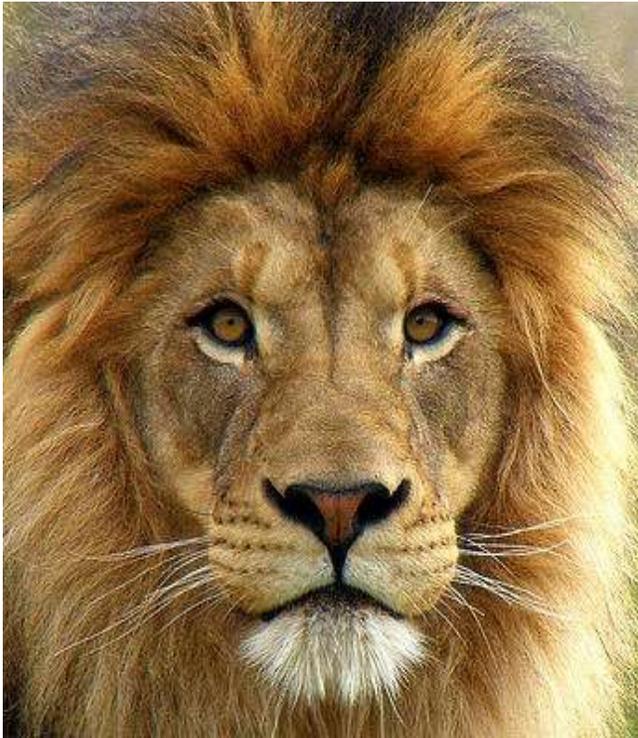


## Lackawanna Trail Jr./Sr. HS 2016-2017 School Year

Junior High School  
Curriculum Guide  
Grades 7 & 8



Student Information

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Student,

This Curriculum Guide has been updated and revised in order to assist you with the course selection process. It is reflective of the current standards and requirements of the Lackawanna Trail School Board of Education and the Pennsylvania State Department of Education along with Federal education requirements.

It is important for students to include your parents, teachers, and guidance counselors, in choosing your classes. Your communication with those individuals will help to ensure that you have the necessary information to select appropriate courses for academic study in order to meet your academic and professional aspirations.

The years that you spend in seventh and eighth grade will prepare you for entrance into the challenging curriculum of the high school. It is critical that you not only plan your courses wisely, but also commit yourself to mastering the skills and content knowledge that will be presented during your studies. We also encourage you to extend your studies beyond the school day and become an active member of a club, sport, or musical ensemble. Research has shown the many benefits (i.e. higher grades, performance on standardized tests, college acceptance, eventual career satisfaction, etc.) of participating in school-based activities, and Lackawanna Trail has a lot to offer you.

Please take time to read over this material with your parents and school counselors before you make your final course selections. We look forward to meeting you to discuss additional activities which are available to you during the annual class meetings .

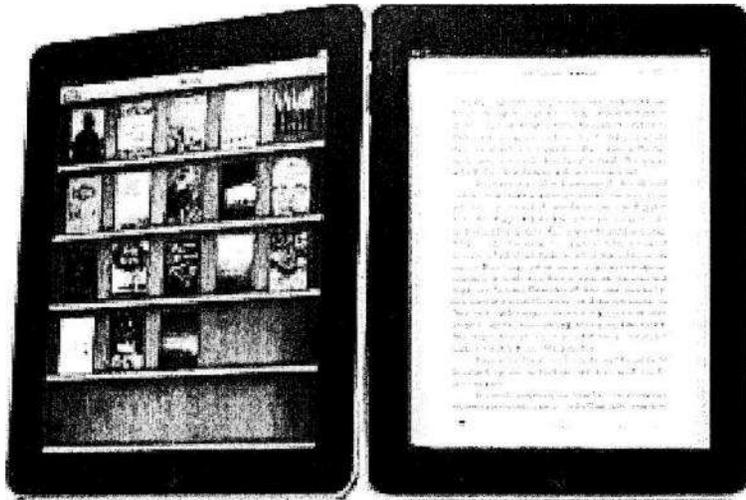
On behalf of the LTHS faculty and staff, we wish you all the best for a successful year at the Lackawanna Trail Jr. Sr. High School.

Dr. Mark P. Murphy  
Principal

Mr. Brian J. Kearney  
Assistant Principal

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## A GUIDE TO SELECTING YOUR SUBJECTS

When you select courses for the next school year, keep in mind the following:

1. Establish personal goals with the assistance of your guidance counselor.
2. Have specific educational, occupational, and personal objectives that you are working toward.
3. Evaluate your personal strengths, interests, aptitudes, and needs.
4. Learn the requirements for the college or technical school that you plan to attend or the kind of work you plan to do after graduation.
5. Select the subjects that will contribute most towards helping you achieve the goals you establish.

### SCHEDULE CHANGE REQUEST

Course selections should be firm decisions, which are thoughtfully made by students after careful consultations with parents, teachers and counselors. Prior successes, failures, special individual interest, aptitudes, and future college and career plans should be taken into consideration when you plan your course sequence. Any request for a course change must be made within the first week of school and are not always guaranteed because of teacher and/or seat availability.

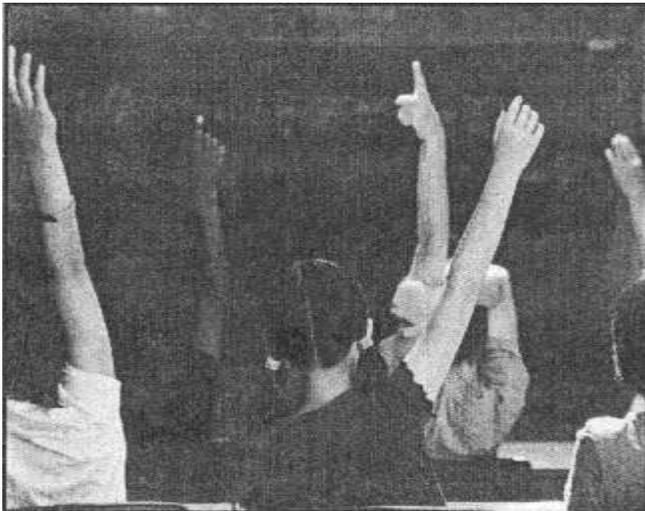
Changes often are requested because of a student's preference for a certain teacher, desire for a reduction of course load, because of academic difficulties, outside employment, the desire to be placed with friends or change of mind as to personal preference for course content. Consequently, the only changes that will be considered are those that meet two or more of the following criteria:

- A change in a student's educational plan requires a change of electives.
- A student is in need of meeting credit requirements for promotion.
- The request is the result of courses taken during the summer.
- The request is submitted because of the student's wish to add a subject or to select a more demanding elective.
- The request is made during the first week of the school year.
- The teacher and/or counselor determine a student is placed in an inappropriate class.

The start of school is a very busy time. It is important that requests are not made for insignificant reasons. If you feel that you have a valid request, as previously outlined, the request must be made in writing and signed by your parents. The guidance department will review your request after consultation with your parent/guardian. A form for schedule changes can be found in the Guidance Department.

**ABSENT STUDENT HOMEWORK POLICY**

If your child is expected to miss three (3) or more consecutive days of school due to illness or other excused absence, you may utilize the guidance office staff to help collect your student's missed assignments by calling 570-945-7202. All requests for work should be made before 10 a.m. on the day of the request to allow adequate time to collect materials and assignments. If your child is expected to miss fewer than two (2) days of school, please have them collect work directly from their teachers.



HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Regular Schedule			Advisory Schedule		
Period 1	7:45-8:32		Period I	7:45-8:23	
Period 2	8:15-9:17		Period 2	8:26-9:04	
Period 3	9:20-10:02		Period 3	9:07-9:45	
Period 4	10:05-10:47		Period 4	9A8-10:28	
Period 5	10:50-11:25	1 <sup>st</sup> Lunch	Period 5	10:29-11:04	1st Lunch
Period 0	11:28-11:31		Period 5	11:137-11:10	
Period 7	11:34-11:09	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lunch	Period 7	11:13-11:48	2nd Lunch
Period 8	12:12-12:15		Period A	11:51-11:54	
Period 9	12:18-12:53	3 <sup>rd</sup> Lunch	Period 9	11:57-12:32	3rd Lunch
Period 10	12:56-1:38		Period 10	12:55-1:18	
Period 11	1:41-2:23		Period 11	1:16-1:54	
			Period 12	1:57-2:23	Academic Mentoring

2 Hour Delay Schedule

Period 1	9:45-10:17		Period 9	12:23-12:56	3 <sup>rd</sup> Lunch
Period 2	10:15-10:40		Period 10	12:59-1:24	
Period 3	10:43-11:08		Period 11	1:27-1:51	
Period 5	11:11-11:44	1st Lunch	Period 4	1:55-2:23	
Period 7	11:47-12:25	2nd Lunch			

**Lunch Example:** a student eating lunch during 9th period would be in a 5/6 combined class and a 7/8 combined class.

**Early Dismissals:** will take place at 11:15am. Students will attend periods one through four on early dismissal days. Period four will be extended.

The **Academic Mentoring Program** offered during 12<sup>th</sup> period is a focused period of time in which the faculty mentor provides a small group of students, with whom they are authentically paired, timely information pertaining to their academic progress. Academic mentors will get to know their students, both as learners and as individuals and build positive relationships which are focused on learning, academic success, and authentic connections between the school and the student. The mentor is able to connect the student to various school-based invention programs when necessary.

The 12 period schedule is also used for special presentations and assemblies, such as pre rallies and holiday concerts, to occur without missing one or more academic periods.

## JUNIOR HIGH REGULATIONS

- For seventh and eighth grade students, all major subjects must be satisfactorily completed for promotion to the next grade level.
- A number of courses have prerequisites or recommendations listed for taking those courses. Prerequisites and recommendations are designed to improve your chances of success.

## GRADING SYSTEM

A numerical grading system is used at the Jr. Sr. High School. The specific earned percentage will be reported to parents and students on the report card. The scale is:

- 93 -100 - Superior - A
- 85 - 92 - Above Average - B
- 77 - 84 - Average - C
- 70 - 76 - Below Average - D
- Below 70 - Failure

## REPORT CARDS

Students will receive a report card each quarter. Major courses that run the entire year will be graded according to the following:

- Quarter 1 average
- Quarter 2 average
- Quarter 3 average
- Quarter 4 average

**Courses may include a Mid-Term Exam, Final Exam, or Final Project which is factored into the quarter average.** Teachers determine the level of comprehensiveness tested on their midterm and final exams.

## HONORS COURSE CRITERIA

Students are required to meet all of the criteria listed below to be eligible for Honors Courses.

### Honors Math:

- 93% average or better in last general math course and/or 85% average of better in an honors math course
- Passing/Proficient score on last applicable standardized assessment exam (i.e. PSSA, Keystone exam)
- Teacher Recommendation
- Parent waivers will not be considered

## Honors Language Arts, Honors Science, & Honors Social Studies:

- 93% average or better in last related general subject course and/or 85% average or better in a related honors subject course
- Passing/Proficient score on last applicable standardized assessment exam
- Teacher Recommendation
- Parent waivers will not be considered

## HONOR ROLL

The Honor Roll will be issued at the conclusion of each marking period.

1. Students must have an 87 or higher average with no grade at or below a 76.
2. Students may not have an incomplete in any subject. Incompletes must be made up within 2 weeks of the end of the marking period.
3. Students will be awarded High Honors if they have a 93 or higher average in major subjects and met the aforementioned guidelines.

**Note:** Students qualifying for Honors recognition in the spring must have an overall G.P.A. of 87 or higher with no failing or incomplete grades. Honors recognition will be based 1st, 2nd and 3rd marking period grades.

If a parent does not wish to have his/her child's name published as part of the Honor Roll, a written request should be submitted to the guidance office at the beginning of the school year. A new request is required each year.

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Pennsylvania now requires students to demonstrate successful completion of secondary-level course work in Algebra, Biology, and English Literature. The Keystone Exams are standardized assessments given at the time of course completion. They are designed to assess proficiency in those subject areas and are one component of Pennsylvania's graduation requirements.

The Lackawanna Trail School District also requires students to achieve proficiency on these Keystone Exams as a graduation requirement. Students who fail to meet the proficiency benchmark are required to participated

in remedial coursework before being administered subsequent Keystone exams. Students who fail the exams after two or more attempts are required to complete a comprehensive Project-Based Assessment (PBA).

### **ONLINE GRADE SYSTEM (MMS)**

The Lackawanna Trail Junior-Senior High School utilizes data management software known as Modular Management for Schools (MMS) to track student attendance, biographical information, disciplinary records, and grades. The MMS software is a tool for your use but does not replace personal contact between you and school personnel. Below are steps that parents/guardians are required to take in order to access your personalized information on MMS. The MMS Link is available on the high school webpage ([www.ltsd.org](http://www.ltsd.org)):

1. On the parent sign on screen, click to create a new account. LYou will only be able to create an account if you have provided the high school with an e-mail address)
2. The screen will ask for a First Name and Last Name of the Primary Parent, as well as their student's ID number. (5 digit number on student schedule)
3. Create a personal user name and submit.
4. A temporary password will be sent to the email account provided.
5. Click to return to the log in screen and enter the user name created and the temporary password.
6. After this step, the system will prompt you to change your password.
7. **In** MMS, a screen will show your child's name. Click on it.

Although your child's schedule and grade to date will be visible at this point, be mindful that your child's teacher may take up to seven days to grade and upload the grade into the MMS system.

If you have problems accessing and using the MMS system, we ask that you to call the high school office at 570.945.5181 between 8:00am and 3:30 p.m. Any contacts outside of this time will be addressed during the time window outlined. If you need feedback on an assessment, you may call or email your child's teacher directly. Teacher email addresses are listed on the school website ([www.ltsd.org](http://www.ltsd.org)) and are available through the Parent Portal (MMS).

### **SEVENTH GRADE COURSE SELECTIONS**

The following sequence of courses has been included as a planning guide for parents and students. It presents information to you that can be helpful in determining courses that fulfill seventh grade requirements and when those courses can be scheduled.

**Note:** Some elective courses require mandatory attendance after the school day. Those elective courses should be discussed with the guidance counselors and teachers to best determine if you can fulfill the obligations of the elective course.

<i>Language Arts</i>	Language Arts	Honors Language Arts		
<i>Math</i>	Math 7	Pre Algebra A	Honors Algebra 1A	
<i>Science</i>	Life Science	Honors Life Science		
<i>Social Studies</i>	World Cultures and Geography	Honors World Cultures and Geography		
<i>Reading</i>	Reading 7 as assigned	Reading and Study Skills		
<i>Music</i>	JH Chorus, 7	JH Band, 7		
<i>1/4 Credit Courses</i>	Art	Careers	Consumer Science	Technology
<i>1/2 Credit Courses</i>	Physical Education (Required )	Music 7	Computers 7	
<i>1/2 Credit Band/Chorus</i>	Students wishing to take Band and Chorus may take a combination of a full credit music elective plus a 1/2 credit of band or chorus. Students MUST be enrolled in both music classes to qualify for the 1/2 option.			

**Note:** A student who chooses Band or Chorus will choose Physical Education and one additional 1/2 credit course. Students who are not in Band or Chorus must take Music 7.

## ART

### 7th Grade Art - 1/4 Credit—Mandatory Course

This introductory art class draws upon the fundamental disciplines that contribute to the understanding and making of art. Studio production activity units in drawing, painting and crafts are integrated with studies of works of art, artists, and art vocabulary to establish a rudimentary understanding of the nature and scope of art.

## CONSUMER SCIENCE

### 7th Grade Consumer Science –1/4 Credit—Mandatory Course

This course introduces students to concepts and practices that help them develop awareness to become savvy consumers. Subjects covered over the nine week course include self-concept and decision-making skills necessary to analyze buying decisions and patterns, advertising, money management, healthy food choices and nutrition. All concepts are developed further when the student continues with Consumer Science in 10th grade.

## COMPUTER LITERACY

### 7th Grade Computer Literacy - 1/2 Credit Elective

Computer Literacy 7 is a course that introduces/orientates the seventh grade students to the high school computer network and software that will be most pertinent and available throughout their high school careers. Students will also be taught basic typing techniques and introduced to the Micro Type software series that will hone their keyboarding skills. Students will also be educated on how to recognize potential Internet risks. They will learn about online risks such as cyber predators, cyberbullying, and the consequences from revealing personal information. Students will discuss and complete activities on how to make responsible decisions when facing potential online risks.

## LANGUAGE ARTS

### 7th Grade Language Arts - 1 Credit

This course is an integrated language arts program offering high quality traditional and contemporary literary selections in the following genres: short story, drama, nonfiction, poetry, myths, folk tales, and novels. Emphasis is placed on the reading and appreciation of literature as well as the writing process. Different types and styles of writing are studied. These

include composition, journaling, research, and

creative writing. All language arts skills, especially grammar and vocabulary, are addressed within the context of the literature.

### Honors 7th Grade Language Arts - 1 Credit

This course is offered to students who qualify for an accelerated study of Language Arts. The course is an integrated language arts program offering high quality traditional and contemporary literary selections in the following genres: short story, drama, non-fiction, poetry, myths, folk tales and novel. Emphasis is placed on the reading and appreciation of literature as well as on the writing process. Different types and styles of writing are studied. These include composition, journal, research, and creative writing. All language arts skills, especially grammar and vocabulary, are addressed within the context of the literature. A student's academic record and Standardized Test Scores are reviewed prior to acceptance into the course.

## MATHEMATICS

**Note:** A student must pass one Credit of Pre-Algebra in seventh and/ or eighth grade.

### Math 7 - 1 Credit

The Math 7-8 sequence prepares a student for high school mathematics courses by reviewing the fundamentals of arithmetic and introducing basic algebraic and geometric concepts. Students receive extensive practice with operations on different forms of numbers.

### Pre-Algebra A - 1 Credit

The Pre-Algebra A-B sequence prepares a student for Algebra I by reviewing the fundamentals of arithmetic and introducing algebraic concepts. Students receive extensive practice representing numbers in different forms. Students are introduced to the concept of a variable and learn how to solve basic equations. Real life applications are modeled with equations.

### Honors Algebra 1A - 1 Credit

The student develops an algebraic structure so as to build a foundation of principles related to the real number system. Sets, the number line, operations with polynomials, linear equations, and exponents are all covered.

## MUSIC

### 7th Grade Music - 1/2 credit elective

Students will learn The fundamentals of music theory including note values, clefs, time signatures key signatures, and notation of melodic and rhythmic patterns. An introduction of western culture music will also be presented. Initial introduction to the instruments of the orchestra, exploration of timbre and sound production, as well as a presentation on the families of instruments are an integral part of this course. Students **will** learn to identify by sight and sound all instruments of the modern symphonic orchestra. Broadway theatre is examined through observation of productions, discussions of plot, and identifying musical importance. Pennsylvania State Standards will be presented and upheld through this course of study. Students will be assessed through alternative assessment techniques such as self-critiques and group evaluations. Written exams, quizzes, and other more formal evaluations will also take place.

**Note:** Attendance at school concerts, outside of the posted school hours, may be integrated into the class as graded elements of the course. In the event of extreme scheduling hardships or situations, alternate assignments may be presented to the student.

### Junior High Chorus, Grade 7 - 1 Credit

This ensemble meets daily and is an elective for any student in 7th grade. Previous choral experience is not necessary, but all students must enjoy singing and performing. The Chorus performs a repertoire of unison and two part music as chosen from the guidelines set by the Pennsylvania State Standards.

- The music rehearsed and performed will be of the highest level, be from all periods of music history and will require the student to commit to musical excellence. Practicing at home may be required.
- This ensemble will perform publicly at least 3 times each academic year.
- Participation in each performance is mandatory and will be recorded as an exam grade.
- Failure to participate in a public performance will require a make-up exam. Exam requirements will be outlined in the course syllabus.
- Each student will be required to purchase a polo shirt to be worn for performances, field trips and other special events.
- Grades are based on daily participation in class, monthly vocal exams, all public performances, in class assessments, and occasional theory tests.

- Students will be required to attend concerts by other Lackawanna Trail ensembles, either at the high school or at the elementary center.

### Junior High Band, Grade 7 - 1 Credit

This is an elective course open to interested students with a background in performance and study of instrumental music of the band genre. Students without said background may request entrance in this course and will be considered by the Director of Bands on a case by case basis. Seventh grade band is designed to help students prepare for 8<sup>th</sup> grade band and beyond. The course will prepare the students to engage in and successfully execute a musically mature concert band program; the students will be trained in the art of small ensemble music and will be guided towards successful performance on their individual instrument as well as unified performance as an ensemble. This guidance will include individual playing tests, memorization, weekly pullout lessons, and daily individual practice. Pennsylvania State Standards will be presented and upheld through this course of study. Students will be assessed through alternative assessment techniques such as self-critiques and group evaluations. Scale tests, playing tests and other more formal evaluations will also take place. Daily practice is to be considered as homework.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

### Physical Education - 1/2 of Credit—Mandatory Course

This course is designed to help students improve their skills and their knowledge of various athletic and lifetime sports activities. Knowledge of rules and physical techniques will be explored. Class activities will directly involve students in experiences related to various sports and personal fitness techniques.

## READING

### Reading and Study Skills in the Content Areas - 1 Credit

This course is designed to better prepare students for the variety of reading tasks that will be required of them through their secondary school years. A major goal of this course is to help students develop both the study skills and the reading strategies that will allow them to read more effectively, to know what to look for as they are reading textual materials in other classes and to develop the skills necessary to do research and write papers and reports for their academic classes.

### Reading 7 - 1 Credit

This course provides students with developmental reading skills. Emphasis is placed on reading comprehension as well as written and verbal communication, study and research skills, listening skills, and theme related projects and assignments. Improving PSSA test scores will also be addressed. Students will be identified for the Seventh and Eighth Grade Reading Program based upon Standardized Test Scores (i.e. PSSA, AimsWeb, etc.) and/or teacher recommendation. This is a mandatory program for those students who are identified. Students whose test scores are at or above grade level will not be required to be enrolled.

## **SCIENCE**

### 7th Grade Life Science - 1 Credit

Life science students will be introduced to the study of biology. The major topics that will be covered are cellular biology, zoology, botany and ecology. Students will apply their knowledge by doing laboratory activities using microscopes, dissecting animals and preparing botanical collections. Cooperative learning will be a major part of seventh grade science.

### 7th Grade Honors Life Science - 1 Credit

Life science students are introduced to the study biology. The major topics that will be covered are cellular biology, zoology, botany and ecology. Students will apply their knowledge by doing laboratory activities using microscopes, dissecting animals and preparing botanical collections. Cooperative learning will be a major part of seventh grade science. Students are required to do supplemental reading and activities. A higher level of questioning is used and students are required to answer higher level thinking questions for class discussions, homework and on tests. Additional labs and related topics are included because of a faster pace of topics.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### 7th Grade World Cultures and Geography - 1 Credit

This course will introduce students to a number of non-Western Civilizations. The four main regions taught over the course of the year will include the Middle East, Africa, East Asia, and Latin America. The class will cover the historical, religious, and cultural aspects of the people of these regions, and offer students a better understanding of their impact on the world. Students will also be given a basic geographic understanding of the regions in which these civilizations developed. Map

exercises, topical discussions, lectures, presentations, and reading assignments will be employed to help the students better grasp the subject matter. The goal of this course is to present the history and cultures of non-Western peoples to the modern day.

### 7th Grade Honors World Cultures and Geography —1 Credit

This course will introduce students to a number of non-Western Civilizations. The four main regions taught over the course of the year will include the Middle East, Africa, East Asia, and Latin America. The class will cover the historical, religious, and cultural aspects of the people of these regions, and offer students a better understanding of their impact on the world. Students will also be given a basic geographic understanding of the regions in which these civilizations developed. Map exercises, topical discussions, lectures, presentations, and reading assignments will be employed to help the students better grasp the subject matter. The goal of this course is to present the history and cultures of non-Western peoples to the modern day.

This course is similar to the general World Cultures course. Differences include a faster pace and the opportunity to study certain topics in greater depth. The students will be required to research and write papers on specific cultural aspects of the areas studied.

## **TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION**

### 7th Grade Technology Education - 1/4 Credit—Mandatory Course

This course is designed to enable students to understand the influence of modern technology and technological systems on their lifestyles in the home, school and work environments. Instruction will be provided through hands-on laboratory based activities using modern hand tools and a limited amount of machinery to help build skills and confidence. Class activities will develop basic hand tool and problem solving skills. Course topics include: mechanical drawing, project design, woodworking, tower, boat hull, and vehicular design.

### 7th Grade Career Education - 1/4 Credit —Mandatory Course

Career Education is a one quarter course that gives students the opportunity to explore the various career areas that exist and introduces them to the realities of the workplace. Students will be encouraged to research careers that interest them, understand personal goal-setting, and decision-making patterns and attitudes. They will be made aware of their

own personal characteristics, interests, aptitudes, and skills and have an awareness of and respect for the diversity of the world of work. The course has high-interest features that engage students, enhance their understanding, and expand their involvement on the topic of careers with hands-on computer activities.

**EIGHTH GRADE COURSE SELECTIONS**

**Note:** Some elective courses require mandatory attendance after the school day. These elective courses should be discussed with the guidance counselors and teachers to best determine if you can fulfill the obligations of the elective course.

\* Denotes Keystone "trigger" course.

Language Arts	Language Arts	Honors Language Arts		
Math	Math 8	Pre Algebra B	* Honors Algebra 1B	
Science	Integrated Science	Honors Integrated Science		
Social Studies	* Civics	* Honors Civics		
Academic Performance	Academic Performance & Test Preparation	Reading 8 as assigned		
Music	JH Band, 8	JH Chorus, 8		
1/4 Credit Courses	Computer	Foreign Language	Health 8	Music 8
1/2 Credit Courses	Physical Education (Required)	Consumer Science	Technology 8	

1/2 Credit Band/Chorus Students wishing to take Band and Chorus may take a combination of a full credit music elective plus a 1/2 credit of band or chorus. Students MUST be enrolled in both music classes to qualify for the 1/2 option.

**CONSUMER SCIENCE**

8th Grade Consumer Science-1/2 Credit

Students continue their introduction to concepts that enhance everyday living skills. Topics covered include child development and basic money management, hand sewing, and basic cooking. A comprehensive sewing project of the student's choice is completed by the end of the course for credit. Cooking skills are interspersed throughout the year in conjunction with seasonal or holiday events.

**COMPUTER LITERACY**

8th Grade Computer Literacy - 114 Credit—Mandatory Course

This is a 9 week course designed to introduce students to a variety of computer applications. Students will learn the basics of proper keyboarding technique using Micro Type software. They will complete projects using Microsoft Visual Basic for computer programming, HTML for Web page design, and Microsoft Word for word processing. Students will also become familiar with computer terminology and be made aware of technology advancements going on in our society. Internet Safety will also be covered; including topics such as cyber bullying, viruses, filters, spyware, netiquette, identity theft, and social networking.

**FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

Exploratory French/Spanish - 1/4 of Credit—Mandatory Course

This course is designed to introduce students to each foreign language, French and Spanish. Students will learn basic conversational skills and vocabulary with an emphasis on listening and speaking in the target language.

**HEALTH EDUCATION**

8th Grade Health - 1/4 Credit—Mandatory Course

This course teaches the care and maintenance of one's overall wellness, which includes physical, social, and mental/emotional health. A wellness approach is utilized throughout to allow students to set positive goals for their personal health. Students will explore ideas of self esteem, peer pressure, social skills, and decision making skills needed to overcome these circumstances. Child Exploitation will also be covered.

## **LANGUAGE ARTS**

### **8th Grade Language Arts - 1 Credit**

This course focuses on concepts and skills of written and spoken communication. Emphasis is placed on reading and writing. Students read various genres and write in various styles and forms. Students will learn about various authors and writing styles.

They will also learn literary devices and apply this knowledge to their own writing. A reading and writing portfolio will be a course culminating activity.

### **8th Grade Honors Language Arts - 1 Credit**

This course is offered to students who would like an accelerated study of Language Arts. This course focuses on concepts and skills of written and spoken communication. Emphasis is placed on reading and writing. Students read various genres and write in various styles and forms. Students will learn about various authors and writing styles. They will also learn literary devices and

apply this knowledge to their own writing. Various projects involving research and creativity will be completed throughout. A reading and writing portfolio will be a course culminating activity.

## **MATHEMATICS**

### **Math 8 – 1 Credit**

This course is the second half of the Math 7-8 sequence and concludes a student's preparation for a senior high mathematics education.

### **Pre-Algebra B - 1 Credit**

This course is the second half of the Pre-Algebra A-B sequence and concludes a student's preparation for Algebra I.

### **Honors Algebra 1 B 1 Credit**

The student develops an algebraic structure so as to build a foundation of principles related to the real number system. Linear and quadratic equations, factors, exponents, and roots are all covered. This course culminates with the Keystone Algebra exam, which is a requirement for high school graduation.

## **MUSIC**

### **8th Grade Music - 1/4 credit elective—Mandatory Course**

This course will allow students to explore and understand the fundamental principles of basic music theory and

study the history of western culture music. This will include an intermediate study of music theory. Major scales, key signatures and interval relationships will be presented. This is a continuation of the theory unit from 7<sup>th</sup> grade music. Also presented as a continuation of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade course is the study of history of music with a stated goal of reaching 20<sup>th</sup> century and modern era music. Pennsylvania State Standards will be presented and upheld through this course of study. Students will be assessed through alternate assessment techniques such as self-critiques and group evaluations. Written exam, quizzes and other more formal evaluations will also take place.

**Note:** Attendance at school concerts, outside of the posted school hours, may be integrated into the class as graded elements of the course. In the event of extreme scheduling hardships or situations, alternate assignments may be presented to the student.

### **Junior High Chorus Grade 8 - 1 Credit**

This ensemble meets daily and is an elective for any student in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Previous choral experience is not necessary. But all students must enjoy singing and performing. The Chorus performs a repertoire of unison, two part and three part music chosen from the guidelines set by Pennsylvania State Standards.

- The music rehearsed and performed will be of the highest level, be from all periods of music history and will require the student to commit to musical excellence. Practicing at home may be required.
- This ensemble will perform publicly at least 3 times each academic year.
- Participation in each performance is mandatory and will be recorded as an exam grade.
- Failure to participate in a public performance will require a make-up exam. Exam requirements will be outlined in the course syllabus.
- Each student will be required to purchase a polo shirt to be worn for performances, field trips and other special events.
- Grades are based on daily participation in class, monthly vocal exams, all public performances, in class assessments, and occasional theory tests.
- Students will be required to attend concerts by other Lackawanna Trail ensembles, either at the high school or at the elementary center.

### Junior High Band, Grade 8 - 1 Credit

This is an elective course open to interested students with a background in performance and study of instrumental music of the band genre. Students without said background may request entrance in this course and will be considered by the Director of Bands on a case by case basis. Seventh grade band is designed to help students prepare for concert band and other senior high ensembles during their high school career and the progression into these ensembles is anticipated. This course will prepare the students to engage in and successfully execute a musically mature concert band program; the students will be trained in the art of small ensemble music and will be guided towards successful performance on their individual instrument as well as unified performance as an ensemble. This guidance will include individual playing tests, memorization, weekly pullout lessons, and daily individual practice. Students will be assessed through alternative assessment techniques such as self-critiques and group evaluations. Scale tests, playing tests and other more formal evaluations will also take place. Daily practice is to be considered as homework.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

### Physical Education - 1/2 of Credit—Mandatory Course

This course is designed to help students improve their skills and their knowledge of various athletic and lifetime sports activities. Knowledge of rules and physical techniques will be explored. Class activities will directly involve students in experiences related to various sports and personal fitness techniques.

## **READING**

### Reading 8 - 1 Credit

This course is designed to familiarize students with the concepts and skills associated with reading. Emphasis will be placed on written and verbal communication and comprehension. Students will learn study methods, techniques of developing report-writing skills and to read to follow directions via special projects. Students will develop good listening habits and read a variety of novels to practice good reading habits. Students identified for the Seventh and Eighth Grade Reading Program will be included based upon Standardized Test Scores (i.e. PSSA, AimsWeb, etc.) and/or teacher recommendation. This is a mandatory program for those students who are identified. Students may test out of the program. Students whose test scores are at or above grade level will not be required to be enrolled.

## **SCIENCE**

### 8th Grade Integrated Science - 1 Credit

This course will provide students with a hands-on approach to learning the many disciplines of science. The course will focus on Physical Science, Biological Science, and Earth and Space Science. The course will tie these disciplines together using the "Nature of Science," and fundamental scientific theories, to develop the student's investigative skills and problem-solving ability within the previously mentioned disciplines of Science.

### 8th Grade Honors Integrated Science - 1 Credit

This course will provide students with a hands-on approach to learning the many disciplines of science. The course will focus on Physical Science, Biological Science, and Earth and Space Science. The course will tie these disciplines together using the "Nature of Science," and fundamental scientific theories, to develop the student's investigative skills and problem-solving ability within the previously mentioned arenas of Science.

This course is similar to the general Integrated Science course. Differences include a faster pace and the opportunity to study certain topics in greater depth. Additional lab work and research opportunities will supplement the general Integrated Science curriculum.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### 8th Grade Civics and Government - 1 Credit

This course has been developed to give Junior High School students a basic understanding of the functions and responsibilities of citizens in a democratic society. Students will be introduced to the basic structure of government and how they function in that system. The course is aligned to the projected requirements of the Keystone examination for Civics and Government.

### 8th Grade Honors Civics and Government -1 Credit

This course has been developed to give Junior High School students a basic understanding of the functions and responsibilities of citizens in a democratic society. Students will be introduced to the basic structure of government and how they function in that system. The course is aligned to the projected requirements of the Keystone examination for Civics and

depth study will augment the basic Civics and Government curriculum.

### **TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION**

#### **8th Grade Technology Education - 1/2 Credit Elective**

This course builds on the foundation set in seventh grade technology education. Students will further expand their understanding of the influence of modern technology and technological systems on their lifestyles at home, school, and in work environments. Instruction will be provided through hands-on laboratory based activities using modern hand tools and a limited amount of machinery to help build skills and confidence. Class activities will develop and focus on more advanced problem solving skills in the following areas: architectural/mechanical design, propulsion, woodworking, transportation, and structures.

### **ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE**

#### **Academic Performance and Test Preparation-1/2 Credit**

This course is required of all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and will consist of test-preparation and test-taking strategies for English Language Arts (ELA), 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics, and, 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science. The course is directly linked to the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) test that is required of all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and is designed to assist students in the application of learned course material. The strategies discussed in this class will also prepare students for taking PSATs, SATs, ACTs, and similar standardized testing.

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