

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF



FORT • ATKINSON

# WELCOME

## to Fort Atkinson Middle School

Fort Atkinson Middle School is structured upon the unique needs of middle level learners. Middle school age students are at a developmental level where they experience similar changes: physically, intellectually, and emotionally. As such we strive to provide a quality and balanced educational program tailored for this period of extraordinary transition.

## Academic Program

FAMS is pleased to offer a quality core academic program as well as broad offerings in elective areas. Among required courses, middle school students take exploratory classes; these programs serve as an introduction to potential areas of interest or further study in future years, as well as necessary material all learners need for their success.

## Grade 6

### Required Courses

**Social Studies:** U.S. History starting with the meeting of 3 peoples, i.e., native or indigenous peoples, the Europeans, and sub-Saharan Africans, ending with the War of 1812.

**Language Arts/Reading (2nd class periods):** Through the main focus areas of reading, writing, listening and speaking, students increase proficiency through the reading and writing workshop format. Various genres, literary terms, and strategies increase reading comprehension, fluency, and active listening.

**Mathematics:** Designed to give reinforcement, practice, and challenge to specific objectives including: decimals, patterns, variables, number theory, fractions, ratios, proportions, percents, graphing data, geometry, measurement, and integers.

**Science:** An in depth study of animals, metric measurement, planet Earth, environmental issues, electricity, and chemistry. The focus of the class is on both science content and the scientific process.

**Physical Education/Health:** P.E. includes adventure education, soccer, basketball, volleyball, fitness, dance, swim, archery, handball, biking, and rollerblading. Health is designed to help students make decisions leading to a healthy, productive life. Major units are mental health, drug education, exercise and nutrition, growing and changing, and diseases.

### Exploration:

**Technology Education:** An activity-based course designed to enrich the students' understanding of the technological world in which they live.

**Art:** An opportunity to explore creative possibilities in drawing, painting, printmaking, design, sculpture, clay, and more

**Family and Consumer Economics:** Sampling the three areas of F/CE including kitchen and cooking basics, sewing and project design, and life skills.

**Computers:** Increase mastery of the keyboard, correct key stroking, and proper keyboarding techniques for accuracy.

### Elective Courses - students are able to select from the following:

**Band:** Develop fundamental playing skills, tone quality, music reading skills, and the ability to use the artistic elements of music through interpretive and expressive playing.

**Choir:** Focus on learning to read music, singing both the soprano and alto parts as harmony, and use of new and changing voices.

**Orchestra:** Students learn to play together in an ensemble, provide performance experiences, and increase knowledge of music and their instruments.

**Art:** Other cultures, and the past and present are explored through the use of: clay, papier mache', printmaking, drawing, and more.

## Grade 7

### Required Courses

**Social Studies:** U.S. History following the War of 1812 and the beginnings of Sectionalism, ending with the creation of the Panama Canal.

**Language Arts/Reading (2 class periods):** Proficient reading and writing continues to be developed through genres including: poetry, historical fiction, science fiction, fantasy, and newspaper and magazine articles.

**Mathematics:** Students increase their computation, reasoning, problem solving, and communication skills necessary to apply mathematics to real world situations.

**Science:** An in depth study of motion, forces and energy, cells and heredity, weather, and astronomy.

**Physical Education:** Units include speedball, softball, track and field, swimming, volleyball, pickleball, dance, rollerblading, biking, and fitness training.

### Exploration:

**French:** Introduction of greetings, numbers, alphabet, colors, mini-dialogues, and classroom items as well as cultural aspects of France.

**Spanish:** Introduction of greetings, numbers, the alphabet, mini-dialogs, colors, classroom objects, seasons, days of the week, and months of the year as well as cultural aspects of Latin America.

**Business Concepts I:** Students further develop keyboard skills, format document, and introduce general business concepts through communication, marketing, and international business.

**General Music:** Students understand, appreciate, and enjoy music through music theory, music composition, keyboarding and drumming.

### Elective Courses-

**students are able to select from the following:**

**Band:** Continued development of tone quality, music reading skills, and artistic elements of music through interpretive and expressive playing.

**Choir:** Continued focus on learning to read music and singing three part soprano, second soprano, and alto parts as harmony.

**Orchestra:** Students continue to play together in an ensemble, have performing experiences, and increase their knowledge of music and their instrument.

**Art:** Learn to “draw with light,” use color, explore cartooning, and work with clay, papier mache’, and wood.

**Family and Consumer Economics:** Units include life skills, clothing construction, personal development, food and health.

**Technology Education:** Exploration of how systems work together to accomplish tasks, what happens when systems fail, and problem solving to overcome problems.



## Grade 8

### Required Courses

**Social Studies:** Geography topics include physical and human aspects as well as significant historical events for the United States, Canada, South America, Europe, and Australia.

**Language Arts/Reading:** Continued reading and writing development through genres including: legends, realistic fiction, and drama.

**Mathematics (students select one course):**

**Integrated Algebra 8:** Concepts and skills related to computation, reasoning, problem solving, and communication skills necessary to apply mathematics to real-world situations.

**Algebra I:** A high school level course offered at the middle school, students learn variables to denote quantities, represent missing values, and to write mathematic expressions.

**Science:** Study of natural phenomena and technology, the environment, Earth's waters, sound and light, chemical interactions, and Earth's changing surface.

**Physical Education/Health:** P.E. units include flag football, orienteering, floor hockey, rollerblading, archery, ultimate sports, weight training, volleyball, basketball, badminton, biking, and fitness training. Health units include human growth and development, wellness, nutrition, mental health, drug and alcohol education, body systems, and diseases.

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### Exploration:

**Business Concepts II:** Business communications, information systems, spreadsheets, desktop publishing, and presentation software will be explored. Computer ethics/impact, marketing, economics, and telecommunications will also be examined.

**Careers:** Students identify personal interests, aptitudes and attitudes toward future career paths. Students also learn about workplace teamwork, etiquette, and entrepreneurial skills while participating in various business-like activities.

### Elective Courses- students are able to select from the following:

**French I:** A high school level course with an emphasis on basic vocabulary, pronunciation, sentence structure and listening skills. A study of France and Paris is part of the course.

**Spanish I:** A high school level course focusing on the mastery of basic vocabulary, pronunciation skills and grammar. Many cultural awareness opportunities are offered throughout the year.

**Band:** Advanced skills and techniques, and a continuation of all aspects of musicianship.

**Choir:** Concentration on reading and performing music in soprano, second soprano, and alto parts as harmony.

**Orchestra:** Students continue to play together in an ensemble, have performing experiences, and increase their knowledge of music and their instrument.

**Art:** Units of instruction include the potter's wheel, digital photography/computer generated art, and woodcarving.

**Family and Consumer Economics:** Units include consumerism, meal preparation and planning skills, clothing construction, travel/tourism, multiculturalism, food choices, and personal decision making.

**Technology Education:** Examination of materials, building, and hydraulic systems, as well as the impact of technology.

**Agribusiness:** Introduction to agricultural leadership training, wildlife, animal science, plant science, and economic importance.

## Athletic Opportunities

Based upon the belief that middle school students should develop skills related to teamwork, good sportsmanship, skill development, and competitive play, the following athletic programs are offered in grades 7 and 8:

- Girls Volleyball
- Boys Basketball
- Girls Basketball
- Wrestling
- Boys and Girls Track



### Club and Co- Curricular Opportunities

FAMS is committed to providing quality clubs and extracurricular activities for students. An ever-widening range of offerings are available to our students, during their three years at the middle school including:

- 8th Grade Musical
- Art Club
- Book Bunch
- F.B.L.A. (Future Business Leaders of America)
- F.F.A. (Future Farmers of America)
- F.I.N.S/ Student Council
- FAMS Yearbook Staff
- Forensics
- Jazz Band
- Math Counts
- Show Choir
- Tennis Club
- Various Gifted and Talented Programs
- Others with Interest

Please go to [www.fortschools.org/ms](http://www.fortschools.org/ms) for additional information.