

KENSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Kenston Local Schools

2019-2020



Course Description Booklet

8th Grade



Kenston Middle School
17425 Snyder Road
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023
(440) 543-8241

Patricia Brockway, Principal
Larry Klimkowski, Assistant Principal

KMS Program of Studies

Procedure for Course Registration

1. The student's language art teachers will make recommendations for the next school year. Recommendations are not necessary for math, social studies and science.
2. A copy of the students' course selections will be sent home for parental review. If changes to the student placement are necessary, please contact the student's appropriate guidance counselor.
3. Any changes in schedules for the 2019-2020 school year must be made prior to August 15, 2019.

Drop-Add Guidelines

KMS POLICY STATES THAT NO CLASSES MAY BE DROPPED ONCE THE SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS.

After that time, schedule changes will be made only in the event of:

1. Academic misplacement (an error was made in placement due to incorrect evaluation of ability scores, past grades, etc.).
2. Technical error in scheduling process.
3. School initiated changes (changes in the master schedule, adjustments for balancing classes, etc.).

High School Credit

One high school credit is given to all students who complete Algebra during their eighth grade year. A high school credit is also given to students who elect to take a year-long foreign language class. Any high school credit earned at Kenston Middle School will not appear on the high school GPA until the end of the 9th grade year.

If a student receives any grade other than an "F", the same course may be repeated only with permission from the KHS administration. Both grades will appear on the transcript, but credit will only be given to the higher grade. If the student receives an "F", the "F" shall remain on the transcript. Both grades will also be figured into the student's GPA. Courses that are re-taken by students in order to secure a higher grade will not be considered in order to qualify for Summa, Magna, or Cum Laude.

Graduation with Honors

The following categories receive recognition at high school graduation.

Summa Cum Laude - All A's for all coursework awarded for high school credit.

Magna Cum Laude - All A's combined with four (4) credits of B or fewer for all coursework awarded for high school credit.

Cum Laude - All A's combined with eight (8) credits of B or fewer for all coursework awarded for high school credit.

- **Any high school credit given at the middle school level is included in awarding these Honors' categories.**

Home-Schooled Students

Home-schooled students residing within the Kenston Local School District in grades six through twelve may enroll part-time in Kenston schools. Participation in all extracurricular activities is contingent upon the student meeting all qualifying requirements of the Kenston Schools and the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

Athletic/Extracurricular Eligibility Requirements

Student participation in extra-curricular activities during the school year will require a minimum GPA of 1.5 and only one F in any subject, along with successfully passing $\frac{3}{4}$ of all classes during a grading period. Each athlete must also submit a current athletic physical prior to the first practice and/or tryout date of a particular season. These standards also apply to students wishing to participate in club sports.

Guidance Services

Various guidance services are designed to assist the individual student to make the most of his/her own abilities and opportunities. The counselors value the opportunity to help each student and at all times maintain an “open-door” policy. When students need to see their counselor and request an appointment, an appointment will be scheduled as soon as possible.

Guidance services are many and varied and include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. Individual counseling
 - Individual sessions to assist students and parents with a wide variety of educational and personal concerns (i.e. problem solving, interpersonal skills, anger management, stress management, study skills).
- B. Group counseling
 - Group sessions assist students and share topics concerning friends, divorce, loss, and other matters as needed.
- C. Consulting Teachers and Parents
 - Providing parents with resources to assist with family issues as well as any possible mental health concerns.
 - Providing a list of available tutors and peer tutors.
- D. Course Selection and Scheduling
 - Academic and career advisement.
 - Schedule adjustments for all grades.
 - Scheduling and orientation of new students.
- E. Assisting in the coordination, administration and interpretation of any school wide testing programs (Achievement testing, etc.).

Parents are welcome at any time, but it is recommended to call the guidance office to make an appointment. Guidance counselors are assigned to students based on teams.

Seventh Grade Team Liberty and Sixth Grade see Ms. Dawn Lose 543-8241 x 3110,
Dawn.Lose@kenstonapps.org

Seventh Grade Team Justice and Eighth Grade see Ms. Santana Lucarelli, 543-8241 x 3100,
Santina.Lucarelli@kenstonapps.org

The classroom teacher will gladly confer with the student concerning achievement and study habits. It is highly recommended for students and parents to contact the teacher at the first sign of academic difficulty.

MATHEMATIC COURSE SELECTIONS AND CURRICULUM PATHS

	Path 1	Path 2	Path 3		
6th GRADE	Math 6	Math 6/7	Gifted Math 6		
7th GRADE	Math 7	Math 7/8	Gifted Math 7/8		
8th GRADE	Math 8	Algebra I			
9th GRADE	Algebra I Part 1 & Part 2	Accelerated Algebra I	Geometry Part 1 & Part 2	Geometry	Honors Geometry

KENSTON LOCAL SCHOOLS **ACADEMIC ACCELERATION INFORMATION**

Academic acceleration may involve whole-grade acceleration or individual subject acceleration. Academic acceleration occurs when a student is not only doing the caliber of work necessary to be promoted to the next grade or enrolled in the next course in the academic sequence, but also demonstrates the ability to do the caliber of work required of students in that next grade level/subject/course. An acceleration evaluation committee will determine whether the student will be permitted to skip a grade level (i.e., whole-grade acceleration), or take a subject at a higher grade level or skip a course in the usual and customary academic sequence (i.e., individual subject acceleration).

* PLEASE SEE DISTRICT POLICY 5410 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Required Courses

Eighth Grade English Language Arts (ELA)—Full Year

This class is a blended curriculum of language arts and reading. It includes the study of basic grammar focusing on standard and acceptable English usage in both speaking and writing. The construction of an essay with main thesis and supporting details is stressed within narrative, expository, descriptive, and persuasive writing. The workbook Vocabulary from Latin and Greek Roots is used the entire year. Our culminating project requires students to research and explore a professional career choice. This course concentrates on conflict, resolution, and personal growth through a variety of genres including short stories, plays, novels, and nonfiction. We build upon the sixth and seventh grade learning of the elements of literature leading to discussion and extended writing prompts. In addition to grade-level readings, this course encourages students' personal reading through a variety of independent reading programs (IRP).

Eighth Grade Honors English Language Arts (ELA)—Full Year

This class is a blended curriculum of language arts and reading. It includes the study of grammar focusing on standard and acceptable English usage in both speaking and writing. The honors' English course includes the basic studies indicated in the previously mentioned eighth-grade courses with a more in-depth study of the writing process. Higher-level readings are used which will develop and enhance creative writing skills, critical thinking skills, public speaking techniques, and leadership qualities. Additional research paper or projects are assigned and alternate assessments are often used in this course.

Eighth Grade Math 8—Full Year

Eighth grade Math 8 introduces more abstract concepts that include slope, linear equations, graphing, and systems of equations. Students will work on mastery of the standards that range from rational numbers to volume of three-dimensional figures. Students will also apply these concepts to real world problem solving. The student will be expected to master each topic, understand its' use in the real world, and apply it to future math concepts.

Required Courses

Algebra—Full Year

Prerequisite: *For students who have successfully completed Math 7/8 in 7th grade.*

The Algebra I curriculum is aligned with Ohio's new Learning Standards. The students will deepen and extend their understanding of the following five critical units: 1. Relationships between quantities and reasoning with equations; 2. Linear and exponential relations; 3. Descriptive statistics; 4. Expressions and equations; 5. Quadratic functions and modeling. Emphasis of instruction will be the development of the Mathematical Practices, making sense of problems and persevering in solving them, reasoning abstractly and quantitatively, constructing viable arguments, modeling with mathematics, use of appropriate tools, attention to precision, making use of structure and regularity in reasoning. A calculator with graphing capability is assumed throughout the course. Current math department recommendation is the TI-84+ graphing calculator.

Please note: This course is awarded one high school credit upon completion and the

Eighth Grade Science - Full Year

The eighth grade science curriculum consists of study in the areas of earth science, physical science and life science as outlined by the State of Ohio Science Content Standards. Topics include: the physical feature of Earth and how they are formed, including the interior of the Earth, the rock record, plate tectonics and landforms; forces and motion within, on and around the Earth and within the Universe, and the continuation of the species.

Eighth Grade Honors Science - Full Year

Prerequisite: *For students who took a placement test and were recommended*

Accelerated 8th grade Science covers all of the 8th grade Science content at an accelerated pace, allowing the students exposure to 9 weeks of Chemistry to prepare them for the high school's Honors Biology course. The content covered through this course includes: Earth Science, Life Science, Physics, and Chemistry.

Required Courses

Eighth Grade Social Studies - Full Year

The eighth grade social studies curriculum focuses on the exploration of America through the post Civil War Reconstruction Era. Students will focus on the American Revolution and the building of a new nation. Citizenship will also be stressed during our in-depth study of the United States Constitution. The challenges of our expanding nation will create an understanding of the conflicts, compromises and conclusions of America's first century.

Full Year Elective

Band - Full Year Elective

Eighth grade band is a year-long course. This curriculum's focus is reinforced through songs of all styles and genres. Students still have the opportunity to switch instruments during eighth grade, and more complicated instruments such as the bassoon are introduced. Students will receive a comprehensive fundamental and technique review, including major/minor scales and range building techniques. The jazz opportunities are extended for students in eighth grade, including performances away from Kenston's campus. The eighth grade band performs two concerts during the year, one in each semester. Additionally, when the athletic schedule permits, the eighth grade band will perform during one halftime show with the KHS Marching Band. All other concert dates will be listed on the official district calendar.

Chorus - Full Year Elective

Eighth grade chorus places a greater emphasis on ear-training, interval recognition, and two or three-part arrangements for treble and bass voices. Music is chosen from various styles and eras. Students will participate in one evening concert per semester as a requirement for this course.

Full Year Elective

World Language—Level One French, Russian, and Spanish

Full Year High School Elective

Eighth graders have the option of taking a year-long **French, Russian** or **Spanish** language class. Due to the increasing interdependence of nations and the rich cultural and linguistic diversity our world, we encourage eligible students to develop communication skills in a second language. World language courses at Kenston Middle School are aligned with the National Standards formulated by ACTFL, the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages. These standards, known as the 5 Cs, emphasize communication in languages other than English, help students gain knowledge and understanding of other cultures, enable students to connect with and acquire information about other disciplines, foster the development of insight into the nature of language, culture, and encourage participation in multilingual communities at home and around the world.

Level One is a beginning language course that emphasizes the development of communication skills and awareness of the target language cultures through activities and materials designed to develop language skills. Emphasis is placed on listening, speaking, reading and writing skills of the language to be used naturally and spontaneously in real-life situations.

Students will receive one high school credit upon completion of the course. The grade received in the course will be incorporated into the high school GPA at the end of the Freshman year, and the credit will count toward language and graduation requirements.

**It is required that students wishing to take this elective meet the following

Prerequisite:

1. A “B” or above in English Language Arts based on the first 3 quarters of the current school year.

Encore Courses

Art 8

The eighth grade program is designed so that students can build upon their artistic background by sharpening their technical skills and integrating personal expression into their artwork. Students are encouraged to find connections and meaning in their own and other people's artwork through guided critiques. Students are motivated by experimenting with a wide range of art materials and techniques. They are encouraged to look at the value of art and related careers. The use of technology is encouraged and students experiment with computer-aided art and design.

Health 8

The students in eighth grade health will study human sexuality. As eighth graders, they will be introduced to female and male anatomy, birth control, and sexually transmitted infections. The curriculum will stress abstinence as the best choice.

Physical Education 8

New physical education (PE) initiatives at the Middle School focus on individual fitness. Students will utilize such technologies as the Hopsports Training System and T-Bows to ensure participation is at "Moderate to Vigorous" levels (MVPA). Our students are objectively assessed using Polar Heart Rate monitors as well. Developing fitness skills in students is essential and can impact them throughout a lifetime of learning. Both team and individual sports activities will continue forming a bridge between the middle school and high school programs. The students will build and master their skills with an emphasis on sportsmanship.

Technology 8

The Kenston Middle School grades 6-8 Computer Education courses utilize Google Apps For Education to explore the emerging technologies and productivity tools that support student learning. The nine week course specifically focuses on the technology skills related to communication, research, layout, presentation, and publication. The course builds as students move through each grade level. Students learn to be responsible digital citizens to effectively manage their digital footprints.

**** Additional Encore courses may be offered. Your student will be assigned Encore courses based on schedule availability.**