

2018-2019 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 requirements for your education in accordance with the Lackawanna Trail School Board of Education and the Pennsylvania State Department of Education.

It is important for you to include your parents, teachers, and school counselors, in the course selection process. Your communication with them will help to ensure that you have the necessary information to select appropriate courses for your academic study.

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 classes. I 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. I look forward to meeting you to discuss additional activities that are available to you during the annual class meetings and orientations.

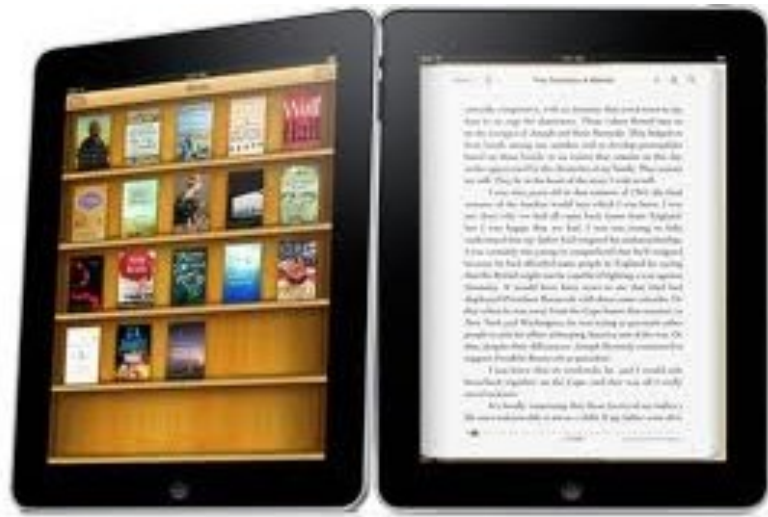
On behalf of the LTHS faculty and staff, I would like to wish you all the best for a successful year at Lackawanna Trail Jr. Sr. High School.

Dr. Mark P. Murphy
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. Changes 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 course.
- 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.

The Guidance department will accept course requests during June and July, and return inquiries during the month of August with a finalized schedule.

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 upon their return.



HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Regular Schedule			Academic Mentoring Schedule		
Period 1	7:45-8:29		Period 1	7:45-8:29	
Period 2	8:32-9:14		Period 2	8:29-9:04	
Period 3	9:17-9:59		Period 3	9:07-9:45	
Period 4	10:02-10:44		Period 4	9:48-10:26	
Period 5	10:47-11:27	1 st Lunch	Period 5	10:29-11:07	1 st Lunch
Period 6	11:30-12:10	2 nd Lunch	Period 6	11:10-11:48	2 nd Lunch
Period 7	12:13-12:53	3 rd Lunch	Period 7	11:51-12:29	3 rd Lunch
Period 8	12:56-1:38		Period 8	12:32-1:10	
Period 9	1:41-2:23		Period 9	1:13-1:51	
			Period 10	1:54-2:25	Academic Mentoring

2 Hour Delay Schedule

Period 1	9:45-10:12		Period 7	12:23-12:56	3 rd Lunch
Period 2	10:15-10:40		Period 8	12:59-1:24	
Period 3	10:43-11:08		Period 9	1:27-1:52	
*Period 5	11:11-11:44	1 st Lunch	*Period 4	1:55-2:23	
Period 6	11:47-12:20	2 nd Lunch			

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 10th 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 and refers that information to various invention programs when necessary. Academic mentors will also provide instruction relative to academic success, executive functioning, and social skills, in grades 7-9, and college and career readiness (i.e. resume writing, interview skills, college and/or career applications) in grades 10-12.

The 10 period schedule is also used for special presentations and assemblies, such as pep rallies and holiday concerts. Mentoring and Advisory days are advertised to the students by homeroom teachers and during morning announcements.

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 mid-term 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)
- PVAAS projection score commensurate with honors coursework and course grade.
- 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
- PVAAS projection score commensurate with honors coursework and course grade.
- 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 have 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. Students in junior high school may encounter Keystone Exams if they are enrolled in Algebra and/or Civics. The Keystone Exams are standardized assessments given at the time of course completion and are a separate exam to the PSSA.

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 participate 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):

1. On the parent sign on screen, click to create a new account. (You 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) 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 school counselors and teachers to best determine if you can fulfill the obligations of the elective course.

<u>Language Arts</u>	Language Arts 7	Honors Language Arts 7		
<u>Math</u>	Math 7	Pre Algebra A	Honors Algebra 1A	
<u>Science</u>	Life Science	Honors Life Science		
<u>Social Studies</u>	World Cultures and Geography	Honors World Cultures and Geography		
<u>Reading</u>	Reading 7, as assigned			
<u>Music</u>	JH Chorus, 7	JH Band, 7		
<u>1/4 Credit Courses</u>	Music 7	Technology 7	Art 7	Careers 7
<u>1/4 or 1/3 Credit Courses</u>	Physical Education (Required)			
<u>1/2 Credit Band/Chorus</u>	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 three additional 1/4 credit courses. 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.

LANGUAGE ARTS

7th Grade English 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 English 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, Standardized Test Scores, and PVAAS Projections are reviewed prior to acceptance into the course.

MATHEMATICS

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. A student's academic record, Standardized Test Scores, and PVAAS Projections are reviewed prior to acceptance into the course.

MUSIC

7th Grade Music - 1/4 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.

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 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 8th 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.

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.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education - 1/4 or 1/3 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 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 inclusive to 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 inclusive to 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 SELECTION

Language Arts	English Language Arts 8	Honors English Language Arts 8		
Math	Math 8	Pre Algebra B	* Honors Algebra 1B	
Science	Integrated Science	Honors Integrated Science		
Social Studies	Civics	Honors Civics		
Supplemental Instruction	Supplemental ELA, Math, Science, as assigned	Reading 8, as assigned		
Music	JH Band, 8	JH Chorus, 8		
1/4 Credit Courses	Computers Lit. 8	Consumer Science	Spanish 8	French 8
1/2 Credit Courses	Physical Education / Health 8			
<u>1/2 Credit Band/Chorus</u>	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: 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.

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 - 1/4 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 - Mandatory Component of Phys. Ed. 7 & 8

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.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

8th Grade English 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 English 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. A student's academic record, Standardized Test Scores, and PVAAS Projections are reviewed prior to acceptance into the course.

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. A student's academic record, Standardized Test Scores, and PVAAS Projections are reviewed prior to acceptance into the course.

MUSIC

8th Grade Music - 1/4 credit elective

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 7th grade music. Also presented as a continuation of the 7th grade course is the study of history of music with a stated goal of reaching 20th 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 8th 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.

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 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.

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.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education - .5 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. A student's academic record, Standardized Test Scores, and PVAAS Projections are reviewed prior to acceptance into the course.

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 Government. An accelerated pace and more in-depth study will augment the basic Civics and Government curriculum.

STEM EDUCATION

This course is an integrated component of the Math/Science 8 curriculum series. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) curriculum will focus on the application and extension of applied concepts learned through interdisciplinary classroom instruction. Activities will provide students with the opportunity to use their knowledge and skills in a hands-on, lab-based environment that extends the eighth grade content standards beyond direct instruction.

**SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION
FOR ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE**

Supplemental Instruction for ELA, Math, or Science - 1/3 Credit

These courses a required intervention periods for 8th grade students who have not demonstrated proficiency on standardized assessments and have availability in their schedule. The courses will consist of added instruction and remediation for English Language Arts (ELA), 8th Grade Mathematics, and, 8th grade Science. The course is directly linked to 8th grade content standards that are required of all 8th grade students and are designed to assist students in the application of learned course material.

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