

Integrated Curriculum

All students at MCMS will experience integrated curricula. Integrated curriculum is defined as "student generated thematic units of study which cut across disciplines and focus on essential questions in order to connect to students' lives." The thematic units are determined through the Beane Process.

A summary of the Beane Process :

- *Themes based on issues identified by young people who are experiencing the curriculum*
- *Knowledge and skills that are integrated in the context of a theme and drawn from a variety of sources*
- *Themes based on real life issues faced by young people or major social problems*

Backwards planning to develop integrated curricula:

Backwards planning is used to tie it together, after the Beane Process is completed

- Teachers look at student questions to see what common ideas pop out
- Questions are asked of thematic units broken into 3 core classes to divide the labor
- Each core has a scope and sequence with assessments to track student learning tied to standards
- Scales help to track student learning as they increase complexity of understanding from tasks such as "identify" to "analyze" or "create"

Integration as seen through school day:

- **Core classes** are developed based on the questions and how they can attach to the standards. **Health standards** are integrated into the curriculum. Some health classes may be separated, and done age-specific, as appropriate.
- **Reading classes** often include books based on the themes, and are tied to standards
- **Writing classes** have projects based on the themes, and are tied to standards
- **Math classes** are based on grade-level standards. Math classes are not always tied to the standards
- **Tutorial time** is used to support students in completing in all assigned work, in all subject areas.
 - *Some students will have band or chorus during tutorial. Band is generally on Monday and Wednesday and Chorus is on Tuesday and Thursday*
- **Quiet study** is also available as an additional time for students to have support from teachers. This occurs during an activity time and students may self-select to go here, or teachers may sign students up for it

Unified Arts

In addition to these classes, students will also take a yearlong world language (Spanish, German, or French). Students will also take Art, Music and Phys Ed, all each for a trimester. These classes are held every other day for the entirety of the trimester. All students also have the option to participate in band and/or chorus, which meet during tutorial time.