

Amherst Junior High School Program of Studies Course Guide 2021 – 2022



Mr. Andrew Gibson, Principal
Mrs. Rhonda Neuhoﬀ, Assistant Principal
Mrs. Hannah Johnson, School Counselor
Mrs. Mary Scott Williams, School Counselor

Table of Contents

Grading System/Power School	3
Grade Point Average	3
Academic Eligibility	4
Failure Protocol	4
Course Fees/Schedule Changes	4
Explanation of Courses	5
Language Arts	6-8
Mathematics	8-9
Science	10-11
History	11-12
Essentials	13-19
Art & Technology.....	13-15
Life Skills & PE.....	15-16
Foreign Language.....	16-17
Music Program.....	17-19
Mindful Enrichment	20
Comet Pride	20
Special Education Services	20

Amherst Junior High Grading System

Amherst Junior High uses a standardized grading scale in all classes.
This is the same grading scale used at Marion L. Steele High School.

98-100 = A+	87-89 = B+	77-79 = C+	67-69 = D+	Below 60 = F
93-97 = A	83-86 = B	73-76 = C	63-66 = D	I = Incomplete
90-92 = A-	80-82 = B-	70-72 = C-	60-62 = D-	

PowerSchool

Parents and students can access grades for classes by visiting the school website and clicking the PowerSchool Parent/Student Access link.

Grade Point Average

The graded system to calculating Grade Point Average, GPA is as follows:

Letter Mark	All Core Courses and Elective Courses
A	4.0
A-	3.666
B+	3.333
B	3.0
B-	2.666
C+	2.333
C	2.0
C-	1.666
D+	1.333
D	1.0
D-	0.666
F	0

Academic Eligibility

Grades 7-8: To be eligible, a student-athlete must be currently enrolled at Amherst Junior High and have received passing grades in five of the subjects in which enrolled in the preceding grading period for the start of that sport's season. Note: Fourth quarter grades count for Fall eligibility.

Failure Protocol

Students who fail two quarters of one course are in danger of failing for the year. Students will fail a course for the year if they fail three out of the four quarters within one school year. Following the failure of two quarters of one course, the school counselor will arrange a meeting with the student to develop a plan for future success. Parents will be informed via letter or phone call.

Schedule Changes and Course Fees

Students wishing to change their schedules need to see their school counselor. All schedule changes **for the year** need to be completed by the first week of school. Please review your child's full year schedule during this time. This is to ensure proper course fees, class numbers, and requirement fulfillments. Course fee letters will be sent home and fees need to be paid during the first nine weeks. Please see the handbook for more information

Amherst Junior High Courses

One of the primary goals of our instructional program is to provide educational experiences to meet the wide variety of needs existing in our large student population. An emphasis is placed on individualizing instruction in all courses to the extent possible.

In an effort to further address our commitment to meeting the unique individual needs of students, a percentage of our students' courses have been designed with different difficulty levels. Factors used to determine an appropriate course must meet criteria off of Amherst Junior High placement rubric.

An explanation of the levels follows: Most students at Amherst Junior High will be appropriately placed in grade level courses. A limited number of junior high advanced and high school courses exist to service about 15% of the student population who demonstrate a need for a more challenging course experience determined by the Amherst Junior High Placement Rubric.

Advanced Courses and Rubric Recommendations

Advanced junior high courses are designed to meet the needs of students who are academically ready to take on more of a challenge, but are not yet ready for high school level coursework. Enrollment is limited and based on specific academic criteria outlined in the subject's rubric. Objective criteria includes MAP scores, AIR scores, Gifted Identification, and department exams.

High School Level Courses

High school level courses are designed to meet the needs of students who are academically prepared for the challenge of high school level coursework. Upon completion of the course, high school credit will be earned. All high school credited classes grades are calculated into the students' high school GPA.

LANGUAGE ARTS

000601 – Language Arts 6

This class follows the course of study as outlined by the Ohio Department of Education's Learning Standards for English Language Arts, Sixth Grade. Included in this course are the various components of ELA: reading, writing, grammar, spelling, and vocabulary study as well as speaking and listening. Students will be required to read a variety of texts from different genres and respond to them in kind. In addition to reading responses, students are also expected to write formally and informally on a variety of subjects, effectively use the writing process, and write clearly using standard English grammar, correct spelling, and punctuation for a final copy. Students write narratives, expository essays, research reports, responses to literature, and compare/contrast essays.

00G601- Honors Language Arts 6

This is a challenging, fast-paced, year-long course designed for students who have higher level language arts skills, a strong work ethic, and a passion for reading and writing. This class follows the same course of study as described in the seventh grade Ohio Department of Education's Learning Standards for English Language Arts. However, students in this class are expected to exhibit higher-level critical thinking processes through deeper questioning techniques, participation in group discussions, thoughtful writing responses, and the reading of more challenging texts. Students will also study grammar, spelling, writing, and vocabulary from Greek and Latin roots. Rubric recommendation required.

001701 – Language Arts 7

This class covers the following Ohio Department of Education's Learning Standards for English Language Arts, Seventh Grade: vocabulary, literary terms, figurative language, grammar skills, punctuation, narrative/informational/argumentative essay writing, oral presentations, critical thinking, short stories, nonfiction, paired text, poetry, novels, and drama. The skills of reading, writing, listening, speaking, and viewing are taught in a holistic, balanced program. These skills are necessary for Language Arts and are supporting skills for all other content areas. Students will read, interpret, analyze, and discuss fiction and nonfiction texts in a variety of forms and demonstrate knowledge through writing and speaking.

001700 – Advanced Language Arts 7

In addition to the skills and material covered in the Seventh Grade Language Arts Class, the objective of this class is to teach students disciplined and effective reading and writing skills necessary for success in future accelerated courses. Success in this course requires seriously committed students who are willing to work above the expectations required in a regular 7th grade Language Arts class. Each student in this class is expected to adhere to high standards of attendance, preparedness, participation, and responsibility. Rubric recommendation required.

00G701- Honors Language Arts 7

This is a challenging, fast-paced, year-long course designed for students who have outstanding language arts skills, a strong work ethic, and a passion for reading and writing. This class follows the same course of study as described in the seventh grade Ohio Department of Education's Learning Standards for English Language Arts. However, students in this class are expected to exhibit higher-level critical thinking processes through deeper questioning techniques, participation in group discussions, and the reading of more challenging texts. Students will be expected to read higher-level selections in the 7th grade literature anthology as well as works from the 8th grade anthology, current informational texts, and classic literature (novels, poems, and a Shakespeare play). Students will also study grammar, writing, research skills, and vocabulary from Greek and Latin roots. There is a mandatory summer reading assignment for this course, which students must complete prior to the first day of class as a foundation for activities during that first week and throughout the year. Rubric recommendation required.

002801 - Language Arts 8

This class follows the course of study as outlined in the Ohio Department of Education's Learning Standards for English Language Arts, Eighth Grade. Students will be required to read 5 novels over the course of the year, as well as a summer reading book and independent reading. The course includes a vocabulary program that focuses on classical Greek and Latin root words with challenging exercises. Students will be expected to write a variety of responses to informative/explanatory and narrative texts that exhibit a clear thought process and evidence of the writing process. The course also includes a literature book and a subscription to SCOPE magazine. Both are used to introduce and assess student understanding of numerous literary elements. All students will be challenged to exhibit independent thinking skills, which will be displayed and assessed through questioning, group discussions and tests.

002800 – Advanced Language Arts 8

This class follows the course of study as outlined in the Ohio Department of Education's Learning Standards for English Language Arts, Eighth Grade. Students will be required to read a summer reading book as well as five novels over the course of the year. Students will also use the Holt Elements of Literature Second Course book to reinforce eighth grade standards. This course continues the Classical Root Vocabulary program that was established in seventh grade advanced classes. SCOPE magazine is used for its nonfiction selections with challenging Lexile reading levels. Students will be expected to write a variety of responses including argumentative, narrative, informative, and explanatory that exhibit evidence of a clear thought process and evidence of the writing process. Advanced students are required to have the self-motivation to work independently, push themselves academically, complete required work thoroughly, and expect to be challenged. In addition, students must possess a steadfast work ethic and drive to succeed. Class participation, discussion and group work are essential aspects of this course, as it is teacher facilitated and expected to be student driven. Rubric recommendation required

00G801 - Honors Language Arts 8

This is a challenging, fast-paced, year-long course designed for students who have outstanding language arts skills, a strong work ethic, and a passion for reading and writing. This class follows the same course of study as described in the eighth grade Common Core standards. However, students in this class are expected to exhibit higher-level critical thinking processes through deeper questioning techniques, participation in group discussions, and the reading of more challenging texts. Students will utilize both the 8th grade and 9th grade literature anthologies along with current informational texts, classic novels, poems, and a Shakespeare play. Additionally, students will study grammar, writing, research skills, and vocabulary from Greek and Latin roots. Upon successful completion of the course, students will be prepared to enter Honors English 9 at Steele. Please note that if your child chooses not to take Honors English 9 as a freshman, he/she will repeat some material during his/her freshman year. There is a mandatory summer reading assignment for this course, which students must complete prior to the first day of class as a foundation for activities during that first week and throughout the year. Rubric recommendation required.

MATHEMATICS

000671 – Math 6

Math 6 provides an in-depth study of all of Ohio's New Learning Standards for 6th grade. This course consists of 16 topics covering: Ratios and Proportional Relationships, The Number System, Expressions and Equations, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. This course is designed for the majority of the 6th grade students.

000671 – Math 6+

Math 6+ is a component of the 3 year gifted math program at AJH for 6th through 8th grade students. Students are recommended into this program by their cognitive and math IQ, achievement test scores, and MAP growth scores. This class is designed for students who show advanced readiness in mathematics and can handle the rigorous pace of the class. Once enrolled into this program, students are strongly encouraged to remain for the full three years taking Algebra 1 in 7th grade and Advanced Geometry in 8th grade, both for high school credit. Math 6+ is the Digits accelerated 7/8th grade math course that focuses on the areas of the 7th and 8th grade Common Core standards in preparation for Algebra 1 in 7th grade for high school credit. The key content involves rational numbers and exponents, proportionality and linear relationships, an introduction to sampling and inference, and creating, comparing, and analyzing geometric figures. The 7th Grade Math AIR Achievement Test will be taken in the spring.

001711 – Math 7

Math 7 covers all of the Ohio Department of Education's Learning Standards for Mathematics, Seventh Grade. This course consists of 6 units : Ratios and Proportional Relationships, Rational Numbers, Expressions and Equations, Geometry, Statistics and Probability. This course is designed for the majority of the 7th grade students.

002710 - Advanced Math 7

Advanced Math 7 covers all of the Ohio Department of Education's Learning Standards for Mathematics, Seventh Grade and half of the Ohio Department of Education's Learning Standards for Mathematics, Eighth Grade are not cut or skipped but compacted requiring students to move at a faster pace. This course consists of four units: Rational Numbers and Exponents, Proportionality and Linear Relationships, Introduction to Sampling and Inference, and Creating, Comparing, and Analyzing Geometric Figures. This class is designed for students who show advanced readiness in mathematics and can handle the rigorous pace of the class. It prepares the students for the possibility of enrolling in Algebra 1 in 8th grade for high school credit. Rubric recommendation required.

000810 - Advanced Algebra I

This is a first year algebra course in which students will learn to reason symbolically. The key content involves ratios and proportions, percents, writing, solving, and graphing linear and quadratic equations, including systems of two linear equations with two unknowns. Quadratic equations are solved by factoring, completing the square, graphically, or by application of the quadratic formula. The course also includes the study of monomial and polynomial expressions, inequalities, exponents, exponential functions, rational expressions and rational functions. Algebraic skills are applied in a wide variety of problem-solving situations. **Upon successful completion the student will earn high school credit and their letter grade will be applied to the High School GPA. To be enrolled in this class as a 7th grader depends on rubric recommendation.**

002815 – Math 8

Comprehensive Math 8 focuses on the areas of the Ohio Department of Education's Learning Standards for Mathematics, Eighth Grade in preparation for Algebra 1 in 9th grade. The key content involves the number system, expressions and equations, functions, geometry, and statistics. This class is designed for students who show comprehensive levels of readiness in mathematics and can handle the rigorous pace of the class. It prepares the student for enrolling in Algebra 1 in 9th grade. The prerequisite for this year-long course is Math 7.

00GEOM - Advanced Geometry

This course covers the required concepts of geometry including definitions, postulates and theorems. The key content includes tools and language of geometry, reasoning and proof, parallel and perpendicular lines, congruent triangles, relationships within triangles, polygons and quadrilaterals, similarity, right triangles and trigonometry, transformations, area, surface area and volume, circles and probability. Algebraic concepts and techniques are integrated and emphasized throughout the course to aid in the understanding of geometric concepts and applications, and to reinforce proficiency in algebraic skills. The prerequisite for this yearlong course is successfully completing Algebra I and a teacher recommendation. High school GPA and credit will be earned. **Upon successful completion the student will earn high school credit and their letter grade will be applied to the High School GPA.**

SCIENCE

000651 – Science 6

Sixth grade students will focus on science inquiry to discover patterns, trends, structures and relationships related to the properties or interactions within and between systems. In the physical science, earth science and life science standards, students will study matter and its particles. Students will look into the order and organization of atoms and molecules within cells, minerals, rocks and soil.

001721 – Science 7

Seventh grade science students will focus on interactions between and in systems. Found in the physical science standards, students will be introduced to the Periodic Table of the Elements. Students will learn how the table is organized and the characteristics of the elements. They will use these characteristics to discuss how the elements bond. Students will also study the types of energy and how energy is transferred between forms and within systems. This transfer happens in living and nonliving things through photosynthesis and other processes.

Students have many Earth Science standards throughout the year. They will learn about the different spheres on Earth and how energy transfers between them in biogeochemical cycles. This transfer of energy affects different climates and forms many biomes on Earth. Students will also learn how interactions with the sun and moon affect the Earth causing jet streams, ocean currents, and tides which affect climates and biomes. _

001720 – Advanced Science 7

Seventh grade advanced science students will focus on more in-depth knowledge and understanding of the following topics: 10 of 18 The interactions within the periodic table of elements such as: the first two periods of the table, the structure and function of the periodic table. The neutralization processes in acids and bases, environmental aspects of acid rain, ocean acidification and the importance of soil testing processes in farming. The different forms of potential energy, mathematical computation skills calculating potential and kinetic energy as well as work. Electrical energy will involve the use of resistors, capacitors and diodes in labs and a scientific understanding of how they are used in electronic devices. A Rube Goldberg type device designated by the students and will be built using the different energy forms. The groundwater contamination and past groundwater cases that have occurred in the United States such as: Love Canal, Fernald, Times Beach Missouri. Students will investigate current clean up methods of the contaminants. The processes of photosynthesis and respiration, and the chemical processes responsible for each. Labs involving these processes will be studied in depth. Biogeochemical cycles of water, carbon, nitrogen, oxygen and phosphorus. And the importance of each of these cycles for living organisms on Earth. Rubric recommendation required.

002821 – Science 8

We will begin the year by reviewing general science lab guidelines and procedures. That will primarily be reviewed for the students. We will then move into more challenging topics as we examine topics such as: 1. Earth science/Geology with investigations into earthquakes and volcanoes. Learning the rock cycle and identifying specific rock samples will be a part of this unit. In addition, we will focus on weathering, erosion and the geographical landscapes each creates. 2. Forces and motion, including Newton's Laws will include many formulas and math calculations. There are some calculators to loan, but it would be beneficial for your child to have their own calculator for class. Thermal energy, waves, sound and light will also include some formulas and math problems. 3. Life sciences, including identifying parts of a cell and their purposes. In class, students will have the opportunity to use microscopes to better understand the different structures and functions of cells. A small section of genetics will be incorporated in studies as well.

002823 – Advanced Physical Science

Eight grade advanced science students will focus on the basic principles of chemistry and physics and their application to daily life. It provides the foundation for the study of more advanced topics. Labs are included to provide the opportunity for students to perform practical studies. Topics include the classification of matter, atoms, bonding & compounds, periodic trends of the elements, reactions of matter, conservation of energy, transfer/transformation of energy, waves, thermal energy, electricity, motion, forces, and dynamics. Fee required.

HISTORY**000661 – Social Studies 6**

This class follows the course of study as outlined by the Ohio Department of Education's Learning Standards for Social Studies, Sixth Grade. This course will focus on exploring various ancient world cultures. Students will have an understanding of the region's geographical, cultural, natural resources, economic and government processes. Current events will be utilized throughout the course. The five themes of geography will be woven throughout the course. Material will be processed through individual study and cooperative learning groups. Output will be assessed through various forms of writing, tests, oral presentations, debate and group participation/ product. Students will learn to assess historical materials, their relevance to a given issue, their reliability and their importance within the historical context.

001731 – World History 7

This class follows the same course of study as described in the Ohio Department of Education's Learning Standards for Social Studies, Seventh Grade. The theme of this course is world studies from 750 BC to 1600 AD. Civilizations ranging from ancient Greece to those of the first global age are studied. Strands include history, geography, government and economics with a focus on literacy. We will read one historical novel in this class during the year.

001730 - Advanced World History 7

This class follows the same course of study as described in the Ohio Department of Education's Learning Standards for Social Studies, Seventh Grade. The theme of this course is world studies from 750 BC to 1600 AD. Civilizations ranging from ancient Greece to those of the first global age are studied. Strands include history, geography, government and economics with a focus on literacy. We will read one historical novel in this class which is a higher Lexile level than the novel in the Comprehensive course. Tests in the advanced class will not have word banks and they will have more extensive essay questions with the understanding that a higher standard will be used to grade those essays. Rubric recommendation required.

002831 – United States History 8

This class follows the same course of study as described in the Ohio Department of Education's Learning Standards for Social Studies, Eighth Grade. The theme of this course is U.S. History starting with the first Americans and ending with the Reconstruction and its aftermath. Strands include history, geography, government and economics with a focus on literacy. Students will be required to read two historical novels to support the course's content.

002830 - Advanced United States History 8

This class follows the same course of study as described in the Ohio Department of Education's Learning Standards for Social Studies, Eighth Grade. The theme of this course is U.S. History starting with the first Americans and ending with the Reconstruction and its aftermath. Strands include history, geography, government and economics with a focus on literacy. Students will be required to read two historical novels, with higher Lexile ranges than the novels in the comprehensive class, to support the course's content. The tests in the advanced class will not have word banks and they will have more extensive essay questions. Essay questions will also be graded at a higher standard than the comprehensive class. Advanced students will also be required to complete several research projects during the year. Rubric recommendation required.

ESSENTIAL CLASSES

Topics in Exploratory classes try to create new interests and encourage students to explore new ideas. Exploratory classes help students discover their unique abilities, talents and interests, thus preparing students for adult life. Classes try to build upon skills in all subject areas. Students are encouraged to discover new opportunities to provide learning experiences to meet individual needs. Each essential notes what grade(s) can register for the class based on staffing, space and availability. Please note that some essential classes may not be offered for the 2021-2022 school year also students are not guaranteed to be scheduled into the essentials they choose.

Art & Technology

000VA6 – Visual Arts 6 (6th grade)

Sixth grade Art closely ties with the core curriculum. Students connect ideas and artworks from different regions of the world that they are studying in Social Studies and Language Arts. They are introduced to problems that have social and personal relevance. Students are taught how to articulate visually their own communication of the messages and meaning of these social and personal struggles. Students experiment with a variety of techniques and working methods with the mediums. Focus on planning, practice and persistence in completing tasks. Also, vocabulary of art is interwoven through the lessons to enhance students' understanding and ability to defend their artistic decisions. This class is a part of the 9 week rotation in sixth grade.

000860 – Visual Arts (7th & 8th grade)

Visual Arts classes at AJH are scheduled in 9 week segments. Your student will come every day to Art in their scheduled 9 weeks for 48 minutes. Seventh and Eighth grades are mixed.. Classes are very “hands on.” In a relaxed environment students are instructed, in the practice of creating value, perspective, color, and design in both two dimensional and three dimensional art work. Students are exposed to conceptual, political, and abstract expressionist fine art. They are also introduced to the many careers available using art skills.

This class includes instruction in the use of drafting tools, drawing with pencil, chalk, sanguine and charcoal, printing in both intaglio and relief, and painting with water based paints, and inks. Three dimensional work is most often completed in plaster and clay. A student fee of \$12 covers all the supplies, including a sketchbook which is used daily. Grading is based on a portfolio of both completed and incomplete art at the end of the nine weeks. Students are graded on their effort and individual improvement. We are very proud of the many national, state and local awards that we have won over the last 15 years. This class may be taken more than once.

000866- Studio Art (7th & 8th grade)

If art is your ‘thing’ then this class is for you! Studio art will concentrate on building a portfolio of work with choice based options. You will focus more on the why than the how with planned projects as well as an opportunity to engage in personal projects of interest. This class will give students the opportunity to expand their art experiences in their favorite media and explore subjects that are meaningful to you. Teacher recommendation strongly suggested.

007845 - Educational Technology (6th grade)

This is a 6th grade elective. Technology is quickly changing and continues to change the world we live in. It has therefore become an integral part of our educational system. Educational Technology is a required 6th grade course that is taught on a 9 week rotation. The objective of this course is to learn and understand how to use technology so that it can be incorporated into real life and students' education. The course will focus on digital citizenship and Google.

007842 - Multimedia Technology (7th & 8th grade)

This is a 7th and 8th grade elective. Technology is quickly changing and continues to change the world we live in. It has therefore become an integral part of our educational system. Multimedia Technology is an elective 7th/8th grade semester course. The objective of this course is learning to understand and use various types of media & technology so that it can be incorporated into real life and students' education. This course will focus on Educational Apps, Photography, & Presentation Technology including (but not limited to) iMovie, Prezi, Comic Life, Powtoon, etc.

007940 - Personal Finance (7th & 8th grade)

Personal finance is a financial literacy class aimed at teaching middle school students the basics about money. They will be exposed to various concepts including; marketing, budgeting, saving, investing, and credit cards.

007950 - Strategic Thinking & Discovery (7th & 8th grade)

Students will explore various aspects of real world scenarios including and not limited to mock trial, forensic science to apply critical thinking skills in a fun and engaging manner.

007843 - Coding (7th & 8th grade)

In this quarter course, students will learn the basic language that makes up all technology - coding. Students will learn the basics of block coding and possibly go onto text coding. Through coding and programming, we will see how apps. and games are developed. Students will use problem-solving skills to complete in-class projects. Students will work with code.org curriculum to learn a couple coding languages being used currently in the programming industry. Students will learn HTML with CSS and JavaScript. Students will be introduced to AppleSwift, work to create a personal webpage and create their own games.

0007852-Design 1 (7th & 8th grade)

Students are introduced to the digital fabrication equipment and then utilize those tools to generate their own independent project. Each student designs and prototypes a project that aligns with a particular area of interest - product design, furniture design, electrical engineering, robotics, coding or programming.

007849- Broadcasting (7th & 8th grade)

The goal of this quarter course is to deliver the daily announcements and news to our student body each day. This course is designed to provide students with a groundwork in various forms of media that include: writing, videography, broadcasting, and public speaking. This course will have two focuses. The first is to develop the skills necessary to run a daily news broadcast and will cover topics such as interviewing, videography, and photography. The second is to use

editing software to create videos with a variety of topics. Students must be responsible and independent workers due to the nature of this class.

007855 - Grammar Enrichment (7th & 8th grade)

This course is designed to strengthen students' understanding of grammar concepts. This course is highly recommended for college-bound students who plan on studying a foreign language, desire to improve their writing, or want to prepare for standardized tests that evaluate grammar knowledge, such as the English subtest of the ACT. Course materials will include *The Ultimate Writing Guide for Students*, by Mignon Fogarty, known online as Grammar Girl.

Life Skills & Physical Education

000895 – Life Skills (7th & 8th grade)

In this course, students will get hands-on, real-life experience within the following areas – interpersonal relationships, nutrition & wellness, preparing for college & careers, and general life skills.

000PE6 – Physical Education 6 (6th grade)

The students will experience a variety of activities that include individual, small group and team participation. Within the different activities, the students will gain physical and cooperative skills that will enhance that activity they are involved in. The students will be assessed in their knowledge and skill level in Physical Education according to the State of Ohio Physical Education Standards.

000870 - Physical Education (7th & 8th grade)

Physical Education is based on the Ohio Physical Education Standards and Assessments. Students can achieve the standards through a variety of units and activities that could and may include team sports, leisure sports and fitness. Team sports may include activities such as flag football, ultimate frisbee, basketball, soccer, volleyball, speedball and baseball/softball. Leisure sports may include activities such as archery, golf, rock wall climbing and recreational activities. Physical fitness will encompass the components of muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility and cardiovascular endurance. The students will be assessed by different means according to the standards that are being evaluated. The assessments may include written research reports or projects, written tests and quizzes, skills tests, visual observations and evaluations. The students grade in Physical Education will include the state standards assessments as well as cooperative behavior/sportsmanship, participation/effort and proper attire. This class may be taken more than once.

000877 – Lifelong Fitness and Recreation (7th & 8th grade)

Lifelong Fitness is a Phys. Ed. course for students who wish to participate in physical activities that can generally be pursued throughout one's lifetime. Students will learn rules and fundamental techniques for a variety of fitness activities. Emphasis in this class will be more on the development of a spirit of cooperation and good sportsmanship and skill development. Students will master a series of skills to help develop an appreciation and understanding of the fitness activity that can be played throughout one's lifetime.

007844 – Newsworthy (7th & 8th grade)

Newsworthy is a course designed for language arts skills practice within the context of current world events. Students taking this course will be prepared to handle the demands of higher level texts. They will build informational reading and writing skills. Topics covered in class are mostly based on up-to-date current events and reading to understand more complex texts. Non-fiction text skills that are emphasized include: summarizing, providing text evidence, citing and evaluating sources, gathering information from print and digital sources, and writing persuasive and argumentative texts.

007850- Character and Leadership (7th & 8th grade)

In a world where good moral character and leadership are vital, this course is designed to help students develop an awareness of their own leadership potential, and to help familiarize them with good character traits and practices. By way of readings, discussions, and a variety of written assignments, students in the class will be given opportunities to develop essential leadership skills that will enable them to act responsibly in all aspects of their lives, and to help prepare them to meet present and future challenges.

007853- Wellness (7th & 8th grade)

Students are faced with a multitude of major life changes in a short period of time; making new friends, learning new things, and trying to navigate social and academic challenges. This does not leave much time for students to focus on their stress levels and wellness. This class can offer the opportunity to be mindful in their daily life and to gain coping strategies for when they are needed.

Foreign Language

009001 – Intro to French

This course introduces students to the study of the French language and of the cultures of French-speaking countries around the world. Through music, movement, interpersonal and interpretive communication, the students learn basic conversational phrases, and vocabulary related to family, food, clothing, pets, hobbies, celebrations, and more.

000FR7 - French 1 (8th grade)

A basic level program with an emphasis on communication in French, both oral and written. Students should develop practical speaking and listening skills, as well as the skills necessary to read simple phrases and write complete sentences. Students will gain a sensitive appreciation of the French-speaking world and gain insight into different French cultures. Students will be responsible for practicing the language outside of the classroom setting. This course corresponds to French 1 at Amherst Steele High School and meets High School French 1 requirements. **The course is High School credit and is included in the student's GPA and transcript.** This is a yearlong course and does have a comprehensive Final Exam at the conclusion.

007860 – Exploring Spanish

Exploring Spanish introduces to students the Spanish language and explores the cultures of people who speak Spanish around the world. Students can expect to learn basic greetings in Spanish and pronunciation as well as some helpful strategies to learn any language.

000SP8 – Spanish 1 (8th grade)

Spanish 1 curriculum follows the Ohio State Standards for World Languages. The course is a rigorous course that covers the fundamentals of the Spanish language and incorporates reading, writing, listening, and speaking to obtain these fundamentals. Spanish 1 encourages students to converse with correct grammatical structure and implement a large array of vocabulary. Students will build a vocabulary using correct spelling and pronunciation. This class will require practice and sufficient effort on the part of the student to master the presented vocabulary and grammatical points. The culture of Spanish-speaking countries is also a focus during class. Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA, including a 3.0 average in ELA. This course corresponds to Spanish 1 at Amherst Steele High School and meets High School Spanish 1 requirements. **The course is High School credit and is included in the student's GPA and transcript.** This is a yearlong course and does have a comprehensive Final Exam at the conclusion. Students cannot drop this course after the first week.

Music Program

000GM6 – General Music 6 (6th grade)

The General Music course will develop comprehensive musicianship with a focus of musical literacy. All students are musical by nature, and have tremendous potential to learn and enjoy music. While research shows that music helps students develop higher-order skills and increase desire to learn, our driving goal is to help students become more enlightened through a balanced, comprehensive, and sequential program of study. This class is a part of the 9 week rotation in which all sixth grade students will take regardless if they are in Band, Orchestra or Choir.

000MK7 – Music and Pop Culture (7th & 8th grade)

This class explores the use of historical music in modern popular culture (such as cartoons and commercials). Students will also learn about the development of American popular music and various popular music genres. Students will read and compose music and learn to play the keyboard.

000CH6 – Choir 6 (6th grade)

Choir is singing. Students are expected to sing every day in this class and will be graded based on participation, not quality of singing. Students are also expected to complete one in-class worksheet or evaluation per week. Each semester, there will be one mandatory performance outside of school hours. The performance dates will be communicated to students and parents on the first day of class. Any student may enroll in this class, regardless of talent or singing experience, as long as they are willing to sing.

000885 – Choir 7 (7th grade)

Choir is singing. Students are expected to sing every day in this class and will be graded based on participation, not quality of singing. Students are also expected to complete one in-class worksheet or evaluation per week. Each semester, there will be one mandatory performance outside of school hours. The performance dates will be communicated to students and parents on the first day of class. Any student may enroll in this class, regardless of talent or singing experience, as long as they are willing to sing.

000886 – Choir 8 (8th grade)

Choir is singing. Students are expected to sing every day in this class and will be graded based on participation, not quality of singing. Students are also expected to complete one in-class worksheet or evaluation per week. Each semester, there will be 1-3 mandatory performances outside of school hours. The performance dates will be communicated to students and parents on the first day of class. Any student may enroll in this class, regardless of talent or singing experience, as long as they are willing to sing.

000BA6 – Band 6 (6th grade)

Sixth grade band is a non-auditioning group that continues fundamental skills from the 5th grade year and focuses on strengthening those skills. Band is open to any student who can satisfactorily perform on a flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, baritone, trombone, or percussion. Students who qualify will be recommended to try instruments such as oboe, bassoon, tenor saxophone, and tuba. Qualifications are based on the strength of musicianship on their beginning instrument. Percussion students will be exposed to an assortment of auxiliary percussion in addition to snare drum and bass drum. The focus of this course is to develop and strengthen fundamental skills as individual players and as ensemble musicians. Students will refine posture, intonation, technical precision, and rhythm skills. Students will begin to expand the range of pitches to include full major scales in several Major key signatures. Literature will consist of a continuation of the 5th grade band book as well as developmentally appropriate music selected by the director. ***A change in a student's schedule after the first week of school will only be considered after a student and parent(s) conference with the band director and guidance counselor.** A student who moves into the district without prior experience on an instrument will only be added at the discretion of the director

000780 – Band 7 (7th grade)

Seventh Grade Band is a non-auditioning group that continues skills from the 6th grade year. Band is open to any student who can satisfactorily perform on a flute, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, bassoon, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, trumpet, French horn, baritone, trombone, tuba, or percussion. The focus of this course is to develop skills as individual players and as ensemble musicians. Students will refine posture, intonation and rhythm skills as well as expand their knowledge of major and minor scales through the study of quality literature. ***A change in a student's schedule after the first week of school will only be considered after a student and parent(s) conference with the band director and guidance counselor.** A student who moves into the district and has played in his/her previous district will be permitted to join mid-year. A student who moves into the district without prior experience on an instrument will only be added at the discretion of the director.

82800 – Band 8 (8th grade)

Eighth Grade Band is a non-audition group that continues skills from the 7th grade year. Band is open to any student who can satisfactorily perform on a flute, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, bassoon, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, trumpet, French horn, baritone, trombone, tuba, or percussion. The focus of this course is to develop skills as individual players and as ensemble musicians. Students will refine posture, intonation and rhythm skills as well as expand their knowledge of major and minor scales through the study of quality literature. ***A change in a student's schedule after the first week of school will only be considered after a**

student and parent(s) conference with the band director and guidance counselor. A student who moves into the district and has played in his/her previous district will be permitted to join mid-year. A student who moves into the district without prior experience on an instrument will only be added at the discretion of the director.

000OR6 – Orchestra 6 (6th grade)

In this Orchestra, students will have the opportunity to continue learning the violin, viola, cello, or upright bass in the string orchestra program. Participating in orchestra is a fun, educational, and beneficial learning experience that builds a life-long love of music, self-expression, social skills, self-esteem, and countless rewarding performance opportunities. Educational emphasis is placed on the advancement of instrumental technique and further development of music reading, comprehension skills, and independent/ensemble musicianship. ***A change in a student's schedule after the first week of school will only be considered after a student and parent(s) conference with the band director and guidance counselor.**

000790 - Orchestra 7 (7th grade)

Orchestra is a non-auditioning group that continues skills from the 6th grade year. Orchestra is open to any student who can satisfactorily perform on a violin, viola, cello, or string bass. The focus of this course is to develop skills as individual players and as ensemble musicians. Students will refine posture, intonation and rhythm skills as well as expand their knowledge of major and minor scales through the study of quality literature. ***A change in a student's schedule after the first week of school will only be considered after a student and parent(s) conference with the orchestra director and guidance counselor.** A student who moves into the district and has played in his/her previous district will be permitted to join mid-year. A student who moves into the district without prior experience on an instrument will only be added at the discretion of the director.

000890 - Orchestra 8 (8th grade)

Orchestra is a non-auditioning group that continues skills from the 7th grade year. Orchestra is open to any student who can satisfactorily perform on a violin, viola, cello, or string bass. The focus of this course is to develop skills as individual players and as ensemble musicians. Students will refine posture, intonation and rhythm skills as well as expand their knowledge of major and minor scales through the study of quality literature. ***A change in a student's schedule after the first week of school will only be considered after a student and parent(s) conference with the orchestra director and guidance counselor.** A student who moves into the district and has played in his/her previous district will be permitted to join mid-year. A student who moves into the district without prior experience on an instrument will only be added at the discretion of the director.

MINDFULNESS ENRICHMENT (M.E.)

Mindful Enrichment is designated as a time period for all students as a stress free break in the day. No academic work is completed, and each student participates each and every day. The students have their choice to go outside, weather permitting, or play games, read a book, relax with friends. The period lasts 26 minutes.

COMET PRIDE (C.P.)

Comet Pride is a designated time at the end of the day for students to receive academic intervention and enrichment. Students are able to work on homework assignments, missing work and seek teachers for assistance.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Students with disabilities are eligible for special education programs and related services. Eligibility is determined by a team of educators, following an individual multi-factored evaluation of the student. An IEP, or Individualized Education Program, is developed for each eligible student. The program may include any combination of courses in the general education or special education programs.