

# **Program of Study & School Information**

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Freeport Area Middle School  
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Sarver, PA 16055

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*Someplace Special . . .  
Parents, Students, Teachers . . .  
Building a Strong Tomorrow Together*

## **NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY FOR FREEPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Freeport Area School District is an equal opportunity educational institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age or any other legally protected classification, in its activities, programs, or employment practices in accordance with federal and state laws, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures contact:  
Mr. Ian M. Magness, Title IX and Section 503 and 504 Coordinator,  
Freeport Area School District, 621 South Pike Road, Sarver, PA 16055  
724-295-5141

For information regarding services, activities, and facilities  
that are accessible and usable by disabled persons, contact:  
Mr. Larry P. Robb, Program Director,  
Freeport Area School District, 621 South Pike Road, Sarver, PA 16055  
724-295-5141

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# INTRODUCTION

The Freeport Area School District Board of Education has adopted Courses of Study, which have been developed and designed to meet the needs and objectives of our youth. It is hoped that through the utilization of this booklet, and under the guidance of the counselor, each Freeport Middle School student will be aided in planning an appropriate and realistic school program.

In the scheduling of classes at the Middle School, each schedule is “tailored” to the child’s individual needs and objectives in life. Current and past grades, PSSA test scores, ability level, aptitude, teacher comments and recommendations, and counselor observations are all reviewed prior to finalizing the student’s schedule.

Students will complete course selection sheets and review them with their parents for approval and signatures. Parents are urged to call or consult with the elementary or middle school counselor if questions arise. Thus, the preparation of each student’s schedule receives individual consideration based upon proper guidance and cooperation between the school and home.

*Welcome students!*

We are excited to have you here at Freeport Area Middle School. Middle School is an extremely exciting time for students! During your years at FAMS, you'll get to grow academically, socially, emotionally, and physically at an astronomical rate! We encourage you to become connected with students and staff members by joining our extracurricular activities and clubs that we have to offer.

The information listed in this program of studies will help guide decisions that you and your family get to make in the selection of your courses at Freeport Area Middle School. The program of study is general information about our building, courses, and expectations we have for students. Hopefully the information in this program will help elevate any worries that you may have about the middle school. The staff at Freeport Area Middle School is always willing to help answer any questions that you may have.

Looking forward to working with you!

Mr. Timothy Walters  
Principal

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Our Building**

The Middle School is made up of grades 6 through 8 and are housed together at 629 South Pike Road in Sarver. The building consists of classrooms, a library, a cafeteria, offices, a gymnasium, computer labs, auditorium and many more features that we hope will enhance the educational process for all of our students.

Our goal is to keep this new learning center a place to be proud of for many years to come. Therefore, we ask for everyone's cooperation in keeping our building in top shape and helping to make it a place that you are proud to attend.

### **Assembly Programs**

At various times throughout the year, programs of a cultural, entertaining and educational nature are presented in the school auditorium for the entire student body. Some of the issues addressed are bullying, good-decision making, drugs, alcohol, domestic violence and school violence. Freeport Area Middle School includes monthly assemblies to enhance our social-emotional curriculum. In addition, concerts, plays and movies are presented for your enjoyment and to supplement your school learning.

### **School Counseling Program**

Freeport Area Middle School has an active and comprehensive school counseling program. The purpose of the program is to assist all students in the areas of academic, personal/social, and career growth and development. Additionally, the program encourages the progression of decision making and problem solving skills that will prepare each student for lifelong learning. The program offers support to our students through observation, consultation, short term and solution-focused individual counseling, as well as small group counseling. Information is also available to students and parents on referral services for concerns of a more serious nature.

The School Counseling program includes a career unit for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students that focuses on an understanding self and the world of work. Self-help, career information is located in the Counseling office, and a software program called "PA Career Zone" is available for student use in the library/computer labs. Students are welcome to visit the Counselor's Office at any time.

### **The Special Education Program**

Freeport Area Middle School provides a program of study for students with exceptionalities. These classes are maintained with the cooperation of Freeport Area School District and the ARIN IU, following all State and Federal guidelines. These classes are designed and implemented on the local level under the premise of the "Least Restrictive Environment" to help each student reach the maximum of his or her potential. All classes are geared to meet the needs and learning abilities of each student. A full range of classes, curriculum, and strategies are offered covering all academic areas. Regular as well as modified curriculum is used. Inclusion classes are designed and maintained to accommodate learning strategies and modifications under supervision within the regular classroom setting. The co-teaching model is exclusively used for mathematics and English Language Arts classes at the middle school. The Middle School has established a transitional program that blends the elementary experience with preparatory skills for High School.

### **Student/Parent Handbook and Student Assignment Journal**

**The Middle School Handbook is available online through the Infosnap site.** The handbook contains all the rules and regulations, discipline policies, dress code, and all other information which all students and parents need to know. Both parents and students should read it carefully and discuss the contents.

**Students and parents are asked to electronically sign via the Infosnap site** at the beginning of each year confirming that they have read the handbook and understand these rules and regulations.

**Student Assignment Journals will be passed out at orientation and/or the first day of school.** The Assignment Journal is to be kept up-to-date with assignments by the student.

### **Organizations and Activities**

In order to provide you with social contacts and promote cooperation among the students and teachers, the Middle School offers a variety of activities including sports, concerts, plays, and assemblies.

We have a Winter Games Day before Christmas holiday break during school time. Intramurals are an after school activity as well as a Middle School dramatics productions with after school rehearsals. In addition, an end of year Games Day may be held as a reward for hard work and behavior at the end of the year.

### **Library Media Center**

Our library has a collection of more than 9,000 volumes, and an ever-growing eBook and audiobook collection. There are 12 computer stations, as well as an attached lab with 30 additional computers. These allow the students to research subjects using modern technology-by navigating the Internet. Students can access the library during study hall, and during full class projects.

### **Student Council**

The student council is the official arm of the student body with the purpose of promoting harmonious relationships with their peers and between students and staff. Members of the student council include the following:

- Representatives elected at the beginning of the school year.
- The faculty sponsor and the principal

A student seeking membership in student council must remain academically eligible throughout the school year and consistently maintain a good behavioral standing.

### **Athletics**

Students have the opportunity to participate in various sports. Boys may play football in both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Girls may tryout for volleyball in both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Boys and girls in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade may also participate in basketball, cross country, track, and wrestling. All students are welcome to participate in the intramural games. **ALL** students must be academically eligible to participate in any sport, both competitive and recreational.

### **Your School Day**

The middle school day starts at 7:30 AM and ends with the last bus group being dismissed at approximately 2:42 PM. The middle school operates on a six (6) day cycle. Days 1, 3 and 5 will follow the odd day cycle and Days 2, 4 and 6 follow the even day cycle.

### **Lunches**

The school operates on a closed lunch program. Lunch periods are held with the first group beginning at approximately 10:59 AM. While one group is eating in the cafeteria, the other students are in class or study hall. Students may carry their lunches or purchase the school lunch in the cafeteria. Milk and/or juice may also be purchased by those students who desire to do so.

# Course Descriptions

# Class of 2028

Grade 6  
Freeport Middle School  
2021-2022

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Requirements 2021-2022

Language Arts (Double Period)

Mathematics (Double Period)

Social Studies

Science

Special Area: Year-long Courses held every other day: Music, Health/PE, Art  
Engineering & Design 6 (Year-long Course held every other day)

### **Electives – Grade 6**

Music Ensemble (all year)

### **SIXTH GRADE COURSES ~ SPECIFIC**

#### **Advanced Language Arts 6**

The primary focus of the 6th grade Advanced ELA course is to help students expand their reading, grammar, and writing skills through learning activities that put emphasis on the “interactive” nature of the reading process. Instruction will utilize a variety of higher level literature and activities to challenge students to extend their demonstrated proficiency in reading, grammar, and writing through genre studies, independent examination of meaningful contexts, and diverse responses to literature. Classes often move at a faster pace, include different types of assignments, and require additional outside reading. Students should be self-motivated and able to work effectively in a variety of learning situations (i.e. self-directed activities, whole class, small groups, partners, etc.).

***\*\*Prerequisites – please see page 9.***

#### **Language Arts 6**

The sixth grade English/Language Arts course provides a balance of reading, writing, language, speaking, and listening skills. Students will master essential vocabulary, comprehension skills and strategies while reading from grade-level fiction and nonfiction text. Students will progress through the writing process as they plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish narrative, argumentative, and expository writing.

### **Pre-Algebra 6**

Students focus on developing an understanding of and applying of proportional relationships. They develop an understanding of operations with rational numbers. Students focus on formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations. They will calculate area, surface area and volume of two- and three- dimensional geometric figures. In addition, students will develop an understanding of statistical thinking.

***\*\*Prerequisites – please see page 10.***

### **Math 6**

Sixth Grade General Math focuses on computing problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Students will apply the concepts of ratios and rates to solve real life problems. The students will have an understanding of division of fractions and extend the notion of numbers to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers. They will calculate area, surface area, and volume of two dimensional and three dimensional geometric figures. Students will write, interpret, and use expressions and equations as well as develop an understanding of statistical thinking.

### **General Science 6**

This course is involved with exploring and considering topics including Life, Earth, Astronomy and Space, as well as Water and Atmospheric Science. The topics which will be discussed are living things such as bacteria, fungi, animals, and plants. Further area of study includes the earth's surface and atmosphere combining weathering and soil, erosion and deposition. Students will also have the opportunity to study the moon phases and weather. Students will encounter basic hands-on projects and labs that solidify content.

### **Social Studies 6**

In 6th grade, students will focus their studies on the ancient world. The range of our study will include many ancient cultures and time periods of our world such as: Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Greece, Rome, Medieval times, and the Renaissance. Digging deeper than the surface, we will learn about each civilization's history, religion, geography, economic endeavors, and modern day impact.

### **Physical Education 6**

Students are introduced to fitness concepts and lifetimes activities/skills that lay a foundation for overall health and wellness. Students will be engaged in hands on physical activities that promote cooperation, communication, and knowledge of the body systems. This is a course you'll have one day during the six-day cycle.

### **Art 6**

This course allows students to practice skills of creativity, problem solving, and purposeful expression while also recognizing and developing their use of the basic elements and principals of visual art and design. Through a variety of teacher and student directed artistic challenges, students will deepen their understanding of the value of art as a constructive activity with clear connections to everyday life. This is a course you'll have one day during the six-day cycle.

### **General Music 6**

In 6<sup>th</sup> grade General Music, students are involved in listening to, analyzing, composing and improving music. These skills are taught through structured individual and group activities that include the use of music technology, movement, playing instruments, and singing. This is a course you'll have one day during the six-day cycle.

### **Engineering & Design 6**

Students will learn the importance of critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity while actively engaging in activities in order to find solutions. Students will build and program Lego EV3 robots to learn basic engineering and programming skills, basic physics, problem solving, design and testing, measured movements, turns, speeds, and power. Students will develop coding skills through the Code.org program. This is a year-long class that you will have all year every other day.

## **SIXTH GRADE ELECTIVES**

### **Music Ensemble 6**

**Students will be enrolled in this grade-specific course if they plan on participating in Band, Chorus or both.**

Band membership is open to interested students with previous instrumental training and/or the recommendation of their band director. In addition to the regular rehearsals and performances, the students will receive small group sectionals on a weekly basis. Chorus membership provides an opportunity for students to develop sight-reading skills and begin to develop sound and vocal techniques to maintain good singing and a healthy voice. In band and chorus, the students use learned and practices instrumental/vocal skills to prepare a wide variety of music for the winter and spring concerts. For band and choir, each ensemble is a graded course with two evening concert requirements (and two mandatory dress rehearsals – after school).

### **Study Hall**

Students who choose not to take an elective will be given study halls - one period of their day. The student will have the same study hall all year long. Students are expected to be quiet and are encouraged to do their homework, read, or go to the library for research. Study halls are held in the cafeteria, auditorium, or an empty classroom. Study Halls may be used by the district for core subject remediation on an individual basis.

### **Challenge**

Challenge class provides an opportunity for *students with a GIEP* to further develop creative and critical thinking skills by participating in individual and small group problem solving activities. Students will work to solve a variety of problems involving but not limited to mathematics, science, logic, language arts, journalism, and technology. Challenge class meets twice a week through scheduled class time, and is non-graded.

## **CRITERIA FOR ADMITTANCE INTO ADVANCED COURSES 6**

***Students must meet the appropriate assessment and recommendation criteria to be placed in any advanced course. The placement criteria for Advanced English Language Arts, and Pre-Algebra Math are listed below. If you have any concerns or questions about your child's future placement, please contact their 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher prior to the end of the school year.***

### **Advanced English Language Arts 6**

- 90<sup>th</sup> percentile in Reading and Language Arts on the Map Spring benchmark
- Advanced score on the PSSA English Language Arts Exam \*may not be applicable for the 2021-2022 school year
- 93% average or better in 5<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts classes,
- Writing sample minimum score of 18 out of 20 on the writing sample rubric (done in 5<sup>th</sup> grade) ,

- Recommendation from 5<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts teacher; **and**
- Student must maintain an **85%** or higher at the end of the first quarter to continue in this advanced course.

\*\*\* Students must meet 4 of the 5 criteria to take the advanced track in English Language Arts.

\*\*\* **Required** summer reading – Students enrolled in the Advanced English Language Arts classes **must** read one books over the summer. The book titles will be announced at a later date.

### **Pre-Algebra 6**

Enrollment in Pre-Algebra in 6<sup>th</sup> grade is based on the following criteria (must obtain 3 of the 4):

- Advanced score on the PSSA Math Exam \*may not be applicable for the 2021-2022 school year
- 93% average or better in 5<sup>th</sup> grade Math class
- Math Inventory Score
- Recommendation from 5<sup>th</sup> grade Math teacher; **and/or**
- Student must maintain an **85%** or higher at the end of the first quarter to continue in this advanced course.

# Course Descriptions

# Class of 2027

Grade 7  
Freeport Middle School  
2021-2022

7th Grade Course Requirements  
2021-2022

English  
Mathematics  
Social Studies  
General Science  
Health / P.E. (both year-long courses/held every other day)  
Write & Read  
Technology Essentials 7/ Engineering and Design 7

**Electives: Grade 7:**

Music Ensemble (all year)

**SEVENTH GRADE COURSES ~ SPECIFIC**

**General English 7**

Through an integrated study of literature, composition, grammar and vocabulary, seventh grade English is designed to encourage critical thinking skills and to enhance understanding of the writing process, usage skill and language.

**Advanced English 7**

In this course, reading and English classes will be working together collaboratively throughout the year, therefore advanced students will be required to take *Advanced Reading* as well as *Advanced English*. This class will expand critical thinking skills, apply study skills, and extend the students' knowledge of grammar and usage skills, vocabulary, writing oral communications, and literature through an integrated approach. Use of higher level thought processes and creativity are expected.

**\*\*Prerequisites – please see page 16.**

### **Write & Read 7**

The overall goal of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade writing and reading program is designed to expand the student's reading and writing skills through the use of various forms of literature and follow up activities. Various novels are used to teach the wide variety of reading skills necessary to be successful. These skills are taught within the context of the stories read by the students. Supplemental activities are utilized to reinforce these skills.

The writing program is an integrated part of the reading program. The various writing activities relate, either directly or indirectly, to the stories read. The goal of the writing program is to improve the student's ability to understand the various writing prompts and to respond to them in an appropriate manner.

### **Advanced Reading/Writing 7**

The primary focus of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Advanced Reading/Writing course is to help students expand their reading and writing skills through learning activities that emphasize the "interactive" nature of the reading process. Instruction will utilize a variety of high quality literature and activities to challenge students to extend their demonstrated proficiency in reading and writing through genre studies, independent exploration of meaningful contexts, and diverse responses to literature. Students should be self-motivated and able to work effectively in a variety of learning situations (i.e. self-directed activities, whole class, small groups, partners, etc.).

**\*\*Prerequisites – please see page 16.**

### **General Science 7**

Grade 7 Science explores varying topics over multiple scientific disciplines including Physics, Chemistry, Earth Science, and Astronomy. Specific topics discussed are laboratory techniques, the scientific method, sound and light, basic chemistry, geologic forces, Earth's structure, and stars/galaxies.

### **Social Studies 7**

Social Studies in 7<sup>th</sup> grade is World Geography, which includes an introduction to the basics of geography an in-depth study of The Americas and a look at Southwest and Central Asia. In addition to our focus on geography, this class incorporates all elements of social studies, including the history and culture of the places we study, discussion on events, lessons on important dates/events in American history, and much more.

### **Math 7**

Students focus on developing an understanding of and applying proportional relationships and developing and understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations. They solve problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and work with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume. Students draw inferences about populations based on samples.

### **Pre- Algebra 7**

Students focus on formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bi-variate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations. They grasp the concept of a function and use functions to describe quantitative relationships. Students begin analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem

**\*\*Prerequisites – please see page 16.**

### **Algebra I – 7**

Students are expected to formalize and expand on Algebraic concepts established in previous coursework. They will deepen and extend their understanding of linear and exponential relationships by contrasting them with each other and by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Students will engage in methods for analyzing, and using functions. They will fluently move between multiple representations of functions including but not limited to linear, exponential and quadratics. All students enrolled in Algebra I will be required to take and pass the Keystone Algebra Exam as part of their high school graduation requirement.

**\*\*Prerequisites – please see page 16.**

### **Physical Education 7**

This course teaches students the importance of physical fitness, good sportsmanship, social skills and a commitment to lifetime activity. These skills are taught through organized activities including individual and team sports, calisthenics, and lifetime sports. This is a year-long class that you will have all year every other day.

### **Health 7**

This course focuses on the physical, emotional, and social development of the human body as well as the body systems and functions. Topics covered in this course are safety, drugs, personal hygiene, and the prevention of communicable diseases such as HIV and AIDS. In addition, this course emphasizes physical fitness and how it relates to good health. All materials are presented as they relate to the interest and needs of all individuals. This is a year-long class that you will have all year every other day.

### **Technology Essentials 7**

During this semester course, students will focus on basic computer skills and responsible computer use. Students will develop a basic understanding of Internet safety, ethical computer use, keyboarding review, opening and closing software files, accessing and saving to the school server, copying and pasting files or text, copyright laws, and searching the Internet. This course will cover basic and intermediate skills and shortcuts using, but not limited to Microsoft Office. Beginner word and publisher activities will be completed. It will teach students how to become a responsible digital citizen. This is a year-long class that you will have all year every other day.

### **Engineering & Design 7**

Building upon the skills introduced in Engineering & Design 6, students will continue to learn the importance of the 4 C's – critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. Students are provided with the opportunity to explore functionality of physical sensors on the Lego EV3 robots and program the robots to complete sensor-assisted navigation tasks. Students will enhance their coding skills through the Code.org program. This is a year-long class that you will have all year every other day.

## **SEVENTH GRADE ELECTIVES**

### **Music Ensemble 7**

**Students will be enrolled in this grade-specific course if they plan on participating in Band, Chorus or both.**

Band membership is open to interested students with previous instrumental training and/or the recommendation of their band director. In addition to the regular rehearsals and performances, the students will receive small group sectionals on a weekly basis. Chorus membership provides an opportunity for students to develop sight-reading skills and begin to develop sound and vocal techniques to maintain good singing and a healthy voice. In band and chorus, the students use learned and practices instrumental/vocal skills to prepare a wide variety of music for the winter and spring concerts. For band and choir, each ensemble is a graded course with two evening concert requirements (and two mandatory dress rehearsals – after school).

### Study Hall

Students who choose not to take an elective will be given study halls - one period of their day. The student will have the same study hall all year long. Students are expected to be quiet and are encouraged to do their homework, read, or go to the library for research. Study halls are held in the cafeteria, auditorium, or an empty classroom. Study Halls may be used by the district for core subject remediation on an individual basis.

### Challenge

Challenge class provides an opportunity for *students with a GIEP* to further develop creative and critical thinking skills by participating in individual and small group problem solving activities. Students will work to solve a variety of problems involving but not limited to mathematics, science, logic, language arts, journalism, and technology. Challenge class meets twice a week through scheduled class time, and is non-graded.

## **CRITERIA FOR ADMITTANCE INTO ADVANCED COURSES 7**

***Students must meet the appropriate assessment and recommendation criteria to be placed in any advanced course. The placement criteria for Advanced English, Advanced Reading, and Transition Math are listed below. If you have any concerns or questions about your child's future placement, please contact their 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher prior to the end of the school year.***

### Advanced English Language Arts 7 (English and Reading classes)

- Successful completion of Advanced English Language Arts 6,                   **OR**
- Recommendation of 6<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts.
- Student must maintain an **85%** or higher at end of the first quarter to continue in this advanced course.

\*\*\* Students opting to take the advanced track in English Language Arts **must take both** the Advanced English 7 and Advanced Reading/Writing 7 classes.

### Pre-Algebra 7

Enrollment in Pre-Algebra in 7<sup>th</sup> grade is based on the following criteria (must obtain 3 of the 4):

- A final/overall average of 93% or better in 6<sup>th</sup> grade math,
- A 70<sup>th</sup> percentile score or higher on the Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test,
- Advanced score on the most recent PSSA math assessment,
- Recommendation from 6<sup>th</sup> grade Math teacher; **and/or**
- Student must maintain an **85%** or higher at end of the first quarter to continue in this advanced course.

### Algebra I

Enrollment in Algebra I in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade is based on the following criteria:

- Completion of Pre-Algebra in the prior year; and
- Student must maintain an **85%** or higher at end of the first quarter to continue in this advanced course.

# Course Descriptions

## Class of 2026

Grade 8  
Freeport Middle School  
2021-2022

8th Grade Course Requirements  
2021-2022

English  
Mathematics  
Social Studies  
General Science  
Literacy Arts 8 (Year-long Course held every other day)  
Computer Concepts (Year-long Courses held every other day)  
Physical Education (Year-long Course held every other day)  
Engineering & Design 8 / Art (Semester Courses)  
Exploring Pathways (Year-long Course held every other day)

### **Electives: Grade 8:**

Music Ensemble (All year)  
TV Media (Semester)

### **EIGHTH GRADE COURSES ~ SPECIFIC**

#### **General English 8**

English 8 reinforces and builds on literature, composition, and language skills learned in English 7 through an integrated approach. Literature study includes the five major genres: short story, novel, nonfiction, drama, and poetry. Using the process approach to writing, students will write compositions in the narrative, expository and argumentative modes. Language skills include regular vocabulary study and a review of basic grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure.

#### **Advanced English 8**

The emphasis of the Advanced English 8 class is to employ critical thinking while exploring units in literature, composition, and language skills. The literature is presented by genre: short story, novel, nonfiction, drama, and poetry. Composition is an integral part of the literature program. Additionally, students will write narrative, expository, and persuasive essays, as well as research-based essays and

creative compositions. Language skills, including vocabulary, style, and conventions, are practiced in writing and speaking. A supplementary summer reading program complements the regular program.

**\*Prerequisites - please see page 21.**

### **Social Studies 8**

Eighth grade social studies will focus on early United States History from English colonization of North America to the Western American Indian Wars, roughly 1700-1890. This survey in United States History will cover a variety of topics essential to the formation of the United States and the history of our young nation. Historical content will include English colonization, the American Revolution, the Constitution, the early presidents, the Age of Jackson, Westward Expansion, 19<sup>th</sup> century reform movements and transformation, the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the Western American Indian Wars.

On a basic level, students will deepen their knowledge of the important people and events that shaped our early history. More importantly, students will be studying these topics along political, economic, social, cultural, and geographic themes. By studying content along these themes, students will look at our history in an engaging and critical way that provides an opportunity for a multi-faceted understanding of the accomplishments, struggles, and tragedies involved in our nation's history.

### **Literary Arts 8**

This is a year-long course held every other day. This course explores literacy, writing, and critical reading skills necessary for success as an independent and functional reader. A variety of literature, novels, and informational text of steadily increasing sophistication is used. Through close reading, text dependent analysis, critical writing, class discussions and presentations, students deepen their ability to analyze, evaluate, and critique text independently. This is a year-long class that you will have all year every other day.

### **General Science 8**

This course is designed to introduce the student to the world of science and technology in their everyday lives, emphasizing the use of scientific thinking. Eighth grade science includes a background in the fields of chemistry, ecology, physics, electricity, simple machines, and petroleum. This will lead into the study of the effect of drugs and alcohol on the equilibrium as well as human body systems.

### **Physical Education 8**

This course teaches students the importance of physical fitness, good sportsmanship, social skills, and a commitment to lifetime activity. These skills are taught through organized activities including individual and team sports, calisthenics, and lifetime sports. This is a year-long class that will be held every other day. This is a year-long class that you will have all year every other day.

### **Computer Concepts 8**

Students will develop a working knowledge of Office 2013 (Advanced Word, Advanced PowerPoint, Advanced Publisher, Excel, and Movie Maker) as well as Windows 2010. Focus will also be directed to correct Internet usage, searching strategies, and website authority. This is a semester course consisting of two consecutive nine-week sessions. This is a year-long class that you will have all year every other day.

### **Pre-Algebra 8**

Students focus on formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bi-variate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations. They grasp the concept of a function and use functions to describe quantitative relationships. Students begin analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

### **Algebra I – 8**

Students are expected to formalize and expand on Algebraic concepts established in previous coursework. They will deepen and extend their understanding of linear and exponential relationships by contrasting them with each other and by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Students will engage in methods for analyzing, and using functions. They will fluently move between multiple representations of functions including but not limited to linear, exponential and quadratics. All students enrolled in Algebra I will be required to take and pass the Keystone Algebra Exam as part of their high school graduation requirement.

**\*\*Prerequisites – please see page 21.**

### **Geometry 8**

Students will formalize, deepen and extend their geometric and algebraic experiences. They will continue their work with similarity and congruence. Students explore more complex geometric concepts, and relationships, including: formal mathematical arguments, transformations, the coordinate system, right triangle trigonometry, circles and probability.

**\*\*Prerequisites - please see page 21.**

### **Art 8**

Eighth grade art is designed to give students an opportunity to develop skills in a variety of art media specifically focusing on: drawing, painting, photography, and three-dimensional design. This course emphasizes creative thinking, problem solving, and time management. Students are graded on their effort, not on their artistic ability. This is a year-long class that you will have all year every other day.

### **Engineering and Design 8**

Exploring Industrial Technology is a required, graded course. Students will participate in hands-on engineering and design activities to learn about the inputs, processes, outputs, and impacts of technology. Problem solving challenges include products and experiences in manufacturing, communication, transportation, and construction. This is a year-long class that you will have all year every other day.

### **Exploring Pathways**

This is a year-long course held every other day. This course is designed to prepare students through the integration of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills (critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication) to maximize their high school experience and to explore college and career options. Students will gain insight into their own interest, abilities, and strengths. The course will focus on career exploration, financial literacy, and entrepreneurial skills. All students will complete a college and career plan by the end of the course. This is a year-long class that you will have all year every other day.

## **EIGHTH GRADE ELECTIVES –**

### **Music Ensemble 8**

**Students will be enrolled in this grade-specific course if they plan on participating in Band, Chorus or both.**

Band membership is open to interested students with previous instrumental training and/or the recommendation of their band director. In addition to the regular rehearsals and performances, the students will receive small group sectionals on a weekly basis. Chorus membership provides an opportunity for students to develop sight-reading skills and begin to develop sound and vocal techniques to maintain good singing and a healthy voice. In band and chorus, the students use learned and practices instrumental/vocal skills to prepare a wide variety of music for the winter and spring concerts. For band and choir, each ensemble is a graded course with two evening concert requirements (and two mandatory dress rehearsals – after school).

### **TV Media (Jacket Pride News) 8**

The middle school students will produce a daily news program. A maximum of twelve 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be accepted per semester. Each group will meet every day of the week for a semester. This class will encompass facets of news production including newsgathering, writing, studio management, performing, public speaking, taping and broadcasting. This is a non-graded course and will be scheduled as a low priority.

### **Challenge**

Challenge class provides an opportunity for *students with a GIEP* to further develop creative and critical thinking skills by participating in individual and small group problem solving activities. Students will work to solve a variety of problems involving but not limited to mathematics, science, logic, language arts, journalism, and technology. Challenge class meets twice a week through scheduled class time.

## **CRITERIA FOR ADMITTANCE INTO ADVANCED COURSES 8**

*Students must meet the appropriate assessment and recommendation criteria to be placed in any advanced course. The placement criteria for Advanced English, Foreign Language (French I or Spanish I), Algebra I or Geometry are listed below. If you have any concerns or questions about your child's future placement, please contact their 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher prior to the end of the school year.*

### **Advanced English Language Arts 8**

- Successful completion of Advanced English Language Arts 7,
- Recommendation of 7<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts, **and**
- Student must maintain an **85%** or higher at the end of the first quarter to continue in this advanced course.

### **Algebra I**

- Completion of Pre-Algebra in the prior year; **and**
- Student must maintain an **85%** or higher at the end of the first quarter to continue in this advanced course.

### **Geometry**

- Completion of Algebra I in the prior year; **and**
- Student must maintain an **85%** or higher at the end of the first quarter to continue in this advanced course.

## GRADING INFORMATION

Grades are used to represent how well a person has mastered, or has not mastered, the materials in a course. It should be remembered that the grade itself is not as important as the acquiring of usable and workable knowledge it represents.

✓ A	-	91	-	100%	indicates superior attainment
✓ B	-	81	-	90	indicates attainment above average
✓ C	-	70	-	80	indicates average attainment
✓ D	-	60	-	69	indicates the lowest passing grade
✓ F	-	0	-	59	indicates failing work
✓ I					indicates Incomplete work

An incomplete grade may be given by the teacher when a student fails to complete the required work in a nine-week period. An "I" grade received by a student must be removed within the time specified by the office. If the "I" is not removed within the stated time, it will be changed to an "F".

To remove an "I" grade, a student must make certain that **they\*** take the initiative to make up the work missed. Students should not expect the teacher to constantly remind them.

*\*When you have missed school, get your assignments from your teachers immediately upon your return. Students are also encouraged to call friends and ask for assignments when missing school, a day or two at a time. Due to the differences between elementary and middle school class size, only on the morning of the third consecutive day of an absence can the middle school be contacted for assignments and books at parent's request. **Parents must call the office before 8:30 AM of the third consecutive day in order to have books and assignments collected by the end of that day.** If you know you will be out for an extended period of time, please call the Guidance Counselor and arrangements may be made.*

### Adding and Dropping Electives

Students who take Instrumental Music (Band) or Vocal Music (Chorus) as electives **CANNOT** drop the course after the midway point of the first nine weeks. If the student, with parental consent, insists upon dropping the course they will receive a failing grade **for the year**. Exceptions will be determined **ONLY** by the principal.

### Progress Reports/PowerSchool

Progress reports will not be mailed to students but student's grades will be available through the Parent Portal on PowerSchool. Parents are expected to review grades with their child and discuss a plan of action for improvement, if needed. The main purpose of the Parent Portal in PowerSchool is to keep parents up-to-date on their child's academic performance.

### Failure or Retention

In sixth grade, if a student fails more than one major subject, the student must attend summer school to remove the deficiency or they will repeat grade 6.

In seventh grade, if a student fails more than one major subject, the student must attend summer school to remove the deficiency or they will repeat grade 7.

In eighth grade, if a student fails more than one major subject, the student must attend summer school to remove the deficiency or they will not be promoted to grade 9. A failure in 8<sup>th</sup> grade Mathematics will result in the student having to repeat the course.

### **Secondary Instructional Support**

Secondary Instructional Support (S.I.S.) is an extension of the already successful elementary support program, IST. Each program helps students to improve academically.

The premise of this program is to help students reach their full learning potential by developing skills they will need to work more successfully in school and in adult life. A request for assistance in developing these skills can be made by an administrator, a classroom teacher, a parent or the student. Once this request is received, a faculty team will work with the classroom teacher, parents, and student to develop techniques and adaptations for improved learning in all the student's classes. These techniques and adaptations will be monitored and revised, if necessary, to determine if the student is learning and achieving success.

### **Freeport Area Care Team**

The members of the Freeport Area Care Team (F.A.C.T.) serve as an assessment and referral system to support students whose problems interfere with their education. Parents, staff, or the students themselves may make referrals. F.A.C.T. reviews information gathered through observations and interviews, offers direct support, or refers the student and/or parent to an outside agency if necessary.

## GETTING HELP AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

### ***Whom To See. . . .***

### **About . . .**

#### ***Advisor/Subject Teacher***

Difficulty with school work, lack of understanding, make-up work, and how to study

#### ***Homeroom Teacher/Office***

Attendance, school rules, regulations, procedures and locker assignments

#### ***Librarian***

Using library tools and resources for independent study, finding reading materials to supplement classroom work

#### ***Counselor***

Scheduling, testing, academic problems, career planning, improving study habits, crisis management, and a student or parent's individual concerns

#### ***Office/Principal***

Requests for early dismissal, pre-approval for extended absences, tardiness to school and/or class, and serious problems affecting school routine

#### ***Nurse/Health Suite***

Health information and problems, illness or injury during school time, physical exams for sports, vision and hearing, height and weight checks, scoliosis screening, etc.

**NOT FOR DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT!!**

***~~No student or parent needs to face a problem alone. The staff of your middle school welcomes the chance to help you. There are the classroom teachers who are interested in each student as an individual. They, in turn, are supported by those mentioned above whose purpose is to make sure each pupil receives all the assistance he or she may need. ~~***

## Our Administration

### Central Office

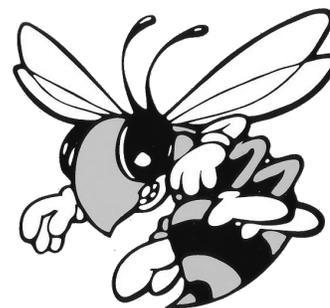
Ian M. Magness  
Larry P. Robb  
Ryan Manzer

Superintendent  
Program Director  
Business Manager

### School Board

Daniel P. Lucovich  
Adam M. Toncini  
Gregory Selinger  
Michael J. Huth  
Mary Dobransky  
Melanie Bollinger  
Christine F. Davies  
Richard G. Hill, Jr.  
John K. Haven  
Frank C. Prazenica, Jr.

President  
First Vice President  
Second Vice President  
Treasurer  
Board Secretary



### Freeport Area Middle School

Timothy Walters, Principal  
Alison Dorogi, Counselor  
Morgan McCurdy, Secretary

### Other Administrators

Donald Dell	Coordinator of Student Services
Ronald Grove	Technology Coordinator
Michael Kleckner	Principal, High School
Jeffrey Lesko	Principal, South Buffalo Elementary
Eric Mailki	Maintenance Supervisor
Steven Poleski	Principal, Buffalo Elementary
Patrick Scott	Assistant Principal, High School
Shawn Stivenson	Athletic Director and Student Events Coordinator