

Johnstown Middle School



2020-2021 Course Description Guide

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General Information

All students must have one section of **math, science, social studies and language arts class each year. Some required electives may also be necessary.** Other electives are chosen randomly (except for choir and band or audition electives). See the course descriptions section and scheduling form for required courses. Students may only take academic assist, academic support, or serve as an office aide once per semester.

Block Periods: Some classes and/or sections are a single period in length while others are two periods, or also known as a block period. Students are placed in the most appropriate class for their academic needs.

Athletic Eligibility: To be eligible, a student-athlete must be currently enrolled and have earned passing grades in a minimum of five subjects in which enrolled the immediately preceding grading period. For eligibility, summer school grades may not be used to substitute for failing grades received in the final grading period of the regular school year or for lack of enough courses taken the preceding grading period.

Standards Based Grading: Students are required to understand the content in each of their subjects. If they do not meet a minimum grade, students will be required to do some additional work, relearn the material, and reassess to master the specific content assessed.

Repeating a Grade: As a general rule, students with failing grades for the year in two core subjects are very likely candidates for retention, meaning they must repeat their current grade level.

Incomplete (I) Grades: A student who receives an “Incomplete” grade (I), for a grading period will be given an appropriate time, deemed by the teacher and principal, to complete work. If the work is not completed, the “I” becomes an “F”.

Procedures for Course Changes: For all intents and purposes, schedule changes are not permitted. Many hours of preparation have gone into the scheduling process and the schedule was devised to allow maximum numbers of students the opportunity to take a wide variety of classes. There are occasions when there may be data entry error, prerequisite for selected course was not completed, required course was omitted in the schedule, or teacher recommendation. These types of changes will be made after mutual consent of all teachers involved with the correction.

Study Tables: Study tables are offered by grade level teachers each day after school until 2:55p.m. Teachers can help your student with homework or other academic needs. Please consider using this resource as a way to help your student be more successful.

ProgressBook: Make sure you stay connected to our district’s online grade book, ProgressBook, which parents can assess online to check their child’s academic progress. You should already have a username and password, but please call the school if you need further information or to obtain your username and password.

For more detailed information on rules and other district and school information, please be sure to review the JMS Student Handbook online (or request a paper copy from the office). It will be available at the start of school next year.

Grade 6

Required Courses

Language Arts

6th Grade Block Language Arts

Full-Year Course

Content: This course encompasses the State Standards in English Language Arts. Students will acquire these skills through reading a wide variety of literature, conversing with peers and adults, and using problem-solving strategies that aid in comprehending written language. Further, students will develop skills in reading to learn new information, research a topic, and make decisions. Students will read literary texts, which represent a variety of authors, cultures and eras. Students will also explore the parts of speech, mechanics of sentence and paragraph writing and the writing process. Some sections of this class may include two teachers who will work together to provide assistance to students to accommodate needs.

6th Grade Block Advanced Language Arts

Full-Year Course

Prerequisite: Placement into Advanced Language Arts is based on gifted status, standardized test scores, and a placement test.

Content: This course encompasses the State Standards in English Language Arts. Students will acquire these skills through reading a wide variety of literature, conversing with peers and adults, and using problem-solving strategies that aid in comprehending written language. Further, students will develop skills in reading to learn new information, research a topic, and make decisions at a more challenging level. Students will read literary texts, which represent a variety of authors, cultures and eras. Students will also explore the parts of speech, mechanics of sentence and paragraph writing and the writing process.

Mathematics

6th Grade Mathematics

Full-Year Course

Content: This course encompasses the State Standards in Mathematics. Class time is extended to a block period to allow for additional practice with the mathematical concepts, to offer assistance with the homework assignments, and to achieve a pace that accommodates each student's needs.

The number/number sense benchmark mainly consists of operations with fractions, decimals, and percents. It also requires application of fractions, decimals, and percents in a problem situation. An introduction to integers and order of operations are also part of this benchmark. The measurement benchmark consists of calculating area and perimeter of two-dimensional figures and circles, and calculating surface area and volume of three-dimensional figures such as rectangular prisms and cylinders. The geometry benchmark consists of an introduction to geometric properties of two-dimensional and three-dimensional figures. The Algebra, Patterns/Functions Benchmark consists of recognizing patterns, identifying input/output relationships, and an introduction to equations and inequalities. The data and probability benchmark consists of calculating measures of center (mean, median, mode), identifying and constructing different types of graphs, and determining what graph type would best represent a set of data. The probability portion introduces students to theoretical and experimental probabilities, and what type of experiment design would be best for testing a theoretical probability. Some sections of this class may include two teachers who will work together to provide assistance to students to accommodate needs.

6th Grade Advanced Mathematics

Full-Year Course

Prerequisite: Placement into Advanced Mathematics is based on gifted status, standardized test scores, and a placement test.

Content: This course encompasses the State Standards in Mathematics. Class time is faster paced requiring students to complete more work outside the classroom. Concepts are expanded to stretch students' thinking with an emphasis on problem solving. The number/number sense benchmark mainly consists of operations with fractions, decimals, and percents. It also requires application of fractions, decimals, and percents in a problem situation. An introduction to integers and order of operations are also part of this benchmark. The Measurement Benchmark consists of calculating area and perimeter of two-dimensional figures and circles, and calculating surface area and volume of three-dimensional figures such as rectangular prisms and cylinders. The geometry benchmark consists of an introduction to geometric properties of two-dimensional and three-dimensional figures. The algebra, patterns/functions benchmark consists of recognizing patterns, identifying input/output relationships, and an introduction to equations and inequalities. The data and probability benchmark consists of calculating measures of center (mean, median,

mode), identifying and constructing different types of graphs, and determining what graph type would best represent a set of data. The probability portion introduces students to theoretical and experimental probabilities, and what type of experiment design would be best for testing a theoretical probability.

Other Required Courses

6th Grade Science

Full-Year Course

Content: This course includes science concepts, processes, and ways of thinking. Students will conduct investigations and begin applying mathematical skills in evaluating and analyzing variables of data. They will identify basic skills in the inquiry processes such as how thinking scientifically is helpful in daily life and how technological advances affect the quality of life. Students will identify rocks and their properties, formation and characteristics of the minerals that form them. They will also learn about properties and formations of soil, soil horizons. They will learn to recognize The Modern Cell Theory, cell functions, cell structures and the differences between plant and animal cells; students will learn how these cells reproduce. They will also look at the structure of the organism, organization of the structure and their skills for survival. Students will acquire knowledge of the properties and changes in matter can be explained by properties and movement of atoms and molecules. They will compare masses and volumes of different substances. Students will learn that energy can be classified as kinetic or potential and that motion is described by speed and direction. This curriculum is based on the State Standards in Science. Some sections of this class may include two teachers who will work together to provide assistance to students to accommodate needs.

6th Grade Social Studies

Full-Year Course

Content: This course focuses on the regions and people of the Eastern Hemisphere. The four main units of study include: History, Geography, Economics, and Government. Students will use knowledge of geographic locations, patterns and processes to show the interrelationship between the physical environment and human activity. Maps will be used to determine and report information including latitude, longitude, people, places, environments, and products. The influence and evidence of diffusion of the 5 major world religions will also be explored. The geographic focus includes the study of contemporary regional characteristics, the movement of people, products and ideas, and cultural diversity. Students will develop their understanding of the role of consumers and the interaction of markets, resources and competition. They will use economic reasoning skills and knowledge of major economic concepts, issues, and systems in order to make informed choices as producers and consumers. They will also look at the role of competition and a region's use of resources in an interdependent world. Students will learn about the development of river civilizations in Africa and Asia, including their governments, cultures, and economic systems. Government forms including: Monarchy, Theocracy, Democracy, and Dictatorship will be studied. Students will examine source accuracy and identify source types. This curriculum is based on the State Standards in Social Studies.

6th Grade Student Mastery And Reassessment Time (SMART)

Full-Year Course

Content: This course is a time when students receive a variety of academic services. Mainly, the purpose is to allow students time to reassess on tests or other assignments and get extra help in areas of specific need. Students may also read silently or receive gifted enrichment.

6th Grade Pre-Engineering

Students in the pre-engineering programs acquire knowledge and skills in problem solving, teamwork and innovation. Students explore STEM careers as they participate in a project-based learning process, designed to challenge and engage the natural curiosity and imagination of middle school students. Units are developed from the Project Lead the Way curriculum. Sixth grade students will discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned throughout the course to design and build 3D models and computer graphic designs.

6th and 7th Grade Medical Detectives

Content: Students will apply experimental design, creative thinking, and problem solving to investigate the inner-workings of the human body, diagnose disease, and improve human health. Three units include Disease Detectives, Mysteries of the Human Body, and Outbreak!

Grade 7

Required Courses

Language Arts

7th Grade Block Language Arts

Full-Year Course

Content: This course encompasses the State Standards in English Language Arts. The goals of this class are to improve and develop reading and writing skills. To meet these goals, students read various genres using literature, articles, novels and other supplementary materials. Emphasis in reading is placed on vocabulary, comprehension, and a variety of literary elements including characterization, setting, plot, theme, mood and figurative language. Students also write a variety of essays, reports and narratives with emphasis on sentence structure, paragraphing and the writing process (planning, drafting, revising, editing and publishing). Some sections of this class may include two teachers who will work together to provide assistance to students to accommodate needs.

7th Grade Advanced Language Arts

Full-Year Course

Prerequisite: Placement into Advanced Language Arts is based on gifted status, standardized test scores, and a placement test.

Content: This course encompasses the State Standards in English Language Arts. This course utilizes a wealth of materials including literature, content area books, novels and research materials in order to provide a high level of development in reading comprehension and writing ability. An increased workload and frequent employment of higher level thinking skills are to be expected. Emphasis in reading is placed on vocabulary, comprehension, and a variety of literary elements including characterization, setting, plot, theme, mood and figurative language. Students also write a variety of essays, reports and narratives with emphasis on sentence structure, paragraphing and the writing process (planning, drafting, revising, editing and publishing).

Mathematics

7th Grade Mathematics

Full-Year Course

Content: This course encompasses the State Standards in Mathematics, which includes ratios and proportional relationships, the number system, expressions and equations, geometry, and statistics and probability. Most sections of this course will be extended to a block period to allow for additional practice with mathematical concepts, to offer help with starting daily assignments, and to achieve a pace that accommodates student needs. Some sections may also include two teachers.

7th Grade Advanced Mathematics

Full-Year Course

Prerequisite: Placement into Advanced Mathematics is based on gifted status, standardized test scores, and a placement test.

Content: This course encompasses the State Standards in Mathematics, which includes ratios and proportional relationships, the number system, expressions and equations, geometry, and statistics and probability. A heavy pre-algebra focus will accompany this course as well as an emphasis on problem solving.

Other Required Courses

7th Science

Full-Year Course

Content: This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the many disciplines in science; life science, physical science, earth science and introductory lab safety. Subject matter will focus on patterns of Earth and the Moon, cycles of matter, flow of energy and interactions among organisms. Skills to be learned include; analyzing/interpreting data, communicating scientific procedures/explanations, and thinking critically through inquiry and application. Seventh grade science requires active involvement by the students on many levels; collaborative learning via group activities, hands-on labs and a variety of assessments for mastery learning. The content of this course is aligned to and follows the State Standards in Science.

7th Grade Social Studies

Full-Year Course

Content: World Studies from 750 B.C. to 1600 A.D.: Ancient Greece to the First Global Age. The 7th grade year is an integrated study of world history, beginning with Ancient Greece and continuing through global exploration. All four social studies strands are used to illustrate how historic events are shaped by geographic, social, cultural, economic, and political factors. Students develop their understanding of how ideas and events from the past have shaped the world today. Some sections of this class may include two teachers who will work together to provide assistance to students to accommodate needs. The contents of this course is aligned to and follows the State Standards in Social Studies.

7th/8th Grade Pre-Engineering

Students combine resources and techniques to create systems, understanding how technological and engineering systems work. Students will explore, design, redesign, analyze, and evaluate technological and engineering systems. By simulating systems and assessing their impacts, students gain insight into how to approach the problems and opportunities of a technological and engineering world. Students apply the engineering design process through participation in hands-on engineering projects. They also explore technology and engineering careers. Units are developed from Project Lead the Way curriculum. Units of study may include but are not limited to: robotics, medical detectives, science of technology, and magic of electrons.

6th and 7th Grade Medical Detectives

Content: Students will apply experimental design, creative thinking, and problem solving to investigate the inner-workings of the human body, diagnose disease, and improve human health. Three units include Disease Detectives, Mysteries of the Human Body, and Outbreak!

7th and 8th Grade Computer Science for Innovators and Makers

Content: Throughout the semester, students learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development, allowing students to discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible, and shareable projects

7th Grade SMART

Full-Year Course

Content: This course is a time when students receive a variety of academic services. Mainly, the purpose is to allow students time to reassess on tests or other assignments and get extra help in areas of specific need. Students may also read silently or receive gifted enrichment.

Grade 8

Required Courses

Language Arts

8th Grade Language Arts

Full-Year Course

Content: This course encompasses the State Standards in English Language Arts. Specific topics include vocabulary, elements of literature, speaking and listening skills, as well as, the writing process. Students will read both fiction and non-fiction poems, shorts stories, and novels to explore these concepts. Communication, critical thinking, and problems solving skills will also be improved upon. Some sections of this class may include a block and/or a class with two teachers who will work together to provide assistance to students to accommodate needs.

8th Grade Advanced Language Arts

Full-Year Course

Prerequisite: Placement into Advanced Language Arts is based on gifted status, standardized test scores, and a placement test.
Content: This course encompasses the State Standards in English Language Arts. Specific topics include vocabulary, elements of literature, speaking and listening skills, as well as, the writing process. Students will read both fiction and non-fiction poems, shorts stories, and novels to explore these concepts at a more challenging level. Communication, critical thinking, and problems solving skills will also be improved upon.

Mathematics

8th Grade Mathematics 8 (Pre-Algebra)

Full-Year Course

Content: This course encompasses the State Standards in Mathematics. The students will be introduced to algebraic concepts such as exploring the real number system; investigating the properties of exponents and roots; applying scientific notation; graphing and representing linear and quadratic functions; examining proportional relationships; simplifying and solving algebraic expressions and equations; solving systems of linear equations; calculating the perimeter, area, surface area, and volume of various geometric figures and their transformations; analyzing data; as well as exploring polynomials. Problem solving will be an integral component of this program. In some sections of this course, the regular education teacher and an intervention specialist will work together to provide assistance to each student and to create an environment that accommodates his or her needs. Other sections of this class may include a block where class time will be extended to allow for additional practice with the mathematical concepts, to offer assistance with various formative assessments, and to achieve a pace that accommodates each student's needs. A scientific calculator is required for this course.

8th Grade Algebra I

Full-Year Course

1 High School Credit

Description: This course encompasses the State Standards in Mathematics as well as an introduction to the high school mathematics curriculum. Algebra I is intended to introduce students to the field of advanced mathematics, help them to determine their interest and abilities, and develop their potential in mathematical study. The students will be introduced to algebraic concepts such as exploring the real number system; investigating the properties of exponents and roots; applying scientific notation; graphing and representing linear, absolute-value, exponential, and quadratic functions; examining proportional relationships; simplifying and solving algebraic expressions and equations; solving systems of linear equations; calculating the perimeter, area, surface area, and volume of various geometric figures and their transformations; analyzing data; as well as exploring polynomials. Emphasis in this course will be placed on mathematical theory and reasoning. A scientific calculator is required for this course. Students who successfully complete Algebra I will receive high school credit.

Other Required Courses

8th Grade Science

Full-Year Course

Content: This is a general science course covering earth, life and physical sciences, as well as, scientific inquiry and technology. Students will learn that the earth's lithosphere is broken into plates that move as a result of convection currents. They will describe the processes that cause Earth's surface to change. Motion of objects, effects of forces on objects and how waves transfer energy will be explored. Students will be able to explain how changes to the environment and the ability of an organism to adapt can cause extinction. Students will design a solution to a problem or design and build a product, given constraints. Technological influences on the quality of life will also be explored. The course is based on the State Standards in Science. Some sections of this class may include two teachers who will work together to provide assistance to students to accommodate needs.

8th Grade Social Studies

Full-Year Course

Content: The curriculum of the eighth grade focuses on the study of Early American History beginning with European exploration, the foundation of the country from colonization to states, its movement westward, and closes with the Reconstruction period following the Civil War. When students study particular historic events in the United States, the study will incorporate all four of the essential content strands that the state of Ohio has identified in the model curriculum for eighth grade social studies: history, geography, economics, and government. Students will examine how historic events are shaped by geographic, social, cultural, economic, and political factors. This course is based on the State Standards in Social Studies.

7th/8th Grade Pre-Engineering

Students combine resources and techniques to create systems, understanding how technological and engineering systems work. Students will explore, design, redesign, analyze, and evaluate technological and engineering systems. By simulating systems and assessing their impacts, students gain insight into how to approach the problems and opportunities of a technological and engineering world. Students apply the engineering design process through participation in hands-on engineering projects. They also explore technology and engineering careers. Units are developed from Project Lead the Way curriculum. Units of study may include but are not limited to: robotics, medical detectives, science of technology, and magic of electrons.

7th and 8th Grade Computer Science for Innovators and Makers

Content: Throughout the semester, students learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development, allowing students to discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible, and shareable projects

8th Grade SMART

Full-Year Course

Content: This course is a time when students receive a variety of academic services. Mainly, the purpose is to allow students time to reassess on tests or other assignments and get extra help in areas of specific need. Students may also read silently or receive gifted enrichment.

8th Grade Introduction to Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS)

Semester Course

Content: This course will provide students with an overview of the four major content areas of Family and Consumer Sciences. Students will be introduced to child development, family relationship concepts and how they relate to family dynamics. Additionally, students will identify financial literacy and consumer economic principles. Students will understand the concepts of design through textiles for personal and home use. Throughout the course, students will develop communication, leadership, and career investigation skills.

Resource Services

6th, 7th, 8th Grade Consumer Mathematics

Full-Year Course

Content: Skills covered include addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, measurement, time, money, and money related skills, place value, reading and writing of numbers, percentages, fractions, decimals and other life skill problems/tasks based on the student's skill level and needs. State test preparation and practice occur during second semester.

6th, 7th, 8th Grade Block Language Arts

Full-Year Course

Content: This course consists of reading, grammar and writing skills, vocabulary development, and verbal communication skills. Emphasis is on reading (decoding and comprehension skills) of informational and literary texts in a variety of media and pleasure reading. Writing skills include spelling conventions, sentence structure, paragraphs structure, short and longer length writings including journaling and original writings. Vocabulary skills including definitions, context clues, and word attack strategies. Verbal communication skills through small group and individual presentations are also developed. Organizational skills are also incorporated into this course as well as the use of technology tools.

Electives

6th, 7th, 8th Grade Physical Education

Semester or Full-Year Course

Content: This course is designed to increase awareness about the importance of daily physical activity. It is designed to increase physical and social skills related to sports, health and fitness, and physical well-being. Special attention will be given to exercise using both individual and team sports with an emphasis on appropriate dress, respect, active participation, good sportsmanship, fair play, responsibility, cooperation and positive attitude. 8th grade students can earn .25 high school PE credit per semester.

6th Grade Art

Semester Course

Content: Sixth grade art introduces the 7 elements and 9 principles of art. Includes basic drawing techniques and exposure to global art. Classroom discussion topics include: What is art? What does 'good' art include? Learn art critique using art vocabulary and concepts. Introduction to color theory.

7th, 8th Grade Art

Semester Course

Content: This intermediate class incorporates self-expression and divergent/creative problem-solving thinking. Includes 2D and 3D projects. Application and depth of use: tools, media, and technique. Learning new and increased, sophisticated use of media. Communication using a variety of media. Media may include but is not limited to: paint (watercolor, tempera, acrylic), calligraphy pens, print making, sculpture, oil markers, mixed media. Curriculum includes the following and more: portraiture, perspective, color theory, constructions, and use of light. Discussions on art and careers. Additionally, art history, artists, art genres and social influences are threaded throughout the course.

8th Grade Health Education

Semester Course

Content: This course covers physical, emotional, and social aspects of the individual, family, community, and world, and how these aspects are related. Special attention is given to nutrition, the life cycle, social skills, diseases, alcohol and other drugs, and the exploration of healthy lifestyles. This course will be delivered through a web-based environment. Students who successfully complete this course will earn .5 high school credit.

6th, 7th, 8th Grade Choir

Full-Year

Content: Choir is made up of students that have demonstrated a strong interest in the understanding of proper vocal technique and music reading. This class will study a wide variety of music from many different time periods, cultures and religions. All choir students will demonstrate a commitment to excellence in all activities associated with the choral music program. Attendance is required at all contests, concerts and other performances. Students are required to purchase a choir uniform. Participation in the Ohio Music Education Association solo and ensemble contest is recommended but not required.

7th, 8th Grade Jazzy Johnnies

Full-Year Course

Prerequisite: Audition Required

Content: Jazzy Johnnies is the most selective ensemble in the Middle School choral program. The students in this ensemble must demonstrate a dedication and commitment to the study and performance of a wide variety of music of the highest caliber. This group will function as a show choir in the fall and spring seasons and as a chamber ensemble during the winter contest season. Students will need to be poised and demonstrate a quality stage presence. Choreography is an important element. Students are required to participate in the Ohio Music Education Association's solo and ensemble contest. Significant time outside of the school day is required for rehearsals and performances. Students must be in good academic standing in all classes to remain a member of this ensemble. Students are required to purchase a uniform to be selected by the members of the ensemble and the director.

6th Grade Band

Full-Year Course

Content: This course is for band members who wish study a musical instrument. Students will have the opportunity to choose an instrument in 5th grade and participate in "jump start" lessons. We will meet as a mixed group in three separate classes in order to gain further knowledge in rhythm, music reading, musical techniques on our instrument, and playing in a full ensemble setting. Any student (regardless of grade level) wishing to join band, without prior musical knowledge, may also join sixth grade band to begin learning an instrument. Sixth grade band holds two mandatory concerts during the school year, one in December and another in the spring.

7th, 8th Grade Band

Full-Year Course

Content: Seventh and eighth grade band is a continuation of sixth grade band and meets daily as a mixed group in three separate classes. Students work in Book Two of their instrumental studies and learn to expand their range (notes) and flexibility, improve their tone quality, learn new rhythms, time signatures, key signatures, and the added challenge of playing different styles of music as an ensemble. Band provides students with many mandatory performance opportunities such as AMS Middle School Band Night, The Big Red Band Varsity Show, a Christmas Concert, OMEA Solo and Ensemble (select students only), a Spring Concert, and participation in OMEA District X Middle School Large Group Contest (on select years only.) Learning in this class is focused on the development of the players' musical progress as well as gaining leadership skills, time management skills, and responsibility that will help them in high school.

6th, 7th, 8th Grade Academic Assist

Full-Year or Semester Course

Content: During this course, students are able to work on homework or other assignments for school in a quiet environment. A staff member is available to help students with their work as necessary. This course also allows for extra intervention time for the student's teachers to do additional intervention and reassessments as well. Students may be moved in or out of these courses as needed.

6th, 7th, 8th Grade Academic Support

Full-Year or Semester Course

Content: During this course, students are able to work on homework or other assignments for school and are guided by a teacher to help with completion. Academic intervention is also a component of this course and activities are structured to help students' master general skills. This course also allows for extra intervention time for the student's teachers to do additional intervention and reassessments as well. Students may be moved in or out of these courses as needed.

6th, 7th, 8th Grade Reading for Success

Full-Year or Semester Course

Content: The focus of this course is the improvement of reading skills, which include decoding, fluency, and comprehension. Instruction is delivered in small group settings designed to address individual literacy needs.

6th, 7th, 8th Grade Math for Success

Full-Year or Semester Course

Content: The focus of this course is the improvement of math skills, which include math fact fluency, word problem solving, and order of operations. Instruction is delivered in small group settings designed to address individual needs.

7th, 8th Grade Principles of Foods

Semester Course

Content: In this course, students will gain knowledge in food selection criteria and apply preparation methods to promote a healthy lifestyle. Students will apply cooking methods, ingredient selection and nutritional information in the context of selected food dishes. Throughout the course, basic food safety and sanitation techniques will be emphasized.

7th, 8th Grade Textiles and Interior Design

Semester Course

Content: In this course, students will explore a broad range of topics relating to the various aspects and career opportunities available in the field of textiles and design. The emphasis will be given to textiles project development and developing strategies to maintain the home. Additional topics will include project collaboration, design techniques and environmental sustainability.