

ALBANY AREA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL REGISTRATION MANUAL

ART

Art 7

Required: 1 block for 1 qtr.

Offered: every quarter

Through two and three dimensional art projects, students will be introduced to the elements and principles of art. Art History and Art Appreciation are integral components of student learning within the various units of this class.

Art 8

Required: .5 block for 1 qtr.

Offered: every quarter

Art - 8 builds upon the introduction provided to media in Art - 7. Students experience, via projects and classroom presentation, additional ideas, methods, and techniques of artistic expression. Art appreciation and art history are taught within the various units in the different media.

BUSINESS ED/ COMPUTER

Keyboarding 7

Required: .5 block for 1 qtr.

Offered: every quarter

This course is designed to enhance keyboarding skills that were learned at the elementary level. Keyboarding review drills for technique, accuracy and speed will be stressed. Proper technique and posture are stressed this quarter. Speed and accuracy are evaluated at the end of the term.

Computer Literacy 8

Required: .5 block for 1 qtr.

Offered: every quarter

This course offers the opportunity to review word processing skills and learn more advanced features of word processing applications. Spreadsheet and database applications and their features and functions will then be introduced as students work through designed application exercises. While keyboarding technique and speed are still a part of this class, proofreading and quality work become more important.

ENGLISH

Seventh Grade English (Language Arts - 7)

Required: .5 block for 4 qtrs.

Offered: Qtrs. 1- 4

Prerequisite: None

Building on the foundations of the elementary grades, students will explore the elements of literature through reading and writing: short stories, novels (Fever 1793), nonfiction, biography, poetry and drama. Our textbook is Holt McDougal Literature. Composition in the 7th grade places emphasis on creative writing and paragraphing skills. Students learn grammar and vocabulary through direct instruction and grammar in context.

Eighth Grade English (Language Arts - 8)

Required: .5 block for 4 qtrs.

Offered: Qtrs. 1 - 4

Prerequisite: None

Eighth graders will continue to read and write about a variety of literature (e.g., short stories, a novel: And Then There Were None, nonfiction, poetry, and drama.) The textbook is Holt McDougal Literature. Composition consists of creative writing, the 5 - paragraph composition, and the formal research process. Students continue learning grammar and vocabulary through direct instruction and grammar in context.

ADSIS Read 180 (7 & 8)

Offered: .5 block

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Read 180 is a reading intervention program designed to help students strengthen their individual reading skills. Students will not register for this class, but may be assigned to it based on STAR and MCA scores.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Introduction to French

Offered: 0.5 block, 1 qtr.

Elective Course: Gr. 8

Prerequisite: None

This is an introductory course in French language and culture. Areas of learning include: the beginning of reading, speaking, understanding, and the writing of French. Emphasis is placed on learning oral skills. Students will learn about elements of French culture and traditions such as holidays, songs, and customs. (This offering is subject to recission/drop due to budget limitations.)

Introduction to Spanish

Elective Course: Gr. 8

Offered: .5 block, 1 qtr.

Prerequisite: none

This is an introductory course in Spanish language and culture. Areas of learning include: the beginning of reading, speaking, understanding, and the writing of Spanish. Emphasis is placed on learning oral skills. Students will learn about elements of Spanish and Mexican culture and traditions such as holidays, songs, customs.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE

“A taste of FACS” - Grade 8

Required: Gr.8, .5 block for 1 qtr.

Offered: quarterly

Prerequisite: None

This is a teen skills class meant to introduce all the senior high classes offered in the FACS department. During the class, we have a babysitting unit in which students will take care of a small child outside of the school day. The students will learn some child management skills and developmental needs of children. They will learn to prepare easy to make healthy foods appropriate to feed small children. Here they will also learn some measuring math and nutrition. The students will do some simple machine sewing, making a quilt patch which will be used in a quilt top to be donated to a charity of their collective choice. Other life skills they will learn include: SCAN and social skills, spending and saving money.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

Technology Education 7:

Design and Modeling

Required: Gr 7, .5 1 qtr

Offered: Qtrs 1-4

Students apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They work in teams to design a playground and furniture, capturing research and ideas in their engineering notebooks. Using Autodesk® design software, students create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their innovative solutions.

Technology Education 8:

Automation and Robotics

Required: Gr. 8, .5 block for 1qtr.

Offered: every quarter

Prerequisite: Tech Ed 7

Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer,

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machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

MATHEMATICS

Enriched Math 7 Placement

Criteria - Students must meet 2 out of 3 criteria listed to qualify for Enriched math placement. (Teacher signature required)

1. Received an 660 or higher on MCA III in grade 6
2. Received a 870 or higher on STAR assessment
3. Received A-/A in grade 6 math

Mathematics 7

Required: Gr. 7, .5 for 4 qtrs.

Offered: Qtrs. 1 - 4

Students in Math 7 will develop and enrich their understanding of math as they study the topics of integers, rational and real numbers, proportions, similarity and percent, and statistics and probability. In addition, the algebra topics of equations, inequalities and linear functions will be developed and explored.

Math 7* (Alternative to math 7)

Required: .5 block for 4 qtrs.

Offered: Qtrs. 1 - 4

Prerequisite: 6th grade teacher recommendation only and low test scores on standardized tests.

In this course the Math 7 curriculum is modified to adjust the rigor to a slower pace. Main topics include: integers, patterns, graphs, expressions and equations, angle measure, ratios, rates and similarity, squares, square roots, Pythagorean Theorem, one variable data, percent & circle graphs, and two variable data.

Math 7 Geometry

Required: All 7th grade students who are enrolled in Math 7 or Math 7* (Students in Advanced Math 7 do not enroll for this class)

Offered: (.5 block for one quarter (tentatively offered every quarter)

This additional math requirement provides an opportunity for students to review and extend their understanding of geometric topics. Terminology, properties, and relationships of basic geometric shapes will be explored. Areas and perimeters of two-dimensional geometry and volumes and surface areas of three-dimensional shapes will also be studied.

Advanced Math - 7

Elective: Gr. 7, .5 block for 4 qtrs

Offered: Qtrs. 1- 4

Prerequisite: see below

Students in this class will be challenged as they prepare for a rigorous course of algebra in 8th grade. Pre-algebra concepts will be emphasized. Topics include integers, rational & real numbers, proportions, similarity and percent, geometry and measurement, statistics and probability, and linear equations and functions. Because the nature of the course is intensive, both parent and 6th grade teacher recommendations are needed.

Enriched Math 8 Placement

Criteria - Students must meet 2 out of 3 criteria listed to qualify for Enriched math placement. (Teacher signature required)

4. Received an 760 or higher on MCA III in grade 6
5. Received a 894 or higher on STAR assessment
6. Received B- or better in grade 7 math

Intro Algebra I (Alternative to Algebra 8)

Requirement: .5 block, 4 qtrs.

Prerequisite: Math 7* or 7th grade math teacher recommendation

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Offered: Quarters 1 - 4

Students will be introduced to the required algebra topics of Algebra 8 with the remaining concepts being developed in 9th grade Algebra, or Pre-algebra. Topics are introduced at a slower pace, and are not as in depth as those concepts developed in Algebra 8.

Algebra I

Elective: Gr. 8, .5 block, 4 qtrs.

Offered: Qtrs. 1 - 4

Prerequisite: Math 7

The Algebra 8 class initiates the learning of required Algebra topics, with the remaining concepts being developed in the 9th grade Algebra course. Main concepts involve generating, manipulating, and analyzing problems involving real numbers, algebraic expressions, linear functions, inequalities and coordinate and non-coordinate geometry. This class does not follow the rigor of a traditional Algebra class, but will meet the state standards for eighth grade Algebra.

Enriched Algebra I

Elective: Gr. 8, .5 block, 4 qtrs.

Offered: Qtrs. 1 - 4

Prerequisite: Adv. Math 7
or teacher recommendation

The rigorous content of Advanced Algebra 8 will highly challenge students in order to prepare them for the enriched high school math sequence. Students must master problems involving real numbers, algebraic expressions, linear and non-linear functions, inequalities, factoring, coordinate and non-coordinate geometry.

MUSIC EDUCATION

Choir 7

Required: Gr. 7, .5 block, 4 qtrs.

Offered: every quarter

Beginning Choral experience builds on theory and voice training from sixth grade classroom music. Choral students will learn to read standard choral music in both unison and parts in ranges appropriate for their changing voices in a gender separated classroom. Seventh grade choir will usually feature two public performances. This is an opportunity for students to perform, to face an audience, and to feel good about what they have accomplished.

Choir 8

Required: Gr. 8 .5 block, 4 qtrs.

Offered: every quarter
Eighth Grade Choir builds on the choral experience from 7th grade choir, moving to a mixed gender classroom. Eighth grade singers continue to explore a wider variety of choral literature. The eighth grade choir will usually present two public performances annually, and may participate in a festival.

Ensembles and solos may also be part of the eighth grade choir experience. This is an opportunity build on the performance accomplishments established in seventh grade.

Band Grade 7

Required: Gr. 7, .5 block, 4 qtrs.

Offered: every quarter

Seventh grade band meets everyday for 1/2 block or 41 minutes. In addition, each student receives a group lesson every 1 1/2 weeks. This lesson is given during band rehearsal. Students who have study hall may use this time for individual practice, make-up lessons, or lesson redo's. Students are graded on lessons, rhythm counting and playing exams of their band music. The band performs two major concerts during the school year. Selected students and groups will perform for the spring recital concert.

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given during band rehearsal. Students who have study hall may use this time for individual practice, make-up lessons, or lesson redo's. Students are graded on lessons, rhythm counting, and playing exams of their band music. The band performs two major concerts during the school year. Eighth grade band students also perform solos and ensembles for the spring recital concert.

Physical Education and Health

Health 7/Project Alert

Required: 1 block for 1/2 qtr.

Offered: Qtrs. 2 or 3

This curriculum addresses adolescent learner outcomes in four areas: mental health (e.g., feelings, emotions & behaviors, positive self-concept, personalities and understanding others, communication skills, emotional stress, responsibilities-choices-consequences in decision-making, and suicide prevention); family and social concerns (e.g., change agents in family structure, and family influence on personality); and chemical health concerns (e.g., knowledge of the effects of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, chemical use prevention, dependency, and treatment. The goal of Project Alert is to reduce the use of dangerous substances by keeping nonusers from trying these substances and by discouraging experimenters from becoming regular users. Values and choices (e.g., physical and emotional changes of puberty, sources of accurate information about A.I.D.S., and understanding the language of HIV/A.I.D.S.), behaviors and alternatives for healthy life-style, peer pressure, differences, anxiety-fear, and decision-making based on personal and family values are discussed. The students will be studying a short unit on the disease, A.I.D.S. This is an abstinence-based unit dealing with the pathology of A.I.D.S., the modes of its transmission, and the skill of making healthy decisions. There will also be a unit on human sexuality. It too is an abstinence-based program promoting the values of equality, self-control, promise-keeping, responsibility, respect, honesty, and social justice, as they relate to human sexuality. "Values and Choices", the first seven lessons, will be used/studied. They are as follows:
#1 Link self-esteem to sexuality;

- #2 Definition of the values the course is built on;
- #3 Physical changes and labeling body parts;
- #4 Emotions as they relate to sexual attraction;
- #5 Likenesses and differences of sexes and their roles and rights;
- #6 Decision-making skills; and
- #7 Dating and risky decisions.

Health 8

Required: 1 block for 1/2 qtr.

Offered: Qtrs. 2 or 3

The eighth grade curriculum addresses learner outcomes in the areas of: Positive mental health (e.g., personality types, communication skills, sources of stress, decision-making skills, suicide prevention, and responsibilities); sexual health outcomes (e.g., values and choices, abstinence as the best choice, refusal skills, choices based on personal and family values, sexually transmitted diseases, and A.I.D.S.); family social health and sexual harassment outcomes (e.g., sexual harassment victims, stereotypes, school regulations, federal and state laws); safety health outcomes (e.g., safety hazards, daily practices, basic first aid); and physical health outcomes (e.g., body systems, prevention, and diseases). [Source: the Learner Outcomes of the new, approved Health 8 curriculum.] Students will be studying a short unit on the disease A.I.D.S. It is an abstinence-based unit dealing with the pathology of A.I.D.S., modes of transmission, and the skills of making healthy decisions. Students will also study a unit on human sexuality. It too is an abstinence-based program promoting the values of sexuality, self-control, promise-keeping responsibility, respect, honesty and social justice, as they relate to human sexuality. "Values and Choices", the last eight lessons, will be studied in this grade level. They are as follows: Lesson #8. Reasons to "say no"; #9. Prenatal development and child birth; #10. Choices for the future; #s 11 & 12. Teenage pregnancy, marriage and parenthood; #13. Sexually transmitted diseases; #14. and Sexual Abuse; #15.

Physical Education 7 - 8

Required: Both Gr. 7 - 8

Offered: 13.5 weeks, one block, in each grade. Semester 1 or 2

Our emphases in physical education is on learning fundamental skills necessary for participating in a variety of sports, games, and

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lifetime fitness activities. Our purpose of the program is to develop an enthusiasm for sports and related health activities. We stress throwing, jumping, running, striking, catching, and kicking. The basic rules for playing and understanding various games are also an integral part of the program as a lead-up to greater involvement in later years of school. An additional part of our program is a regular exercise series; most of it is intended to aid the student's gain in strength, flexibility, endurance, and agility. Students will also participate in a variety of recreational games and the Presidential Physical Fitness Program .

Students will continue to learn about the history and nature of science. Students will review the steps of the scientific method in scientific inquiry. We study the theory of plate tectonics and how it is correlated to the effects of earthquakes and volcanoes. The fact that the earth's surface is constantly changing will be emphasized through weathering, erosion and deposition. Students will learn about the rock cycle and the many minerals that make up these rocks. Students will use the information learned about the atmosphere to make predictions about weather events and climatic changes.

SCIENCE

7th Grade Science

Required: 1 block, 2 qtrs.

Offered: Qtrs. 1 & 3 or 2 & 4

Students are introduced to the history and nature of science through the use of technology. Scientific measurement and the tools utilized by scientists are emphasized. Students will follow the steps of the scientific method in a scientific inquiry. Cells are studied with an emphasis on respiration and photosynthesis. Microscopes are used to study unicellular and multi cellular organisms. Students will learn how all organisms are classified. Heredity is learned with a focus on dominant and recessive traits. The themes of probability, chromosomes, DNA, and inheritance patterns in humans are discussed. Diversity of organisms is examined along with organisms interaction, behavioral responses, and adaptations. Students will identify factors relating to the transfer of energy in our ecosystems including predator/prey, parasite /host, and producer/consumer characteristics. A look at the diversity of species will extend to biological populations over time - how humans have impacted the extinction of animals, our natural resources, and changes in our environment. Students are introduced to the identification and function of human body systems.

8th Grade Science

Required: 1 block, 2 qtrs.

Offered: Qtrs. 1 & 3 or 2 & 4

SOCIAL STUDIES

US Studies 7

Required: 1 block, 2 qtrs.

Offered: Qtrs. 1 & 3 or 2 & 4

Grade 7 features history as the lead discipline with a strong secondary emphasis on citizenship and government. The interdisciplinary "Studies" approach is further enhanced with important economics and geography content that round out the study of United States history. Students learn about people, issues and events of significance to this nation's history from 1800 to the current era of globalization. They examine the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and Supreme Court decisions for their lasting impact on the American people, economy and governance structure. Students study civics and economic principles in depth, drawing connections between these disciplines and history to explain the impact of various policies on how people lived, worked and functioned in society. They create and use detailed maps of places in the United States and conduct historical inquiry on a topic in the nation's history.

Global Studies 8

Required: 1 block, 2 qtrs.

Offered: Qtrs. 1 & 3 or 2 & 4

Global Studies focuses on seven geographic regions of the World. Physical, economic and cultural aspects will be explored in each region. In addition, recent history in each of the areas will also be explored in relation to each geographic region.