

**YORK MIDDLE SCHOOL
COURSE DESCRIPTION
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COURSE TITLE: 6th Grade Math

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 6

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The goal of 6th grade math is to provide students with a foundation of math skills traditionally considered essential for success in higher level math courses. Some of the topics include: operations, integers, equations, and measurement. Strands of geometry, algebra, and data displays are also presented throughout the course. Students engage in problem solving situations that require application of skills to make real-life connections to learned concepts. Students learn calculator skills and work with decimal operations, fraction operations, number patterns, exponents, ratios, proportions and percent's as well as area, volume, and probability. Students will increase their understanding of the course material by participating in homework, class work, quizzes, and tests. Student growth will also be assessed using the NWEA summative test and Nebraska's NSCAS assessment

COURSE TITLE: Math Discovery Grade 6

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The focus of this course will be on preparing students for summative testing through activities and discovery beyond the daily math class curriculum and agenda. Students will review and extend concepts and skills learned in mathematics. Students will explore problem-solving, algebraic thinking, number sense, computation and estimation, measurement and geometry, and probability and statistics. While learning mathematics, students will be actively engaged using hands-on materials/manipulatives, educational and thought-provoking games and activities, and appropriate technologies such as spreadsheets, calculators, educational apps, and websites. Students will ultimately become more confident in their abilities to do mathematics and become better mathematical problem solvers.

COURSE TITLE: Math Strategies Grades 7, 8

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will provide math strategies and support for students who, by their classroom performance, MAP standardized testing and/or NeSA-M testing results, have demonstrated gaps in grade level mathematical knowledge, content and skills. It will allow students to preview and review math concepts in a small group setting. Opportunities will also be provided to practice standardized test taking strategies.

COURSE TITLE: 7th Grade Math

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 7

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course prepares students for the 7th grade standard testing. It teaches basic skills in the following areas: Numeration, Computation, Measurement, Geometry, Data Analysis, and Algebraic Concepts.

COURSE TITLE: Pre-Algebra

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 7th grade placement by results of district, and national assessments. Eighth graders not taking algebra, will be enrolled in pre-algebra.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is an introduction to Algebra. The students learn how to solve problems using positive and negative numbers, and rational numbers. They also begin solving equations and inequalities. Units on geometric figures, ratio, proportion and percent, areas, and volumes, statistics and probability are also covered. Calculators will be used. All 8th grade students in this course will also review and test over basic math skills in the following areas: Numeration, Computation, Measurement, Geometry, Data Analysis, and Algebraic Concepts. The results of this testing will be placed on file/reported to parents, the school district, and the Nebraska Department of Education as the "8th Grade Mathematics Standards Tests."

COURSE TITLE: Algebra

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 8 or advanced placement students

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This is a high school algebra course. The math department will make advance placements. All 8th grade students in this course will also review and test over basic math skills in the following areas: Numeration, Computation, Measurement, Geometry, Data Analysis, and Algebraic Concepts. The results of this testing will be placed on file/reported to parents, the school district, and the Nebraska Department of Education as the "8th Grade Mathematics Standards Tests

COURSE TITLE: 6th Computers/CS Exploration

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 6

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course provides exposure to a variety of computer science topics and design tools. Problem solving skills will be introduced along with discovery of what a computer is by using the curriculum from Code.org. Students will learn basic block coding and some game design elements using Hopscotch. Students will also learn about physical computing using Micro: Bits and Cue robots. Students will develop cognitive, collaborative skills, and critical thinking skills while learning coding. Along with some computer science topics, students will learn to be digital leaders by experiencing digital citizenship lessons that encourage responsible and ethical decisions while using technology. Students will become more familiar with the Google suite and all its tools by using different platforms to complete projects or tasks.

Length: 9 Weeks

COURSE TITLE: 7th Computers/CS Exploration

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 7

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Students will continue to build on the problems solving skills, collaboration, and computational thinking skills they worked on the previous course in 6th grade. Students will take another in-depth look at digital citizenship and appropriate uses of technology. They will continue to use Google suite and all its tools to complete assignments or tasks. The greater part of this course will be web development where students are introduced to HTML and CSS using Code.org's curriculum. Each student will create, code, and debut their own website. Physical computing and robotics are expanded on from the previous course using Micro: Bits and Cue robots. Throughout this course students will continue to develop their problem solving skills while incorporating creativity into their projects.

Length: 9 Weeks

COURSE TITLE: 8th Computers/Computer Science

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 8

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this course students will create and design announcements/celebration slides weekly that will be displayed on the tvs for all the students to be able to stay informed with what is happening. Students will also continue to work on their computer science skills while continuing to develop their problem solving skills and incorporating creativity into their projects. The focus is on game development, physical computing, and app development. For the game development and physical computing students will be using Code.org's curriculum, Cue robots, Circuit Playgrounds, and Ozoblockly. The app development will be done through Swift Playground and App Inventor. Students become creators as they continue to use their problem solving and collaborative skills for completing various projects.

Length: 1 Semester

COURSE TITLE: World History

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 6

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this course we study the earliest civilizations to the decline of Roman civilization. Major topics include earliest human civilizations, ancient Egypt, ancient China, ancient Greece, the rise of Christianity, and the rise and fall of Rome.

COURSE TITLE: Social Studies/Geography

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 7

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Organized around the five themes of geography, this course is a study of the earth with an emphasis on both the physical and cultural characteristics of the major regions of the world. In this course we will cover all 7 continents of the world and dig into physical geography, cultural geography, as well as some geology and environmental science that goes along with the course. The students will learn about most of the world's countries as well as states and provinces of certain areas to some extent.

COURSE TITLE: US History/Civics

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 8th Grade

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this course we discuss major United States historical events from pre-colonization until the election of 1876. Major topics include before the first global age, discovery of the western hemisphere by Europeans, The American revolution, westward expansion, the Civil War, and Reconstruction.

COURSE TITLE: Manufacturing and Entrepreneurship

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 8th Grade

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Manufacturing and Entrepreneurship exposes students to what makes a business, allows for creativity, planning, teamwork, and producing a product or service. This course explores what it takes to be an entrepreneur and their characteristics while conducting many activities to increase creativity and collaboration. The students learn business skills, financial skills, customer relations, and marketing skills. Each business completes the tasks of finding a problem and creating a solution. During this process, the students have gained insight into solving real world problems, thinking creatively, cooperating with others, communication, and adapting solutions to feedback or setbacks.

Length: 1 Semester

COURSE TITLE: Science

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 6th grade

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Sixth Grade Science is a course that provides hands-on learning experiences focusing in the area of physical science, life science, weather, and technology. Activities give students an opportunity to learn through observations and application of the scientific method. Topics include the following: Forms of Energy, Temperature and Heat, Force and Motion, Body Systems, Cell Life, Weather and Climate, Lab Safety, and Measurement.

COURSE TITLE: Science

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 7th Grade

COURSE DESCRIPTION: 7th grade science is a class that develops critical thinking skills and offers hands-on learning of Life Science topics. Students will be involved in classroom learning, labs and projects. Topics to be covered include the following: The Engineering Design Process, Chemistry, Earth History, Biological Processes, Ecology and Human Interactions with the Environment.

COURSE TITLE: Earth Science

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 8th Grade

COURSE DESCRIPTION: 8th grade science is a class that provides students with hands-on learning experience focusing in the area of Earth Science. Students will be involved in classroom learning, labs and projects. Topics include the following: How students learn, Space, Astronomy, Fields and Interactions, Reproduction, Environmental Science and Waves.

COURSE TITLE: S.T.E.M. 6

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 6

COURSE DESCRIPTION Students will be selected to participate in this elective class based upon MAP/NeSA scores in the areas of Science and Mathematics. This course allows students the opportunity to explore various areas of S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and to complete projects and challenges in these areas. Focus will be on using the Design Process to complete both individual and group projects.

COURSE TITLE: S.T.E.M. 7

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 7

Students will be selected to participate in this elective class based on MAP and NSCAS scores in the areas of Science & Mathematics. This course allows students to explore various areas of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics). The curriculum for this class is based on aviation, life sciences, problem solving and investigations.

COURSE TITLE: S.T.E.M. 8

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 8

Students will be selected to participate in this elective class based on MAP and NSCAS scores in the areas of Science & Mathematics. This course allows students to explore various areas of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics). The curriculum is based on the concept Mars or Bust. It includes topics such as Newton's Laws, Propulsion, Rocketry, Biomedical Engineering, Hydroponics, coding & Lego robots.

COURSE TITLE: Careers

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 7

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this course, students will experience a variety of activities that promote self-awareness and career exploration related to students' future educational and career plans.

COURSE TITLE: Reading

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 6th

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course focuses on the continued development of reading skills and strategies with the goal of improving fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary. The Accelerated Reader Program is incorporated to encourage independent reading at the appropriate level and to foster a life-long love of reading.

COURSE TITLE: Appreciation of Literature

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 6

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This is a class that meets every other day for one semester. It is a class designed to increase the students' love for reading. We enjoy many "read alouds" and do activities with these wonderful pieces of literature. Many skills are worked on. Students are introduced to many authors and time is spent on various genres. This class is titled Appreciation of Literature, as that is what the goal is!

COURSE TITLE: Language Arts

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 6

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Language Arts is a basic skill building course designed to increase competence in the following areas: grammar, usage, punctuation, capitalization, spelling, writing, speaking and listening, reference work, study skills, and literature. Technology plays a big role in this class.

COURSE TITLE: Language Arts

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 7

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will target students' growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, discussion, reflection, and viewing. Reading strategies, critical thinking skills, and vocabulary building comprise the main elements of reading instructions. Through fiction, nonfiction, and poetry reading, students will practice reading strategies and comprehension skills. Students will become familiar with and practice various forms of writing. The overall goal of the class is to increase the literacy and writing ability of students as aligned with the Nebraska State Standards.

COURSE TITLE: Mythology

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 7

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is an introduction to ancient *Greek* and Roman Mythology through the examination of literature, art, and film. We will look at the principal myths and mythological figures of ancient *Greece* and Rome. This course is intended to provide students with a base knowledge of mythology to assist them in understanding allusions and references found in various mediums.

Length: 1 Semester

COURSE TITLE: English

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 8

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course focuses on the development of skills in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Specific reading units of study include fiction, nonfiction, poetry, drama, and a novel. Writing emphasis will include utilizing the Step Up to Writing process. Students will write for a variety of purposes and in various format, including a career research paper. Vocabulary building and increasing reading stamina will be strongly emphasized throughout the course.

COURSE TITLE: Speech

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 7

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course focuses on developing speaking and listening skills. Students will participate in various activities designed to build confidence in public speaking. Students will also develop, prepare, and deliver various speeches throughout this one-semester course.

COURSE TITLE: Multimedia and Technology

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 8

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The Multimedia and Technology Class is an 8th Grade one semester Exploratory Course. Students will create a news show that will be broadcasted weekly at York Middle School. Students will create and publish a school yearbook. Because of the independent nature of this course, deadlines, and being a mobile classroom, students must receive teacher recommendations for this specific course. Teacher recommendations are based on the student's ability to consistently demonstrate the following characteristics: responsibility, reliability, accountability, aptitude for technology, independent coursework, and higher level problem-solving skills. Please see the school counselor for additional information.

COURSE TITLE: Exploratory Block/Industrial Technology

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 6

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Industrial Technology at the sixth grade level is a 9-week course dealing with an introductory exploration of several areas in industrial technology. This class includes learning shop tools, safety and how to construct a shop project.

COURSE TITLE: Exploratory Block/Industrial Technology

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 7

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Industrial Technology at the seventh grade level is a 9-week course designed to help students expand their knowledge in many areas. Each student will complete the CO2 Raceway module and construct a CO2 car. We also will be doing an additional manufacturing project with the class as group if time permits.

COURSE TITLE: Exploratory Technology

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 8

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Exploratory Technology at the eighth grade level is a one-semester course that will utilize areas in mechanical drafting and project construction. This course will start in the area of mechanical drafting. Basic drafting and drawing techniques will be emphasized with regard to mechanical drawing. Students will have the opportunity to work in the areas of woods to construct a project. Students will usually be able to select their own project to work on. The plans, the plan of procedure, the construction and finishing are all done by the student. At the completion of this unit, students will have gained a basic understanding of how the construction process works in making a project and using the power tools in the shop safely and efficiently.

COURSE TITLE: Physical Education

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 6

COURSE DESCRIPTION: **Health - Physical Education** - PE is scheduled every other day. We will focus on overall physical fitness and exercise safety. This will include aerobic fitness, speed, agility, strength, and power activities. Specific activities will include cycling, stair stepping, rowing, jogging, jump rope, aerobic stepping, exercise ball work, dots, ladders, relays, and various other drills. This course also features 3-10 day units including mass soccer, volleyball, basketball, team handball, archery and base soccer. The focus of the units is to introduce students to the basic rules, skills and game play during each unit.

COURSE TITLE: Health & Physical Education

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 7

COURSE DESCRIPTION: **Health** – 7th grade health class provides students with a complete understanding of their overall wellness by teaching students the importance of developing healthy habits they can incorporate into their daily lives. Students participate in discussions, labs, projects, and classroom learning. Topics to be covered under the following three overarching areas: Physical Health, Mental Health, Social Health.

Physical Education - PE is scheduled every other day. We will focus on overall physical fitness and exercise safety. This will include aerobic fitness, speed, agility, strength, and power activities. Specific activities will include cycling, stair stepping, rowing, jogging, jump rope, aerobic stepping, exercise ball work, dots, ladders, relays, and various other drills. This course also features 3-10 day units including mass soccer, volleyball, hand hockey, Badminton, team handball, archery and whiffle ball. The focus of the units is to introduce students to the basic rules, skills and game play during each unit.

COURSE TITLE: Physical Education

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 8th Grade

COURSE DESCRIPTION: 8th grade PE is scheduled every day of the week. We will focus on overall physical fitness and exercise safety. This will include aerobic fitness, speed, agility, strength, and power activities. Specific activities will include cycling, stair stepping, rowing, jogging, jump rope, aerobic stepping, exercise ball work, dots, ladders, relays, and various other advanced drills. Emphasis will be placed on acquiring and developing more advanced skills. 8th grade PE covers a wide variety of individual - dual and team sports, with an emphasis on outdoor and lifetime recreation. Activities will include Frisbee golf, Frisbee skills and games, softball, horse shoes, archery, bowling, volleyball, and basketball.

COURSE TITLE: Fitness/Strength Training

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 8th Grade

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The primary focus of this course is to teach and promote proper weight room/conditioning safety and techniques. Fitness/Strength Training is a course designed to improve speed, strength, and overall physical fitness through cardio exercises, weight training, and body weight exercises.

COURSE TITLE: Exploratory Art/6th Grade Art

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 6

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is an introductory class designed to develop students' visual awareness of the elements of art and to incorporate these in finished projects. Students will be studying Primitive man, Cave Dwellers, Egyptians, Romans, Indian, and Oriental cultures and their lifestyles.

Projects: illustration, perspective drawing, gesture drawing, masks, shields, portraits, basic clay construction, textiles, drawing, painting.

COURSE TITLE: 7th Grade Art

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 7

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is an introductory class designed to make students aware of the elements of art. Students will be taught a new method of seeing and observing objects in their environment. Projects: contour drawing, tempera painting, pen and ink, weaving, printmaking, portraits, clay pottery, plaster molds, papermaking, sculpture, sand casting, and group painting.

COURSE TITLE: Art I/8th Grade Art

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 8

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course demonstrates an understanding of the use of principles of design, in addition to previous concepts. The students will continue developing new skills and new use of materials. Projects: Introduction to pottery wheel methods, print making, acrylics, water mixable oil paints, weaving, tie-dye, perspective, color theory, sculpture, batik, carving, wood burning, sand casting, & wire sculpture, (There will also be group projects in painting, clay and sculpture).

COURSE TITLE: Beginning Band

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 6

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This comprehensive band class will guide students through a process of learning how to play a musical instrument. Students will go through a detailed introduction of the instrument families with demonstrations and 'hands on' experience to select an instrument. They will learn the basic fundamentals of playing their chosen instrument. Beginning band students will perform in concert 3-4 times during the year.

COURSE TITLE: Intermediate Band

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 7

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to build on the basic fundamentals learned in beginning band. Musicianship and technical skills are emphasized and applied through ensemble performance. The 7th grade band will perform in concert 3-4 times a year.

COURSE TITLE: Advanced Band

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 8

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Advanced band is the only ensemble that meets daily. The students will experience: Marching Band, Jazz Band, Concert Band and Solo and Ensembles. The 8th grade students will have the opportunity to participate in honor band, concerts and school functions. This ensemble is designed to prepare students for high school band. A uniform fee may be required. The 8th grade band will perform in concert 3-4 times a year

COURSE TITLE: Jazz Band

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 8

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Jazz Band meets daily. The ensemble is designed to introduce jazz style music performance, beginning jazz improvisation and to prepare students for High School Jazz Band. The Jazz Band will perform in concert 2-3 times a year.

COURSE TITLE: Choir

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 6

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This is a full year class for all 6th grade students who like to be active participants in class and want a chance to express their musical abilities and creativity in the "spotlight". The class focuses on improving singing, performing, and music reading skills. Literature may include jazz, pop, Broadway, multi-cultural, or children's choir styles. Choreography may also be included. This group performs 4 concerts a year, one of which is a talent show and one may be a musical. This class meets every other day.

Length: Full Year

COURSE TITLE: Choir

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 7

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This class is a full year class open to all 7th grade students and meets the music requirement. This is a continuation of 6th grade choir with emphasis on improving music reading skills, and expressing yourself through singing and performing. We sing several different styles of music including Broadway, pop, jazz, classical, and music of other countries. Some choreography may also be included. The group performs 4 concerts a year, which include a talent show & musical. This class meets every other day.

Length: Full Year

COURSE TITLE: Choir

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 8

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This class is a continuation of 7th grade choir. Emphasis is on Performing and preparing for high school choir, which does include the ability to read music. Students perform in 4 concerts a year, including a talent show & musical as well as some performances in the community. This class meets 3 days a week alternating with 8th grade show choir or study hall. Students must be enrolled in choir to be eligible to audition for the show choir, Expressions. Auditions are held in the fall.

Length: Full Year

COURSE TITLE: Exploratory Family & Consumer Sciences

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 6

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to introduce students to a variety of concepts within the Family and Consumer Sciences field. F.C.S. focuses on preparing individuals for life and work, strengthening families, and enabling communities. Students will be actively involved in learning the skills and processes needed for successful family living such as: teamwork, family relationships, citizenship, and health and wellness. Students will do a variety of hands-on activities including constructing a recycling bag and food laboratory experiences.

COURSE TITLE: Exploratory Family & Consumer Sciences

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 7

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to introduce students to a variety of concepts within the Family and Consumer Sciences field. F.C.S. focuses on preparing individuals for life and work, strengthening families, and enabling communities. Students will be actively involved in learning the skills and processes that are needed for responsible family living such as: communication, responsible decision-making, family strengths, conflict resolution, resource management, consumerism, citizenship, and foods & nutrition. During the 9-week period, students will be putting their skills into action by participating in food laboratory experiences.

COURSE TITLE: 8th Grade Family & Consumer Science

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 8

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This 8th grade comprehensive FCS class is designed to give students an overview of many family and consumer sciences areas. This class will focus on personal development and setting goals, relationships, communication skills, consumer skills, foods and nutrition. Throughout the semester, students will have the opportunity to prepare foods corresponding with each area of the Food Guide Pyramid.

Length: 1 semester

COURSE TITLE: Teen Living

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 8

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This class has been developed for any eighth grade student. During the semester course, students will explore relationship qualities on a personal, peer, and family base while practicing problem solving, decision-making, and communication techniques. Emphasis through this course is placed on making healthy choices and decisions to a variety of teen-related issues and problems.

COURSE TITLE: Agriculture

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 8

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Exploring Agriscience introduces students to the dynamic industry of agriculture. Agriculture is a rapidly changing science. Change comes about so rapidly that it is difficult to keep up with all the developments. These advancements have made life better for all Americans. However, basic scientific principles are the foundation of modern agriculture and these principles drive change. Provides a hands-on exploratory, science-based approach to Agriscience. A Broad-based coverage of horticulture, animal science, environmental science, and biotechnology is presented in an easy-to-understand format. The Live Animal Lab, School Grounds and Greenhouse at the high school are used extensively for the hands on activities.

COURSE TITLE: Social Skills

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 6th-8th grade based on teacher recommendation

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Students work on Social Skills as well as Social Emotional Skills. This course is designed to enhance the social skills of each student. Instruction in social and behavior related areas include but are not limited to communication, cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy, engagement, self-control and conflict resolution skills. Activities will range from group discussions, video clips, role playing, worksheets and daily activities.

COURSE TITLE: SUCCESSful Friends

GRADE COURSE IS OFFERED TO: 8

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This life skills course creates an environment to develop relationships between students by creating a student assistant program for children with special needs. As a pass/fail course, students are privileged to work one-on-one with fellow students in grades 6, 7 & 8 who are in need of assistance in their classwork. Students are individually assigned as their schedule requires. Opportunities can occur in any class and during any period of the day. Students must complete an application and provide a teacher recommendation.