

Hopkins Academy



Middle School Program of Studies

20166 – 20177

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NOTES TO PARENTS

*Schedule changes must be made within the Add/Drop period, which ends Wednesday September 23rd.

PROMOTION AND RETENTION OF STUDENTS

The Hadley Public Schools are dedicated to the best total and continuous development of each student enrolled. All efforts are made to assist students in the successful completion of their courses. These efforts include extra help, remedial work, study skills classes, academic assistance classes, pre-approved summer school, and individual teacher efforts.

Seventh and eighth grade students who successfully pass all four core subjects - English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies - will be unconditionally promoted to the next higher grade. Students who pass three of their four core subjects will be conditionally promoted and advised to attend summer school or be tutored in the course failed. Students who pass only two of their core subjects will be required to attend and pass summer school at the parents' expense in order to be conditionally promoted. **All students conditionally promoted will be reevaluated after the first marking period by the guidance counselor, principal, the child's teachers, and the parents.**

Students who pass only one or none of their core subjects will be retained and will not have the option of summer school or tutoring. Students who do not pass three core courses are automatically retained.

The principal will make decisions concerning unique cases after consultation with the guidance counselor and the seventh or eighth grade faculty. The provisions of Special Education as they apply to promotion/retention shall be taken into consideration for any student who is covered by the provisions of the law.

HONOR ROLL

The honor roll will be compiled each quarter based upon quarter grades only.

Highest Honors (Grades 7-12):

Students must receive a grade of A- (90) or above in all courses, including quarter courses and alternate day courses, regardless of level of course or credits awarded for a course.

High Honors (Grades 7-8): Students must have a B+ or higher in all courses (grades not averaged). No grade below a B- will qualify.

Honors (Grades 7-12): Students must receive a grade of B- or above in all courses, including quarter courses and alternate day courses, regardless of level of course or credits awarded for a course. No grade below a B- will qualify.

Note: Students in grades 7-12 who are exempted from physical education requirement by written notice of a physician, would be eligible for the honor roll.

ENGLISH

Course #081 – 8th Grade English

This course will focus on developing critical reading skills and improving upon each student's approach to writing as a process. Students will plan, draft, revise and edit writing with emphasis on multi-paragraph compositions and short research papers. Attention to audience, purpose, clarity, organization, support, and proofreading is stressed. 8th Grade English students will be introduced to a variety of systemic approaches to becoming effective writers. Vocabulary building skills, grammar and standard English conventions are presented as part of the reading and writing process. The course introduces students to literary analysis and expects students to respond critically to a variety of readings, including novels, plays, poetry, short literary works of fiction and nonfiction, and essays. Students will reflect upon the author's style, theme, content, structure, and use of literary elements and devices. This course is designed to develop an appreciation of literature and show the value and organizational structures of written and oral expression.

Course #071 – 7th Grade English

Heterogeneously grouped classes emphasize development of good independent work habits and positive peer interaction in conferencing, group presentations, and collaborative responses to writing and reading. The course includes both guided and independent study of a variety of readings, including novels, plays, short stories, poetry, mythology, essays, and non-fiction works. Students will be asked to analyze a piece of work, make predictions, and give personal assessments of the reading. Students will also study a variety of young adult novels that explore personal ethics and decision-making. The writing process introduced in middle school emphasizes graphic organizers, proper form, and a clear ratio of concrete details to commentary. Our aim is to give students a method for planning, writing, and evaluating essays by using some simple guidelines. Vocabulary and grammar/usage is presented as part of the writing process.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Course #170 – 7th Grade Geography

This course has been designed to give 7th grade students the opportunity to study the geography and culture of the world outside of the western hemisphere. They will study the world by regions that reflect their similar cultural traits. Skills that will be addressed include map and graph skills, note-taking, critical thinking, researching and analyzing current events and developing discussion/presentation abilities. Students are introduced to a systemic approach to writing to historical, cultural and physical geographic topics.

Course #180 – 8th Grade World History I: 500 B.C.E. – 1815

In this first of two year-long courses in the World History sequence at Hopkins, students will briefly review the Classical Civilizations of Greece and Rome as a prelude to the study of world civilizations after the fall of the Roman Empire. Students study the history of the major empires and political entities of this period including the Byzantine Empire and the major pre-Columbian civilizations of the Western Hemisphere. Students examine geography, language, literature and the arts, as well as the important political, economic and religious developments of this period, including the development of Christianity and Islam, the conflicts between them in different parts of the world and the beginnings of European influence on the western hemisphere. Finally, students study the development of democratic, secular and scientific thought in the major events and developments of European history. As time permits, students may also examine African, Indian and East Asian civilizations from 500 B.C.E. to 1815. The course is designed to teach information as well as skills. Skills which will be addressed include reading for critical thinking, note-taking, test taking, researching, writing, map and graph skills, utilizing primary sources and developing discussion/presentation abilities.

SCIENCE

Course #270 – 7th Grade Systems and Cycles

Students in grade 7 focus on systems and cycles to build a systems perspective using their understanding of structures and elements developed in earlier grades. A focus on systems requires students to interpret information and apply concepts and skills in the broad context of the discipline, and thus make connections between different domains of knowledge. Standards in grade 7 highlight interdisciplinary connections within and across domains since most natural and designed systems and cycles are complex and interactive. Students begin a process of building expert knowledge, moving from a more concrete to an abstract perspective and creating a foundation for exploring cause and effect relationships in more depth in grade 8. They have experience in observing structure of cells, body systems, matter, the Earth, measuring changes in energy, and applying these ideas to systems and cycles that span domains.

Course #280 – 8th Grade Physical Science

Grade 8 students use more robust abstract thinking skills to explain causes of the more complex phenomena and systems. Many causes are not immediately or physically visible to students. Students wrestle with the “why” of science, to deal with unseen mechanisms at work, to make predictions about future events, and to explain patterns. In grade 8 these include, for example, causes of seasons and tides, causes of plate tectonics and weather or climate, the role of genetics in heredity and natural selection, and understanding interactions of atoms and molecules (from a more general particulate model in prior grades). Being able to analyze phenomena for evidence of causes and processes that often cannot be seen, and being able to conceptualize and describe those, is a significant cognitive transition for students in grade 8.

072 This course provides 7th grade students with an instruction and support in their development of strong executive functioning and independent time management skills. Students will use the content from their core classes to develop the ability to manage long-term assignments, self-advocacy and clarification communication skills. Development and management of the Seventh Grade Science Fair projects as well as 7th Grade Math Geometric Explorations are foundation units for the course, the Middle School Team will work with students to help them identify specific content or assignments for which they need assistance and those they can complete independently. Teachers will help students develop the skills to access content specific assistance.

Course #271 -- Science Explorations and Computer Literacy (7-Not Offered 15-16)

This class will spend the first quarter helping the seventh grade transition from the sixth grade. Students will strengthen their organizational, test taking, and study skills, as well as discovering ways to alleviate anxiety. Through a middle school science fair project, students will run their own scientific investigations using the scientific method or use the engineering design process to build a prototype. This course will concentrate on strengthening their research skills, learning how to use noodle tools, and work on their keyboarding skills through project-based learning and connect math with the real world and everyday life.

Course #281 – Science Explorations and Math Connections (8 Not Offered 15-16)

This is a full year course which starts off with a focus on mathematics. This course will provide reinforcement for number sense and operations, measurement and problem solving techniques relative to eighth grade standards. For the second part of the year, the class will focus on different topics in science; from oceanography to meteorology and subjects in between. The science topics will include hands on investigations, multimedia presentations and documentaries, and a creative view on the sciences.

Course #845 – Building For Tomorrow (Grade 7)

This STEM course is a combination of science, math, technology, and engineering. Student will explore how technology supported activities can make mathematics both engaging and understandable. Through project based learning, students will use the engineering design process to discover manufacturing, communication, transportation, and bioengineering technologies, and the importance of sustainability. The culminating project of this course will be the 7th Grade Science Fair.

MATHEMATICS

Course #371 – 7th Grade Pre-Algebra Honors

This course is designed to prepare students with strong mathematical and critical thinking skills for a rigorous course in Algebra I in the eighth grade. This accelerated course covers all of the topics in the regular 7th Grade Mathematics and 8th Grade Mathematics courses. Topics include fractions, decimals, ratios, proportions, percents, probability, plane geometry, solid geometry, equations and inequalities, linear equations, and data analysis.

Course #372 – 7th Grade Mathematics

This course reviews and extends computational skills with whole numbers, fractions, decimals, percents, ratios and proportions. Students will also further their understanding of geometric concepts such as area, perimeter, and measurement as well as study open number sentences, functions, and graphing. There will be an introduction to reading, understanding, and solving open-ended word problems.

Course #381 – 8th Grade Mathematics - Accelerated Section – Algebra 1

This course is a standard Algebra I course and is designed for the motivated student who has successfully completed a course in pre-algebra. Topics include working with real numbers, linear equations and inequalities, systems of linear equations and inequalities, functions, exponents, quadratic equations, statistics, and probability. Strong problem solving skills and accuracy in computation are required. **Prerequisite: C or better in Pre-Algebra**

Course #382 – 8th Grade Mathematics

This course reviews and extends computational skills with whole numbers, fractions, and decimals. Additional topics include ratios, proportions, percents, probability, solid geometry, equations and inequalities, and linear equations. Special attention is given to solving word problems.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Course #411 – French I (Grade 8)

Course #412 – Spanish I (Grade 8)

This full year course focuses on communication, both oral and written. Readings encompass mini-novels written for the beginning foreign language learner, as well as short stories and articles. Vocabulary and grammar are reinforced with computer activities and/or video segments. Culture is presented through videos, actual class celebrations and/or research projects in the library or on the Internet. This class is offered to students in the 8th grade who want to take accelerated language classes at the high school level. Students are required to successfully complete two years of World Language at the high school level, regardless whether or not they take Spanish I or French I at the 8th grade level. It is also offered to 9th grade students.

HEALTH, FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE

Course # 671 – Middle School Family & Consumer Science Semester Course (Grade 7 & 8 elective)

Students will be introduced to nutrition facts, the importance of safety and sanitation in the kitchen by practicing safety rules, and basic food preparation techniques by making simple food products. Students will also be introduced to financial literacy and basic consumer skills. Students will learn about credit and how it effects their future, how saving money at a young age is important. Students will also learn how compare products for best value and reliability, budgeting and what their rights and responsibilities are as a consumer. Safety, a good attitude and working with others will be stressed.

Course #980 – Developmental Wellness (Grade 8)

The eighth grade health course is a required year-long course, which meets every other day. It consists of a comprehensive study of drugs and alcohol. The short and long term effects of various drugs will be examined. Social and cultural influences, methods of prevention, and strategies for treatment will be explored. The discussion of health topics, which are timely and relevant, will also be prominent features of this course. Health information will be disseminated through discussions, case studies, group work and independent projects.

ART

Course # 770 – Foundations of Art/Visual Arts Methods & Materials (Grade 7 & 8 elective)

This middle school year-long class meets every other day for the full year. This course provides a general overview of art methods, art history and the Foundations of Art, including the Elements of Art & Principles of Design. The course will emphasize the development of the students' skills and understanding of creating and responding to art. Students will develop a working art vocabulary while exploring a variety of techniques and media, including beginning drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture and computer graphics. Students must maintain a portfolio of sketches and finished work.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Course #582 – Integrated Computer Science (Grade 7 & 8 elective)

This course will introduce students to many different software platforms taught in a real world project based environment. Problem solving, creativity, and analysis skills will be highlighted to prepare students for the modern world and the college learning environment. Projects will cover technical skills for the following platforms: Learning how to use Google documents (cloud computing), Dreamweaver website design software (along with adobe flash and fireworks), Lego Mindstorms Robotics, Scratch Programming Software, Microsoft Movie Maker, Kudo Programming Software, Simulation Software, Prezi Presentation Software, Goanimate, and a lot more. For more information, please refer to Mr. Simmons' teacher web page.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Course #707 – Middle School Band (Grade 7 & 8 elective)

This course is a study of basic concepts of ensemble playing, including rhythm, harmony, intonation, and marching. Materials from both standard band and contemporary music literature will be used. There will be a minimum of two performances per year.

Course #708 – Middle School Chorus (Grade 7 & 8 elective)

This course covers the basic concepts of choral singing, including rhythm, sight-reading, harmony, and intonation. Both standard and contemporary music literature will be used. A minimum of two performances per year will be scheduled.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Course #975 – Middle School Physical Education (Grade 7&8)

Physical Education is a required course meeting every other day for one semester. Emphasis is placed on improving the student's muscular strength, flexibility, and cardio-vascular efficiency. Knowledge of rules, strategies, safety practices, proper social skills, sportsmanship, and a sequential development of motor skills are promoted through well-planned team sports and individual activities. Students are also asked to display their writing skills in the form of written assignments throughout the course. Writing topics may include, but are not limited to, bullying, proper etiquette, favorite sports or activities, or research papers on assigned topics or books.

Activities offered are: flag football, stunts and tumbling, weight training, ultimate frisbee, recreational games, cooperative games, field hockey, fitnessgram, snow shoeing, wiffle ball, Presidential Fitness Challenge, soccer, basketball, aerobics, team handball, volleyball, golf, kickball, lacrosse, pickle ball, badminton, floor hockey, rhythms and movement, and softball.

Course #070 – Structured Study (7,8)

Structured Study is a yearlong course. The purpose is to give students the opportunity to gain the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and self-discipline they need to succeed in middle school and beyond. Areas of focus in the course include time management and organizational skills, note taking and reading skills, memory improvement, and test taking skills. As well as having a tutorial focus, this course is also aimed at improving the student's self-advocacy skills. The course will focus on skills students need as they transition from middle school to high school.

Course #632 – Study Skills (7,8)

Effective study and time management skills are essential to a student's successful balance of responsibilities in and out of the classroom. Together we will strive to enhance and share successful skills. Throughout the course, students will reflect upon and share their current study habits and strategies, while learning new strategies to assist in this balance. Time management, organizational skills, note-taking, relieving anxiety, and other study skills will be explored. Their learning experience will be enhanced through participation in hands-on project based learning, which will allow them to expand upon and apply their skills and knowledge.

Course #072 – Secondary Academic Skills/Structured Study (7)

This course provides 7th grade students with an instruction and support in their development of strong executive functioning and independent time management skills. Students will use the content from their core classes to develop the ability to manage long-term assignments, self-advocacy and clarification communication skills. Development and management of the Seventh Grade Science Fair projects as well as 7th Grade Math Geometric Explorations are foundation units for the course, the Middle School Team will work with students to help them identify specific content or assignments for which they need assistance and those they can complete independently. Teachers will help students develop the skills to access content specific assistance.

Course #976 – Collaborative Skills (8)

This course is a semester course for 8th grade students designed to provide students extended opportunities to develop 21st Century Learning skills to help prepare them for the high school and college learning environments. In addition to continuing time management and organizational work from the 7th Grade Academic Skills curriculum, 8th grade students will engage in team-building activities, school and community project planning, as well as learning elements of outdoor safety and field exploration skills. Students will also be exposed to on-line learning platforms and have the opportunity to have an introduction to the Capstone Project.

QUARTER COURSES

Course #478 – Real World Mathematics (Grade 7- Not Offered 15-16)

This course provides additional practice in many of the operations that seventh-grade students often find problematic. The resources used in this class are rooted in problem-solving scenarios encountered throughout our world whenever applicable. Some examples of possible topics include, but are not limited to, construction and/or architectural drawings, scaling of figures/objects, shopping, and interest calculations. Much of the material is presented in a format that requires students to read and solve problems with minimal teacher instruction as a method of increasing student confidence in their problem solving capabilities.

Course #470 – Spanish (Grade 7)

Course #473 – French (Grade 7)

At the 7th grade level, students will have the opportunity to sample both French and Spanish. At this level, students will be required to take one quarter of exploratory French and one quarter of exploratory Spanish. Students will learn basic vocabulary and grammar while being familiarized with Spanish and French cultures. Students are required to successfully complete two years of World Language at the high school level, regardless whether or not they take Spanish I or French I at the 8th grade level.