials to students and faculty. The LMC collection supports classroom research and helps students pursue their own interests as well as recreational reading.

With over 14,000 volumes of print and non-print material, on-line resources, and 50+ magazines selected for student and professional use, patrons of WRAMS's LMC have a wide and varied collection at their disposal. This collection supports the curriculum and reading interests of the junior high student.

A quiet atmosphere where students can study, research and constructively use their time is important. For this reason, every effort is made to maintain a productive working/reading area to promote good study habits.

*Come to the library media center and enjoy!*

## School Health Services

A registered nurse is on staff mornings Monday through Friday at Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School to help meet health care needs. We want to provide the fullest educational opportunity for each student by minimizing absences due to illness and creating an atmosphere for each student to obtain maximum health and well being.

Any medication should be left with the nurse so that school officials are aware of the student's medication needs.

**\*\***Long-term prescriptions require a physician and parent signature on file.

**\*\*DO NOT** keep any medications in your locker unless cleared by the school nurse.

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School offers an opportunity for students to become involved in a variety of interscholastic athletic activities. The following activities are described by season:

### Fall

Football (B)—7<sup>th</sup> gr.  
(6<sup>th</sup> gr. intramural)

Soccer (B & G)—7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> gr.  
(6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> gr. intramural)

Tennis (G)

Swimming (G)--@ LHS

Volleyball (G)  
(6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> gr. intramural)

### Winter

Basketball (B & G)—7<sup>th</sup> gr.  
(6<sup>th</sup> gr. intramural)

Wrestling (B)

### Spring

Baseball (B)  
(6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> gr. intramural)

Softball (G)  
(6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> gr. intramural)

Track (B & G)

Tennis (B)

***Other extracurricular activities include:*** Art Club, Book Club, Computer Club, Yearbook, WRAMS jr's (a hip hop dance team), Chess Club, and Student Activities Council.