

**7TH & 8TH GRADE  
CURRICULUM GUIDE**

KITTATINNY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL  
Revised April 2009

## INTRODUCTION

Students in the seventh and eighth grades are faced with many new and exciting challenges. In addition to emotional maturation, physical growth, social development and change, students are caught in a transitional period between their elementary and high school years. Our program of studies and activities, at Kittatinny, has been developed to foster a successful adjustment during these years.

Skill development is stressed, particularly in mathematics, writing and reading, to provide students with the cognitive foundation required for success in high school.

We have made provisions for students to gain exposure to a wide variety of courses and activities. Seventh and eighth courses such as Band, Chorus, and Fine and Performing Arts expose all students to an important area that will soon be tested by the NJ ASK 8. Students in grade seven and eight will take a foreign language as well as enjoy a "hands-on experience" through the special IV cycle. All of these courses are designed to develop a more well-rounded student as they prepare for high school and the future.

Separate physical education classes, clubs and activities are provided for 7th and 8th grade students. In order to fully utilize the school facilities, students have an opportunity to interact with upperclassmen in areas such as the library and shops, which are used by all students.

Both the seventh and eighth grades have been separated into heterogeneous TEAMS. The TEAMS consist of six teachers. In-class support is provided, where necessary, and the TEAMS are responsible for the same common group of students. This method of scheduling has proven highly successful and allows common planning time for the TEAM teachers.

Through TEAMING and close coordination of our programs and activities for grades 7-12, we create a school climate that is beneficial and exciting for students leading to a well-rounded educational experience.

## PROGRAM OF STUDIES

The following outline of courses provides the basis for our curriculum. Additional enrichment and individualized programs, clubs, intramural activities and exposure to the arts through plays and productions will be available to encourage greater student participation in school activities. It is important to note that all courses are available to all of our students.

### Course Offerings:

Required -	<u>7th Grade</u>	<u>8th Grade</u>
	English Literature Reading Social Studies Mathematics Science Physical Education Health	English Literature Reading Social Studies Mathematics Science Physical Education Health
	<u>Specials</u>	<u>Specials</u>
	Art Fine & Performing Arts French Technology	Art Business Spanish Technology
Electives -	Instrumental Music Chorus Business & Career Exploration	Instrumental Music Chorus Business & Career Exploration

## PROMOTION POLICY

Seventh and eighth grade students must pass **ALL** required academic subjects in order to be promoted into the next grade level (English, Lit. Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies).

Summer school is available to those students who have failed either one or two subjects for the year. Failing three or more subjects requires retention.

## GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT SERVICES

The primary function of the Guidance Department is to aid (not direct) students in the process of decision making. Students (and their parents) are encouraged to solve problems which are academic, vocational or social in nature.

A full-time counselor has been assigned to work with 7th and 8th grade students.

In addition to individual and group counseling, we offer many other aids to our students. Visitors from colleges and industry will frequently be on our campus to speak to student groups. A library of college catalogues and vocational materials are available in the Library for students to browse through in their free time. A computer terminal is available in our Career Room which provides us with immediate information in all areas. Other services include working papers, referrals to special services, testing programs and vocational placement.

We are no farther away than our office in the Administration area or the telephone, 383-1800. Please take advantage of our services as often as needed.

### **LANGUAGE ARTS**

#### Grades 7 and 8

The seventh and eighth grade English program continues the development of students' language arts skills developed in the elementary schools. In April students will participate in the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK-7) as part of the NCCB statewide assessment program. At the conclusion of the eighth grade, all students will be tested with the NJ ASK 8 instrument administered to all eighth graders in the State of New Jersey.

Grade 7 - Each student will be in two classes related to Language Arts every day.

- I. English - This subject focuses upon such writing skills as grammar, syntax, paragraph structure, and spelling. Library skills, oral communication and study skills are also addressed. Students are expected to prepare oral, visual, and written reports on outside readings that are appropriate to their reading levels. Various, realistic writing based projects are completed during the year as well.
- II. Literature Reading - Based upon cumulative reading test results that are disseminated to the Lit/Reading teachers, areas of skill deficiencies will be addressed and ameliorated during the year. Numerous literary techniques and devices are taught and general comprehension skills and vocabulary building activities are incorporated. The course includes units of literature such as: Poetry; Myths; Fables and Legends, short stories and the in-depth reading and study of at least one novel.

Grade 8 - Each student will have one period of English and one period of Literature Reading. A separate honors track for the more capable students is initiated at this level in both Reading and English.

- I. English - Areas of concentration are in the writing domains of grammar, spelling, composition, creative writing, vocabulary and journalism. Independent readings will be reviewed through visual, written and oral reports. Study skills are taught and practiced as is journal writing with students making brief entries on a nearly daily basis.
- II. Literature Reading - Based upon the student's progress in 7th grade, (s)he will continue with his/her developmental reading program in this literature class directed toward specific reading objectives on a higher level. Units of study include: Poetry, Science Fiction, The Diary of Anne Frank, I, Robot, Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, and outside readings of pertinent novels.

### **SOCIAL STUDIES**

#### Grade 7

Geography provides the tools and methods for us to understand the relationships among people, places and environments. This course will provide students the opportunity to develop understandings about the many connections among the world's people. It will provide a core of knowledge about physical and human geography as well as world regions.

#### Grade 8

Students will study two principle topics, Civics and American History. In the Civics program they will study the Constitution, Federal, State and local government. They will also examine the court system and related issues. In American History, students will study the events from the founding of the nation up to the American Revolution. At the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level, a separate honors track is also begun. This track incorporates several inter-disciplinary units that involve the English and Literature/Reading honors track as well.

## **SCIENCE**

Planet Earth is the theme for our seventh and eighth grade science program.

The course is a comprehensive, two year study.

### Grade 7

In Seventh Grade Science students will study an introductory unit on the Scientific Process (Scientific Method, Metrics, the nature of research), Astronomy, Meteorology (Weather, Atmosphere) and Geology (Rocks, Minerals). A laboratory approach is used in keeping with the Department's philosophy of not only presenting fundamental facts and principles but also in developing skills while engaged in the processes of Science. Students will conduct research projects using class, library and electronic materials.

### Grade 8

In Grade 8, science students will study Life Science. Included are units on Cells, Classification, Genetics, Evolution and the Environment. Continued is the emphasis on a laboratory approach so that students learn Science by doing Science. Students will conduct research using all forms of media to prepare a Powerpoint oral presentation on some facet of science that interests them.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors - Introductory Physical Science

Students are given experiences in observation, basic laboratory skills, how to analyze experimental data, making generalizations from the data and how to develop abstract ideas from observable experimental evidences. The course provides a sound background for later courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Students with high science and math aptitude (concurrent enrollment in Algebra I) will be permitted to take this course.

## **MATHEMATICS**

### Mathematics - Grade 7

Mathematics in Grade 7 will be a skills oriented course. Major emphasis will be placed on problem solving skills as needed for the NJ ASK 7 and the NJ ASK 8. Content area will include: whole numbers (operations and computations); fractional numbers (operations and computations); decimal ratios; proportions; percent; basic geometric concepts (perimeter, area, and angle relations of plane figures); basic statistics (averages and graphs); number bases; integers; one and two step equation solving; estimations; and the metric system.

### Pre-Algebra

Classes will be provided for those students who have a high mathematical aptitude. Provisions will also be made for students who have difficulty grasping basic mathematical concepts.

### Mathematics - Grade 8

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade will continue with a strong emphasis on problem solving as emphasized on the NJ ASK 8. This program will expand upon initial concepts to include computation and operations with integers, rational and real numbers stressing absolute value, graphing, principles of equality, estimation, exponents and decimal equivalence. Also covered in addition to these topics will be certain applicable Geometric ideas: Pythagorean Theorem, Congruent Triangles, Similar Triangles, Ratio, Percent and Proportion. Use of calculators will be emphasized throughout the year.

### Enriched 8<sup>th</sup> Grade - Algebra I

Students with high math aptitude will be permitted to begin formal high school algebra in Grade 8. The course will allow these students to progress, if desired, through a year of Advanced Placement Calculus before graduating from Kittatinny Regional High School. A continuous program in Grade 8 will also be provided for those students who encounter difficulty with mathematical skill development. Important note: Students taking algebra in eighth grade do not receive high school math credit for it.

### Math Skills - Grade 7 and 8

Students who are in need of additional instruction in Mathematics are selected to participate in the Math Skills classes. Students are placed in Math Skills 7 based on the recommendation of the sixth grade Math teacher, the results of

standardized tests, and by the seventh grade Math teacher as the year progresses. Eighth grade students are selected based on performance in seventh grade, scores on the NJ ASK 7, and the recommendation of the seventh grade

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Math teacher. Parents may also request evaluation of a student for placement in the Math Skills program. Students are scheduled for the Math Skills program in lieu of elective courses such as Art, Technology, and Music.

The goal of the program is to provide supplementary instruction in support of the regular curriculum. A second goal is to provide the student with a positive experience in Math, building their confidence. Finally, the students are prepared for the NJ ASK 8 which is administered in the spring of their eighth grade year.

### **WORLD LANGUAGES**

#### Grade 7/8

All students experience the equivalent of a marking period (45 days) of French and Spanish instruction. During their junior high experience, students learn the rudimentary facts about French and Spanish speaking countries and cultures as well as the beginning aspects of acquiring the fundamentals of each language. Common words, phrases, and sentences are learned as the basis for the fundamental skills for oral communication.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

#### Grades 7 and 8

##### Dress Code:

shorts/sweatpants  
T-shirt/sweatshirt  
sneakers  
MUST CHANGE

No jewelry including but not limited to:  
rings  
watches  
necklaces  
earrings  
bracelets

This program will be a prescribed course for an introduction to and development of skills, rules, fitness, and knowledge of sports. At this level we expose the student to many different activities and develop basic skills in speedball, soccer, volleyball, basketball, track, gymnastics, etc. This will enable the student and instructors to determine the student's strengths as well as weaknesses. It is important that the courses be fundamentally sound at this level. This will provide for a smooth transition into the actual playing of a game in the upper grades. The swimming programs in Grades 7 and 8 are designed for the development of personal swimming techniques and to foster basic water safety. The 7th grade segment will concentrate on the basic strokes (elementary backstroke, sidestroke and crawl) with as much attention as possible given to those students who are non-swimmers.

Portions of the Red Cross Basic Water Safety course will be taught to 8th grade students. This course is designed to create an awareness of the causes and prevention of aquatic accidents and to develop safe aquatic attitudes and behaviors. Outdoor activities include track, PE games, kickball, softball, soccer, and tennis. Winter activities consist of basketball, volleyball, PE games, and aquatics.

### **HEALTH PROGRAM**

#### Grade 7

The program at this level will deal with Family Life Education. The course will begin with a general discussion of the stages of growth and concern dealing with family and peer relationships. The main thrust of the curriculum will deal with the male and female reproductive systems, fertilization, pregnancy and fetal development, the birth process and heredity. The class will also include information on personal safety and assault prevention, as well as appropriate information regarding AIDS education and Introduction to CPR.

#### Grade 8

The health education program at this level is Drug Education. The course will examine the various uses of drugs, their classification, and the effect of certain drugs. Students will examine our culture and its use and acceptance of particular drugs. The drug problem which also includes alcohol and tobacco will be fully examined by the "2000" curriculum. The "Here's Looking at You 2000" program was acquired by grant and has been introduced at the 7th and 8th grade level. The program includes an information mode, decision making and values, and refusal techniques. Introduction to First Aid is also presented.

### **MUSIC**

#### 7/8 Band

Membership is based upon the ability of a student to play a band instrument. Student will participate in lessons on a bi-weekly basis. Enrolled students are required to participate in all scheduled evening performances. Students will be exposed to and perform a range of available literature for young bands and learn basic technique intrinsic to his/her instrument.

NOTE: Students will be required to rent instruments unless they are available through the school.

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#### Chorus 7

Membership is open to all members of the student body who demonstrate a trainable voice and who also demonstrate a genuine desire to sing, accompanied by a willingness to participate. Emphasis will be placed on the care and projection of "changing" voice. Basic sight reading and ear training will further enhance the curriculum. A chorus requirement is that all enrolled students participate in all scheduled evening performances.

#### Chorus 8

Membership is open to all members of the student body. Students must exhibit a trainable voice and also demonstrate a genuine desire to sing and a willingness to participate. Emphasis will be placed on a review of basic vocal instruction for young voices through the individual/group voice lesson schedule. Sight reading and ear training will further enhance the curriculum in preparation for further study in the high school choir program. A chorus requirement is that all enrolled students participate in all scheduled evening performances.

#### Business and Career Exploration 7 (BACE) For those who do not participate in Band or Chorus

This offering encourages students to think about themselves and assess their values, interests, skills, and aptitudes. The links between the world of work, personal interests, and possible career choices are explored to assist students in determining what career paths would suit their personalities. Students learn how to conduct career research and develop a career plan while studying the sixteen career clusters as defined by the US Department of Labor. They also investigate the procedures in finding a job, applying for employment, and interviewing techniques. Character development, peer interaction, and public relations are additional areas of study. Guest speakers covering diverse occupations are an integral part of the class.

#### Business and Career Exploration 8 (BACE) For those who do not participate in Band or Chorus

Students will explore the workplace environment to learn about job benefits and workplace expectations. They will discover why basic skills are important to workplace success, how to make healthful choices for life, discover ways to make the workplace safe, and ways to move ahead on the job. Students will also learn why it is important to balance the different parts of one's life and how to make time

for school, work, family, and friends. They will look ahead to see what life changes they can expect and how to handle personal and career-related changes, as well as find out ways to look at and prepare for change. The economic system will be investigated. Financial literacy (managing and spending money) will enable students to develop good financial habits at an early age.

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## **EXPLORATORY CYCLE**

Seventh and eighth grade students are introduced to some elective areas through an exploratory rotation model experience. Students spend one marking period in each of the following areas:

*Grade 7* – Art, Fine & Performing Arts, French and Technology

*Grade 8* – Art, Business, Spanish and Technology

This two-year sequence provides students with pertinent knowledge and skills in these areas and enables them to make informed scheduling decisions when they enter their high school years.

### Art

The art program offers exploration in textile design/fiber arts, ceramics, drawing, and painting. Two-dimensional as well as three-dimensional projects will challenge students to solve design problems and promote creative thought. A variety of techniques and mediums will be explored while learning about design concepts.

### Business

This class gives students the opportunity to learn about various software programs available throughout the networked system at KRHS. “Hands on” experience is provided in Microsoft Word, Excel, Publisher, PowerPoint, and Internet research. Students also practice presentation techniques, critical thinking skills, and group dynamics. Cross-content exercises in math, English, and social studies promote a better understanding of business applications throughout various disciplines.

### Fine and Performing Arts

Fine and performing arts provide additional study of music for all seventh graders. Students will have a ten week opportunity to study music as part of their cyclical course offerings. These forty minute classes will give the students the opportunity to continue basic piano training and move on to the guitar. In addition, students will have the opportunity to begin investigation into the world of drama through script reading, improvisation and short looks into performance venues and periods of musical history.

As time permits, live performance and demonstrations will be featured presentations. From these presentations students will demonstrate knowledge of the process of concert etiquette and critique.

## Technology Education

Technology education teaches students about the "designed world." The students explore topics such as energy, flight, simple machines, communication, engineering, manufacturing and structures. They are challenged to solve "real world" problems by using the design process, which includes brainstorming possible solutions, research, development, building and testing. Technology education offers students a unique opportunity to combine creativity with academic knowledge and "hands-on" activities for an exciting learning experience.

### **GIFTED AND TALENTED**

#### Grade 7

Students are identified in the fall utilizing the GATES (Gifted and Talented Evaluation Scale). All students in G/T programs in elementary school and students who score above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile on a standardized test are in the nomination pool. The selection committee is composed of Team teachers and guidance personnel. Identified students are invited to come to Access one period a week during their Physical Education class to complete projects that require the students to learn to use technology resources that enhance learning. Examples of these technologies include digital photography, web page authoring, desktop video and the creation of an electronic portfolio. Identified students are also invited to take the SATs in March as part of a National Talent Search.

#### Grade 8

Identified students are allowed to attend Access one period a week during their Physical Education class, but they must remain in Phys. Ed. for swimming and health units. Students in Access create in-depth projects related to each of their academic subjects utilizing technology skills such as web page creation which were introduced in seventh grade. Each four to six week project entails the use of state of the art technology such as computer video editing and preparation of projects for use on Smart Boards. Identified students are also invited to take the SATs in March as part of a National Talent Search.

### **JUNIOR HIGH TRANSITIONAL PROGRAM**

The program currently works to ease the transition of students from grammar schools

through their junior high experience and into high school. The program has seen success in the ability of students to improve organizational skills, study skills and communication skills, all of which are major factors for student success in high school. The program is currently under the direction of one teacher and one aide, but has been discussed in expansion into the high school as well.

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### **MARKING SYSTEM**

Grades (A, B, C, D, and F) will be issued for all major subject areas. Physical Ed. and Health are on a Satisfactory (S), Unsatisfactory (U) basis.

Numerical Breakdown:

90 - 100 = A

80 - 89 = B

70 - 79 = C

60 - 69 = D

0 - 59 = F

When an Incomplete (Inc.) is issued, the student has two weeks (ten school days) to make up the missed work. Quarterly Assessments are not administered in grades seven and eight.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION –**  
**KITTATINNY DISTRICT**

The Kittatinny Regional school district offers varied educational programs and services for students ages 3-21. Parents or appropriate people may refer children who are experiencing significant difficulties. Children who are experiencing some physical, sensory, emotional, communication, cognitive, or social difficulties may be eligible for special education and related services. Parents can contact their district child study team office for further information. Babies, from birth to 3, who are thought to have a developmental delay, may receive assistance from the early intervention program. To access this service, parents should contact the Special Child Health Services at 973-948-5400, ext. 62 or 48.

If parents are concerned about their school age child's progress, they should discuss such issues with their child's teacher, guidance counselor, and/or principal. They then have the option of making a referral to the Intervention and Referral Services committee or to the Child Study Team. The committee offers intervention and Referral Services committee or to the Child Study Team. The committee offers intervention procedures that are provided within the regular education school program. At times, however, more extensive interventions than can be provided in the regular education setting are necessary to assist the student.

If the decision is made to undertake a full Child Study Team evaluation, the child's social, emotional, and academic status may be assessed. Medical or other specialized evaluations may be included in the assessment at no cost to the parent. If a child is determined to be eligible for special education and related services, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is developed, which includes a rationale for the student's educational placement and the basis for the program implementation. For further assistance, contact your local district. For grades 7-12, contact Kittatinny Regional High School 973-383-1800. For other ages and grades in the Kittatinny District, contact the CST offices at the following schools:

Fredon	973-383-4151
Hampton	973-383-2714
Sandyston-Walpack	973-948-4450

Stillwater

973-383-3998