

HAMBURG
MIDDLE
SCHOOL

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS



2017-2018

Table of Contents

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	2
MATH.....	2
SCIENCE.....	3
SOCIAL STUDIES.....	4
SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES	4
ART.....	5
FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES.....	5
HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION	6
MUSIC	6
TECHNOLOGY	7
WORLD LANGUAGES	7

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

All English courses reflect the Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS) for English Language Arts. Students continue to develop their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. Skill development is focused on critical thinking, close reading, and clarity of writing, while reading fiction and non-fiction literature.

ELA 6 – Students work on the critical analysis of various text types including novels and short stories. Students compose short and long literary responses; and examine critical essays to learn how to develop ideas and to cite text-based evidence in support of claims. The class will also read, analyze and write original poetry.

ELA 7 –includes a variety of fiction and non-fiction literature including: Love That Dog, Hate That Cat, A Long Walk to Water, A Christmas Carol, Fever 1793, and The Outsiders.

ELA 8 –includes a variety of fiction and non-fiction literature including: No Promises in the Wind, I Have Lived a Thousand Years, and Inside Out & Back Again.

ELA Honors 8 –includes a variety of fiction and non-fiction literature including: To Kill a Mockingbird, I Have Lived a Thousand Years, Ender's Game, and Inside Out & Back Again.

MATH

Math 6 – This course will reinforce previously learned skills, as well as introduce new mathematics concepts and strategies. The curriculum focus for the year includes the number system, rates/ratios, geometry, and equations.

Math 6A – This is an advanced class which covers all sixth grade topics and introduces some seventh grade topics. Students are required to maintain an 88% test/quiz average to continue on the advanced math track. This class moves at a faster pace and provides a higher level of rigor. Prerequisite is student assessment and recommendations.

Math 7 – This course develops an understanding of operations with rational numbers to solve multi-step equations which includes variables on both sides. Students use proportional relationships to work with scale drawings, percentages, and consumer math topics. Other topics covered include statistics; and two and three dimensional figures used to find area, surface area, and volume.

Math 7A – This is an advanced course which covers all seventh and eighth grade topics in one year. Students are required to maintain an 88% test/quiz average to continue on the advanced math track. Prerequisite is student assessment and recommendations.

Math 8 – This course is an introduction to the foundations of algebra in preparation for Common Core Algebra in ninth grade. Main topics include functions, linear relationships, linear equations, and systems of linear equations. The curriculum also introduces the foundations of geometry (transformations, parallel lines with angle relationships, and Pythagorean theorem) in preparation for Common Core Geometry.

Common Core Algebra 1 – This is a rigorous course worth one high school credit; completion of the class requires taking the Regents High School Examination. Topics include radicals; Pythagorean theorem; properties; exponents; solving linear and absolute value; graphing equations and inequalities; word problems; factoring; sequences; functions; transformations; parabolas; solving quadratics; name quadratics; square roots; cube roots; and statistics. Prerequisite is the successful completion of Math 7A.

SCIENCE

Science 6 – This course is a combination of Life Science, Earth Science and Physical Science. Also incorporated are special events like visiting a pond, raising chicks and launching rockets. Developing behaviors that scientists engage in as they investigate and build models and theories about the natural world is emphasized. This course utilizes labs, group activities, teacher demonstrations, lectures, and computer assignments.

Science 7 – The student will become familiar with the fundamental ideas and concepts associated with the Physical Environment and the Living Environment. The course allows for age appropriate, hands-on laboratory activities that reinforce the concepts studied and skills practiced. The physical environment concentrates on chemistry and astronomy while the living environment concentrates on general biology concepts, taxonomy, microbiology and botany in accordance with the New York State Learning Standards. This course consists of quarterly grade level benchmarks, as well as a June final exam and skills assessment.

Science 8 – This course is a continuation of the integrated science program taken in seventh grade and explores the fundamental ideas and concepts associated with both the Physical and Life Sciences. Curriculum includes the main principles of physics and a review of the biological sciences studying the various systems of the human body and heredity. The nature of this program is to provide students with the necessary knowledge and skills needed to meet the requirements set forth in the New York State Learning Standards for Mathematics, Science, and Technology.

Living Environment – This is an accelerated Regents curriculum that is traditionally taken in ninth grade. The ability to explain, analyze, and interpret biological processes and the inter-relationships thereof is emphasized. Enrollment in this science course demands an additional workload beyond the traditional eighth grade science curriculum and includes a laboratory section as required by the state. Following the successful completion of this course and the Regents examination, students will receive one credit toward high school graduation. The accelerated program provides for an early experience in the sciences and should be viewed by the student as a commitment to an extended science experience in the high school. Prerequisite: All test scores (including benchmarks) should be at or above 93%; science quarter grades must be at or above 95%; student must exhibit an exceptional work ethic and must respect and enjoy science; and lastly student must be an independent and self-motivated learner with established time management skills.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies 6 – Curriculum is based on the major civilizations of Africa, Asia and Europe from ancient times through medieval times. The focus of study centers in regions like Mesopotamia, India, Egypt, Greece and Rome. Students learn about the similarities these early societies shared, some of which include their establishment near major rivers; the development of advanced forms of technology and government; and the birth of organized religions.

Social Studies 7 – This is the first half of a two year course in American History. Study begins with the basic geography of our nation and moves into the unique cultures of the Native Americans. Students then follow the experiences and changes from our nation’s early beginnings through the Post-Civil War period of Reconstruction. These experiences will be linked to New York State history where appropriate. This class will utilize the social history approach, which allows students to explore different contexts of history.

Social Studies 8 – This course is the second half of a two year study of American History beginning in the late 1800’s and progressing chronologically to present times. Topics include: Growth of Immigration; Big Industry; Progressive Era; U.S. Imperialism; WWI; Roaring 20’s; Stock Market Crash and Great Depression; WWII; Holocaust; Cold War; and Events of the past 20 years. The subject matter will be presented in various forms including textbook, educational movies, speakers, projects, presentations and hands-on interactive activities.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Hamburg Middle School offers a range of special education services across all core and some special areas. Based upon student need and IEP goals, children may be placed in a consultant teacher or self-contained classroom model. HMS also uses push-in and pull-out services for speech, OT and PT. We also offer adapted physical education and specials classes, as needed. Our philosophy is to offer as much support as we can, while maintain the least restrictive environment for each child.

Resource Room – This is a small group setting with one on one instruction, allowing students to work on their individual educational plan goals. Classroom instructions will be reviewed; new concepts and topics will be discussed; and homework will be addressed.

Grade 6 and 7 Read 180– This reading class is designed to address deficits in reading comprehension in order to improve reading levels. This is a two-year, self-contained class utilizing whole group and small group instruction; independent reading; and instructional software. Assessment includes Scholastic Reading Inventories, quarterly benchmarks, scholastic reading counts, reading logs, quickwrites, instructional software assessments, independent reading project, comprehension, and vocabulary.

ART

Art 6 – In this ten week course students will explore a variety of mediums, subjects and skills. The elements and principles of art are covered and the foundation for art curriculum at the secondary level is laid. There is a focus on non-western art cultures as well as the art of Ancient cultures from the Renaissance; Ancient Greece and Rome; and the Middle Ages.

Art 7 – This ten week course exposes students to many different art mediums. Students explore and discover the importance of art to the early American cultures and use the art elements and principles to create their own personal interpretations of these cultural artifacts.

Art 8 – This is a ten week course which studies specific 20th century art styles. Using the art elements and principles the student will experiment with different art materials to arrive at their personal solutions to the works of Pop Art, Op Art and Cubism styles.

Studio Art – A 20 week course (meeting every other day) designed for students with a passion for the visual arts. Sketchbook assignments that emphasize concepts being used to complete class projects will be done at home. The program provides for advancement in the Visual Arts and is viewed as a commitment to an extended experience. Prerequisite is a 93 or above average in seventh grade art and a demonstration by the student of artistic skill, maturity and initiative.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

FACS Grade 6 – The curriculum aligns with the New York State Learning Standards for Health, Physical Education and Family and Consumer Sciences. This ten week course includes units in fiber & fabric; clothing care which centers on laundry practices; and hand sewing which entails the students using written instructions to construct a pin cushion and sewing kit. The foods unit includes kitchen safety; measurement methods; abbreviations and equivalents; utensil identification; cutting, cooking, and mixing terms. The students practice cooking and baking in the kitchen.

FACS Grade 7 – This ten week course follows the curriculum outlined in the New York State Learning Standards for Health, Physical Education and Family and Consumer Sciences. New information is presented that builds on the previous year's curriculum as well as introducing the development of career exploration, food preparation, and nutrition. The Child Care unit prepares students with the knowledge and ability to care for young children while developing decision making and leadership characteristics.

FACS Grade 8 – Curriculum aligns with the New York State Learning Standards for Health, Physical Education and Family and Consumer Sciences. This ten week course introduces new information that builds on the previous year's curriculum as well as introducing students to new curriculum content. Units covered in depth are career exploration, food preparation, exploring yeast recipes specifically, and nutrition.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Health 6 – This 20 week course is designed to teach students to understand and apply factual information that will help them maintain, improve, and be responsible for health and wellness. Topics of instruction include: General Health, Wellness Lifestyle (Fitness/Nutrition), Substance Abuse (alcohol, tobacco, other drugs), Personal Safety/Sexual Abuse, Mental Health, HIV/AIDS and Family Life Education.

Health 7 – This 20 week course is designed to teach students to understand and apply factual information that will help them maintain, improve, and be responsible for health and wellness. Topics include: Personal Safety/First Aid, Substance Abuse (alcohol, tobacco, other drugs), Mental Health/Decision Making and Family Life Education.

Physical Education Grade 6, 7, 8 - The development of a wide variety of sports skills and an understanding of how to maintain good health and fitness are the major goals of this course. Students meet every other day for this year-long course.

MUSIC

Band Grade 6, 7, 8– These are one-year courses for students who have completed band the prior year. The classes meet every other day and students review basic skills of scales, rhythms, and theory. The main focus is on learning, reading, and performing band literature. Each band will perform a minimum of three evening concerts per year. Instrument ownership or rental is required. In addition to the band rehearsal, lessons are scheduled weekly on a rotational basis allowing for small group instruction to improve individual instrument performance techniques. The rotation will ensure that no subject is missed more than once every five weeks. Students enrolled in band may audition to participate in **Jazz Ensemble** and may also prepare solos to perform at county and state festivals.

Chorus Grade 6, 7, 8 – This one-year graded course meets every other day and involves learning healthy vocal skills, practicing proper performance etiquette, and working together as a team.

Select Chorus 6 – In addition to chorus, students with an aptitude and love of singing can audition for Select Chorus. This class meets after school one day/week throughout the year.

Honors Chorus 7/8 - Students meet before and after school for rehearsal. All 7th and 8th chorus students are encouraged to audition for this ensemble. Traveling performances, Erie County Chorus, and Area All-State Chorus participants are chosen from the Honors Chorus members. We also offer a musical in the Spring. All chorus members are encouraged to audition for participation in this exciting show. Auditions are held in early Nov.

Orchestra Grade 6, 7, 8– These are one-year courses for students who have completed orchestra the prior year. The classes meet every other day and students review basic skills of scales, rhythms, and theory. The main focus is on learning, reading, and performing orchestra literature. Each orchestra will perform a minimum of three evening concerts per year. Instrument ownership or rental is required. In addition to the orchestra rehearsal, lessons are scheduled weekly on a rotational basis allowing for small group instruction to improve individual instrument performance techniques. The rotation will ensure that no subject is missed more than once every five weeks.

General Music Grade 6, 7, 8 - Students not enrolled in Band, Chorus or Orchestra will take General Music. Units of study include a variety of different skills and interest topics, designed to create a love of and appreciation for music.

TECHNOLOGY

Grade 7 – This course is an introduction to the principles of engineering. Students will experience/learn the basics of the computer as well as spreadsheets. Simple machines, rocketry, problem solving, measuring, materials processing, tools/machines, safety and construction are other topics covered.

Grade 8 – A continuation of the introduction to the principles of engineering from the 7th grade curriculum. Topics include energy, transportation, orthographic drawings, three dimensional modeling, problem solving and structures. A reinforcement of the safe usage of tools and machines is also conducted.

WORLD LANGUAGES

French 7 – This course is the first year of a two year program of language study. Students explore culture and develop listening; speaking; and reading and writing skills. All students must pass with a 65% or better in order to move on to French 1 in eighth grade.

Spanish 7 – The first year of a two year program of language study in which students explore culture and develop listening; speaking; and reading and writing skills. All students must pass with a 65% or better in order to move on to Spanish 1 in eighth grade.

Latin 7 – This is the first year of a two year program of language study. The function of this course is to build the foundation for future Latin studies as well as allow students the ability to acquire a wealth of Latin related information. The focus is on the ability to read, write and speak Latin as well as being proficient in areas of mythology, culture/daily life, and word derivations.

French 1 – This course is the second year of language study and will expand and elaborate upon the seventh grade curriculum. According to New York State, all students must successfully complete seventh and eighth grade language courses in order to meet graduation requirements. The student's cumulative grade over the two years of study must be 65% or above. In addition, the student must pass the eighth grade exam with a score of 65% or above. Prerequisite is successful completion of French 7.

Spanish 1 – This course is the second year of language study and will expand and elaborate upon the seventh grade curriculum. New York State requires that all students must successfully complete seventh and eighth grade language courses in order to meet graduation requirements. The student's cumulative grade over the two years of study must be 65% or above. The student must also pass the eighth grade exam with a score of 65% or above. Prerequisite is successful completion of Spanish 7.

Latin 1 – This is the second year of language study and will expand and elaborate upon the seventh grade curriculum. All students must successfully complete seventh and eighth grade language courses in order to meet graduation requirements, according to New York State. The student's cumulative grade over the two years of study must be 65% or above. In addition, the student must pass the eighth grade exam with a score of 65% or above. Prerequisite is successful completion of Latin 7.

French 1A – This course is the second year of language study on the advanced track and will expand and elaborate upon the seventh grade curriculum in depth and at an advanced pace. According to New York State, all students must successfully complete seventh and eighth grade language courses in order to meet graduation requirements. A cumulative grade over the two years of study of 65% or above is required. In addition, a score of 65% or above must be achieved on the eighth grade exam. Prerequisite is successful completion of French 7 with a 95% or above and teacher recommendation.