

JUNIOR HIGH COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE

Lackawanna Trail Junior High School



2023-2024 School Year

Lions,

Welcome to those of you who are beginning your 7th grade year at the Junior-Senior High School and Welcome Back to those of you who are returning as 8th graders! I am truly excited about the 2023-2024 school year and all it has to offer. We have many academic and extracurricular offerings for you to take part in. Please make the best possible use of your time in Junior High School and let us know how we can assist you on your journey!

The Jr. High School Course Description Guide was created in order to provide an overview of the topics that you will study throughout your 7th and 8th grade years. It is reflective of the requirements for your education in accordance with the Lackawanna Trail School Board of Education and the Pennsylvania State Department of Education. Please take time to read over this material carefully with your parent/guardian and school counselor as you prepare for the start of school in the fall.

On behalf of the Lackawanna Trail faculty and staff, we wish you all the best for a successful year.

Dr. Mark P. Murphy

Principal

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A GUIDE TO SELECTING YOUR SUBJECTS

Prior to selecting courses with your school counselor:

1. You should evaluate your personal strengths, interests, aptitudes, and needs.
2. You should establish personal goals with the assistance of your parents.
3. You should set specific academic goals and objectives for your 7th and 8th grade years.

Then:

1. You should select the courses and subjects that will contribute most towards helping you achieve the goals you have established for yourself.

SCHEDULE CHANGE REQUESTS

Course selections are an important part of the student experience at Lackawanna Trail. Core courses are chosen for you based on the requirements of junior-senior high school and prior academic achievement, but there are several electives that you may choose based on your interests, aptitude, and future college and career plans. Requests for changes in your schedule may be made through the guidance department and your school counselor. Schedule changes are not guaranteed, however, and cannot be made without administrative approval.

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. Such changes cannot be accommodated. 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 grade promotion.
- The request is the result of courses taken during the summer session.
- The teacher and/or counselor determine a student is placed in an inappropriate class.

If you feel that you have a valid request for a schedule change, as previously outlined, the request must be made in writing and signed by your parent/guardian. A form for schedule changes can be found in the Guidance Department. The guidance department will review your request after consultation with your parent/guardian before seeking administrative approval.

ABSENT STUDENT HOMEWORK POLICY

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. If your child is expected to miss three (3) or more consecutive days of school due to illness or another excused absence, please notify the main office by emailing lthsattend@ltsd.org. Missed assignments can often be collected through the Google Classroom but completing work asynchronously does not count as having attended class for attendance purposes. Students must be physically or virtually present to be considered in attendance. The office staff will assist with collecting any work that cannot be provided electronically.

Students will have one day for every excused day of absence to make up work missed.



HIGH SCHOOL BELL SCHEDULE

Regular Schedule		2 Hour Delay		3 Hour Delay (A)		3 Hour Delay (B)	
Homeroom 7:40am-7:45am		Homeroom 9:40am-9:45am		Homeroom 10:40am-10:45am		Homeroom 10:40am-10:45am	
Period 1	7:45-8:27	Period 1	9:45-10:13				
Period 2	8:30-9:12	Period 2	10:16-10:44	Period 5	10:45-11:19	Period 5	10:45-11:19
Period 3	9:15-9:57	Period 3	10:47-11:15	Period 6	11:22-11:56	Period 6	11:22-11:56
Period 4	10:00-10:42	Period 5	11:18-11:48	Period 7	11:59-12:33	Period 7	11:59-12:33
Period 5	10:45-11:27	Period 6	11:51-12:21	Period 8	12:36-1:10	Period 2	12:36-1:10
Period 6	11:30-12:12	Period 7	12:24-12:54	Period 9	1:13-1:47	Period 3	1:13-1:47
Period 7	12:15-12:57	Period 8	12:57-1:25	Period 1	1:50-2:25	Period 4	1:50-2:25
Period 8	1:00-1:42	Period 9	1:28-1:56	PM Announcements	2:27-2:30		2:27-2:30
Period 9	1:45-2:27	Period 4	1:59-2:27				
PM Announcements	2:27-2:30		2:27-2:30				

Academic Mentoring Schedule			
Period 1	7:40-8:23	Period 6	11:10-11:48
Period 2	8:26-9:04	Period 7	11:51-12:29
Period 3	9:07-9:45	Period 8	12:32-1:10
Period 4	9:48-10:26	Period 9	1:13-1:51
Period 5	10:29-11:07	Period 10	1:54-2:30

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 (i.e. math, ELA, Science, History) must be satisfactorily completed for promotion to the next grade level.
- Additional electives are required during the students 7th and 8th grade year (i.e. computer, music, art, technology, health and PE).
- Student scheduling and academic placements are based on prior academic achievement. All previous standardized exams and benchmarking assessments are taken into consideration as well as class performance.

GRADING SYSTEM

A numerical grading system is used at the Jr. / Sr. High School. The specific earned percentage will be reported to parents/guardians 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 directly into the quarter average. Teachers determine the scope of assessment required for 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 or 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/Guardian requests will not be considered without the aforementioned pre-qualifications.

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/Guardian requests will not be considered without the aforementioned pre-qualifications.
- A Passing score on Summer Reading assessments will be required to remain in honors ELA coursework.

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/guardian 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 Main Office at the beginning of the school year. A new request is required each year.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Pennsylvania 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, or an alternative pathway defined by the Department of Education, 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 will examine alternative pathways, established by the Department of Education.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

The Lackawanna Trail School District utilizes the Smart Futures software to facilitate College and Career Readiness learning, document progress made by our students toward career exploration, and assist them in making their post-secondary choices. College and Career Readiness is part of the larger Chapter 4 regulations for Career Readiness Indicators. Student indicators for College and Career Readiness are reported annually as part of the Future Ready PA Index and ESSA Accountability. All students in grades K-12 are required to document approximately two (2) artifacts per year. College and career activities culminate in a portfolio review in the student's eighth and eleventh grade year. A completed senior portfolio is also a requirement for graduation. See your school counselor for more information on College and Career Readiness and the Smart Futures software.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL)

The Lackawanna Trail School District will utilize the Collaborative for Social-Emotional Learning (CASEL) framework to promote and instruct students' social, emotional, and academic development across the following competencies:

1. Self-Awareness
2. Self-Management
3. Social Awareness
4. Relationship Skills
5. Responsible Decision-Making

Specifically, the Lackawanna Trail Jr. Sr. High School utilizes the Navigate 360 software and the School-Connect curriculum to supplement instruction in each of the aforementioned competencies. Additional SEL programming may be provided that is not assessed as part of the required curriculum.

STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (MMS)

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

If you have previously held a Parent Portal Account with us, click "I have forgotten my password." This is the option to select even if you have your password available. Enter your email address and select the option to generate a new password. Then retrieve the password from your email and login using those credentials. You will be directed to create your own password before proceeding further. Your student(s) information should appear after you have logged in.

If you have never had a Parent Portal Account with us, click "I DO NOT have an Account Registered on the Parent Portal" to setup your new account. Enter the following information EXACTLY as described below:

Parent Name: This is the first name you entered on your summer mailing paperwork
Parent Email address: This is the email address you provided on your summer mailing paperwork
Student's ID Number: This is also your student's lunch code

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 FOCUS 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 hyper-linked in the MMS Focus Portal (<https://ltsd.focusschoolsoftware.com/focus/auth/>).

Please note that MMS FOCUS has a fully integrated mobile application available for you to download and use as well. The App is called "FOCUS PA." You are able to use the same login credentials on the App as you do in the web-based version.

ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORM

The Lackawanna Trail Junior-Senior High School utilizes the web-based platform Google Classroom for online learning. Teachers use this platform to communicate course expectations and announcements, deliver instruction during virtual learning days, collect and return student work, assess and communicate students' progress, and provide academic resources and support.

Parents/Guardians may request Guardian access to their student's Google Classrooms. To do so, please contact the individual teacher and provide them with your email address.

Jr. High PBIS (POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS)

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a proactive, multi-tiered approach to student behavior management that promotes appropriate student behavior and increased learning.

The purpose of our JH PBIS Program is to teach and model expected behavior in an effort to improve the social, emotional, behavioral, and academic outcomes for all of our students.

The Lackawanna Trail Jr. Sr. High School's motto follows the elementary center's PBIS acronym (R.O.A.R): JH students are provided lessons on how to be *Respectful*, *Organized*, *Accepting*, and *Responsible* at the Jr. High level. Each is broken down into expected behaviors in the following areas of the school: Classroom Expectations, Hallways Lockers and Class Transitions, Cafeteria Expectations, Digital Responsibilities, Bus Expectations, and more.

How does the R.O.A.R. system work?

R.O.A.R. expectations are directly taught through lessons at the beginning of each school year, and through teachable moments on a regular basis. Additional supports and interventions are provided to any student who continues to struggle with any of the expected R.O.A.R. behaviors. Students are provided with incentives for consistently demonstrating the expected behaviors as part of this program.

SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

The school counseling department at Lackawanna Trail Junior-Senior High School consists of two counselors, a counseling secretary, and a counseling support professional. The school counseling department services all students in grades 7-12. School Counselors are in charge of all academic, college, and social/emotional aspects of student growth & support.

The school counseling department is also assisted by a full-time school-based social worker.

Lackawanna Trail School Counseling Mission Statement

The mission of the counselors of the LTSD is to provide high-quality, comprehensive school counseling services to all students. School counselors are professional school advocates who provide support to maximize student potential and academic achievement as well as enhance their career, social, and personal strengths. In partnership with other educators, parents or guardians, and the community, school counselors facilitate the support system to ensure ALL students at Lackawanna Trail have access to and are prepared with the knowledge and skills to contribute at their highest level as productive members of society.

School Counseling Vision Statement

To provide data driven counseling services that support the continuous improvement efforts of our schools so that ALL students will succeed. Counselors develop and implement a comprehensive Developmental Guidance Program that: Supports students' accomplishments; Facilitates the efforts of students, parents/guardian, school staff, community and business partners; Attends to the needs, interests, and challenges related to each stage of student development and education; Facilitates students' transition through these diverse developmental and learning stages.

School Counseling Services:

- Individual and small group counseling (short term solution-focused interventions)
- Provides academic, personal/social, and career counseling
- Classroom lessons throughout the year on career development
- Crisis intervention counseling
- Conflict resolution and peer facilitation
- Consultation/collaboration
- Referrals to outside services (including mental and physical health)
- Advocate for individual students and for positive change in the school and in the district

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Emotional Support Services

The Lackawanna Trail Junior Senior High School offers a continuum of support to 7th and 8th grade students in the Emotional Support program through both Itinerant and Supplemental levels of support. Students may receive instruction in the regular education setting with or without a special education teacher/para-educator. Students in the program may also receive social skills instruction and/or school-based social work, and/or additional academic support with Learning Support faculty, when appropriate. Students in the emotional support program are supported through the use of Positive Behavior Support Plans.

Emotional support students also receive transition services in their IEPs with emphasis on skills for employment and post-secondary education, as well as independent living skills, as determined by the individual student's IEP team.

Learning Support Services

The Lackawanna Trail Junior Senior High School offers a continuum of support to 7th and 8th grade students in Learning Support that includes Itinerant, Supplemental, or Full-Time Support. Learning Support Services are provided both in the regular and special education setting. Students may receive instruction in the regular education setting with or without a special education teacher/para-educator. Students may receive instruction for English Language Arts or Mathematics in the resource room, and may be provided other academic supports as needed in the resource room. Structured Study Hall is a class scheduled in the resource room that allows time for additional academic support for students with disabilities.

Learning support students receive transition services in their IEPs with emphasis on skills for employment and post-secondary education, as well as independent living skills, as determined by the individual student's IEP team.

Life Skills Support Services

In grades 7-8, Life Skills Services are provided in the special education setting with appropriate inclusion in the regular education setting. Life Skills support focuses on functional and academic skills. At the Junior High School and High School level, there is emphasis on transition planning that includes skills for employment and independent living, as well as postsecondary education. Out of district placements for transition programming are utilized, when determined appropriate by the individual student's IEP team.

Life Skills students will receive individual and small group instruction in the life skills classroom, as per their IEP. Students spend time with same-aged peers in the regular education classroom, as per their IEP.

SEVENTH GRADE COURSE SELECTIONS

The following sequence of courses has been included as a planning guide for parents/guardians 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 / Electives</u>	JH Chorus	JH Band, 7	or	Social-Emotional Learning	Study Skills
<u>¼ Credit Courses</u>	Music 7	Technology 7	Art 7	Careers 7	
<u>1/4 or 1/2 Credit Courses</u>	Physical Education (Required)				
<u>Band/Chorus Credit</u>	Students may take a full credit of JH Band or a full credit of JH Chorus. Students may also elective to take JH Band and JH Chorus for a ½ credit each (total = 1 full credit).				

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 - Required 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—Required 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.

ENGLISH 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 both literature (fiction) and informational (non-fiction) text in the following genres: short story, drama, poetry, myths, folk tales, and novels. Emphasis is placed on the reading and appreciation of literature and informational text as well as the writing process. Different types and styles of writing are studied including narrative, argument, and text-dependent analysis. All language arts terms, skills, and concepts as specified by the Pennsylvania Department of Education Core Standards are emphasized, including grammar and vocabulary.

Honors 7th Grade English Language Arts - 1 Credit

This course is an honors level integrated language arts program offering high-quality traditional and contemporary literary selections in both literature (fiction) and informational (non-fiction) text in the following genres: short story, drama, poetry, myths, folk tales, and novels. The pace, depth of instruction, and assignment/assessment requirements for this course are intensified as compared to the non-honors section. Emphasis is placed on the reading and appreciation of literature and informational text as well as the writing process. Different types and styles of writing are studied including narrative, argument, and text-dependent analysis. All language arts terms, skills, and concepts as specified by the Pennsylvania Department of Education Core Standards are emphasized, including grammar and vocabulary. Students who are identified for Honors Language Arts 7 will be required to complete a summer reading assignment of at least one text assigned by the course teacher. This assignment will be assessed during the first full week of school. A student's academic record, standardized test scores, and PVAAS Projections are reviewed prior to acceptance into this course.

Study Skills – ¼ Credit

This course will provide junior high school students with the skills necessary to achieve academic success across curriculum in the junior high school and beyond. Topics include but are not limited to: taking and organizing notes, creating time to study, study aids, managing projects, setting school priorities, 1:1 technology, effective reading skills, executive functioning, and academic references.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

7th Grade Health - Mandatory Component of Phys. Ed. 7

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.

Social-Emotional Learning – ¼ credit

This course will introduce students to topics and skills that are essential to personal development and wellness throughout junior high school. The course aims to support social-emotional wellness, and student's mental health, while preparing them for academic success throughout their 7th and 8th grade coursework. Topics include but are not limited to: making responsible decisions, setting personal priorities, managing emotions and stress, maintaining healthy relationships, problem-solving, empathy for others, and applied leadership skills.

Physical Education - 1/4 or 1/3 of Credit - Required 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.

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 in 9th grade 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. A student's academic record, standardized test scores, and PVAAS Projections are reviewed prior to acceptance into the course.

Honors Algebra 1A - 1 Credit

Honors Algebra 1A prepares a student to take Algebra I (Hrs. Algebra 1B) in 8th grade. In this class, students develop 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

The emphasis of the class will be on contemporary commercial music, including different styles of songs, roots of modern music, and popular music production. This course is an inquiry and project-based course that is designed to increase student engagement with the contemporary music world. 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.
- 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: This ensemble will perform publically at least 3 times per year. Students will be required to attend concerts by other Lackawanna Trail ensembles, either at the high school or at the elementary center.

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. A student's academic record, standardized test scores, and PVAAS Projections are reviewed prior to acceptance into the course.

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. A student's academic record, standardized test scores, and PVAAS Projections are reviewed prior to acceptance into the course

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

7th Grade Technology Education - 1/4 Credit - Required 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 - Required 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

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.

<u>Language Arts</u>	English Language Arts 8	Honors English Language Arts 8			
<u>Math</u>	Math 8	Pre-Algebra B	◊ Honors Algebra 1B		
<u>Science</u>	Integrated Science	Honors Integrated Science			
<u>Social Studies</u>	Civics	Honors Civics			
<u>Supplemental Instruction</u>	Supplemental ELA, Math, Science, as assigned	Reading 8, as assigned			
<u>Music / Electives</u>	JH Chorus, 8	JH Band, 8	Or	STEM	Study Skills
<u>¼ Credit Courses</u>	Computer Lit. 8	Consumer Science	Spanish 8	French 8	
<u>½ Credit Courses</u>	Physical Education / Health 8				
<u>Band/Chorus Credit</u>	Students may take a full credit of JH Band or a full credit of JH Chorus. Students may also elective to take JH Band and JH Chorus for a ½ credit each (total = 1 full credit).				

◊ Denotes Keystone “trigger” course

Note: A student who chooses Band or Chorus will choose Physical Education and three additional 1/4 credit courses.

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 - Required 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.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

8th Grade English Language Arts - 1 Credit

This course is an integrated language arts program offering high-quality traditional and contemporary literary selections in both literature (fiction) and informational (non-fiction) text in the following genres: short story, drama, poetry, myths, folk tales, and novels. Emphasis is placed on the reading and appreciation of literature and informational text as well as the writing process. Different types and styles of writing are studied including narrative, argument, and text-dependent analysis. All language arts terms, skills, and concepts as specified by the Pennsylvania Department of Education Core Standards are emphasized, including grammar and vocabulary.

8th Grade Honors English Language Arts - 1 Credit

This course is an honors level integrated language arts program offering high-quality traditional and contemporary literary selections in both literature (fiction) and informational (non-fiction) text in the following genres: short story, drama, poetry, myths, folk tales, and novels. The pace, depth of instruction, and assignment/assessment requirements for this course are intensified as compared to the non-honors section. Emphasis is placed on the reading and appreciation of literature and informational text as well as the writing process. Different types and styles of writing are studied including narrative, argument, and text-dependent analysis. All language arts terms, skills, and concepts as specified by the Pennsylvania Department of Education Core Standards are emphasized, including grammar and vocabulary. A reading and writing portfolio will be a course culminating activity. Students selecting Honors Language Arts will be required to complete a summer reading assignment of at least one text assigned by the course teacher. This assignment will be assessed during the first full week of school. A student's academic record, standardized test scores, and PVAAS Projections are reviewed prior to acceptance into this course.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Exploratory French/Spanish - 1/4 of Credit - Required Course

This course is designed to introduce students to the French and Spanish languages. 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. 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.

Physical Education - .5 Credit - Required 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.

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. A student's academic record, standardized test scores, and PVAAS Projections are reviewed prior to acceptance into the course.

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. 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.
- 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.

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. A student's academic record, standardized test scores, and PVAAS Projections are reviewed prior to acceptance into the course.

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 are designed to supplement core content instruction and provide additional opportunities for student success and application of the 8th grade curriculum. The courses consist of added instruction and remediation for English Language Arts (ELA), 8th Grade Mathematics, and, 8th grade Science. They are 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. Supplemental instruction courses may be required for 8th grade students who are not enrolled in Junior High band or choir.

HOMELESS STUDENT LIAISON AND FOSTER CARE LIAISON

If you or someone you know is experiencing homelessness or is an unaccompanied youth, please contact:

Amie Talarico

Homeless and Foster Care Liaison

Tel. 570-945-5184 x 3044

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