



Dauphin Junior High Curriculum Guide

This document includes course descriptions and information needed for registration at Dauphin Junior High. If you have questions or need additional information, please call the school at (334) 347-1141.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to Dauphin Junior High School! This guide will enable you and your student to learn more about Dauphin and how we can work together to help your student excel during these years of rapid physical, emotional and intellectual growth.

Starting junior high is a time of great excitement, growth and discovery. Most students look forward to leaving elementary school because it means they are growing up and gaining independence. We recognize this and work hard to make sure your student will feel comfortable making connections with other students and staff and navigating a larger school building. We want your child to feel at home when she or he joins our school in August.

This registration guide is helpful in outlining the broad range of required and elective courses available to you. As you review it, we encourage you to select new or challenging courses that you think might interest you.



Drew Danner
Principal



Jonathan Booth
Assistant Principal

Dauphin Junior High School

Dauphin Junior High serves students in grades 7-8. This guide is designed to help with course selections. The following is included:

- Course descriptions with detailed information
- Required Courses
- Elective Options with prerequisites (if applicable)

Students will have 7 periods each day. 5 of those periods will be required courses and 2 will be electives.

DJHS Sample Schedule by Grade

7th Grade

Math or Accelerated Math 7 (Required)
English or Accelerated English 7 (Required)
Civics/Geography (Required)
Life Science (Required)
Physical Education (Required)
Band or Dauphin Singers (Full-year Elective)
Computer Science Discoveries (1 Semester Elective)
Art (1 Semester Elective)

8th Grade

Math 8 or Accelerated Math 8 (Required)
English or Accelerated English 8 (Required)
World History or Advanced World History (Required)
Physical Science or Advanced Physical Science (Required)
Physical Education (Required)
Multimedia Design (1 Semester Elective)
Design and Modeling (1 Semester Elective)
Intro to Theater (1 Semester Elective)
Medical Detectives (1 Semester Elective)

Course Descriptions

Required Courses (Full-Year Courses)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7: Students will enrich their understanding of Language Arts through their experiences in reading a variety of literature as well as strengthen comprehension and fluency throughout the curriculum. Students will also enhance their writing skills with usage of expanded vocabulary and sentence variety. They will review basic sentence and paragraph structure as they expand their skills of written expression. Students will also be exposed to a variety of literature genres and may be asked to respond to these works with both written assignments and oral presentations.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8: In this class, students will be presented with a wide and rich variety of texts in order to explore the connections between reading, writing, speaking and listening. Eighth Grade English also focuses on writing skills, some specific writing types and the ongoing acquisition of vocabulary. Through active engagement in this course, learners are expected to continue in their growth as fluent readers and writers.

MATH 7: In Grade 7, instructional time should focus on four critical areas. These areas are (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

MATH 8: In Grade 8, instructional time should focus on three critical areas. These areas are (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; and (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

SCIENCE 7: Individual content standards are organized according to the disciplinary core ideas in the **Life Science** domain. Molecules to Organisms, Structures and Processes, Ecosystems, Heredity, and Unity and Diversity are all included in the Life Science domain.

SCIENCE 8: Grade 8 content standards are based upon the disciplinary core ideas in the **Physical Science** domain. The core ideas include: Matter and its Interactions, Motion and Stability, Forces and Interactions, Energy, and Waves and Their Applications in Technologies for Information Transfer along with examining types and properties of waves and the use of waves in communication devices.

SOCIAL STUDIES 7: In seventh grade, **Geography** and **Civics** are each taught as one-semester courses. In one semester, students study world geography using a thematic approach. They focus on Earth as the subject matter that involves people, places, and environments and learn that geography seeks meaning in spatial patterns and processes that involve asking questions regarding where and why. Teachers select particular continents, countries, and regions to provide the geographic framework for classroom instruction and investigation.

In the other semester, students study civics as it addresses content regarding democracy; liberty; law; personal economics; and local, state, and national civic responsibility. This course provides students with information about how society works, including the role students play in the community and in the world.

SOCIAL STUDIES 8: The study of **World History** in Grade 8 addresses the time period from prehistoric man to the 1500s. Content standards for this grade incorporate the strands of economics, geography, history, and political science, with an emphasis on the history and geography strands. Course content focuses on the migrations of early people, the rise of civilizations, the establishment of governments and religions, the growth of economic systems, and ways in which these events shaped Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Unique to this course are experiences that provide for the study of how human beings view themselves over time.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Physical Education is a mandatory course for all 7th & 8th grade students. Students who have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities that focus on a more physically active lifestyle. Volleyball, football, basketball, badminton, fitness, softball, and other sports & activities are among those that will be taught throughout the year. ***Uniform Requirements: Students will need a plain colored t-shirt, athletic shorts or pants, and a pair of tennis shoes.

****ACCELERATED COURSES:** The goal of accelerated courses is to provide students the opportunity to engage in above grade-level content and prepare students for college-credit courses upon entering high school. Accelerated courses operate at a more rapid pace. Students in Accelerated classes should be self-disciplined & motivated to learn.

Electives

BEGINNING BAND: If students have never played an instrument, or are looking to learn a new instrument, this band is for them! **NO PRIOR BAND OR MUSIC EXPERIENCE IS REQUIRED.** All junior high students are welcomed to join. Students learn the fundamentals of music making and music reading through performance on traditional band instruments. There are 2 required concerts throughout the year. Band is a yearlong class and students must commit to it for the entire year. Beginning Band Classes are separated by instrument grouping as follows: Beginning Woodwinds (Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Saxophone), Beginning Brass (Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone/Euphonium, Tuba) and Beginning Percussion (Snare and Bass Drums, Timpani, Xylophone, Marimba etc.). Come experience the magic of music making! **Woodwind/Brass Fee: \$50, plus any required instrument. Percussion Fee: \$175 will include all required equipment (Full Year)**

CONCERT BAND (*Teacher approval required*): This ensemble is open to students with 1-2 years of experience on their instruments. We continue building the fundamentals of individual and ensemble technique through performance, composition, improvisation, and an introduction to music theory. There are up to 4 required concerts throughout the year. Band is a yearlong class and students must commit to it for the entire year. Come continue your music journey!
Band Fee: \$50 (Full Year)

SYMPHONIC BAND (*Teacher approval required*): This band is for more advanced players, and will require an audition. We begin to refine our individual skills and deepen our understanding of performance through challenging and diverse repertoire. Students continue to explore the fundamentals of music theory, improvisation, and composition. There are at least 4 required concerts throughout the year. **Band Fee: \$50 (Full Year)**

JAZZ BAND (*Teacher approval required*): This band explores the playing of Pop, Jazz, Swing, Blues, and Latin music through a Studio Big Band approach. All band instruments are welcome to participate in this course, and second year players may also try playing alternate instruments in this ensemble as available. This ensemble will also include a rhythm section including drumset, electric bass guitar, electric guitar, and piano/keyboard. These positions are limited and an audition may be necessary. There are no auditions required for wind instruments. Jazz band members must also be enrolled in either Concert or Symphonic Band. Special considerations may be made for rhythm section members. There are at least 4 required concerts throughout the year and other performances at community events may be scheduled as they are available. **Band Fee: \$35 (Full Year)**

DAUPHIN SINGERS: Dauphin Singers is open to any student who wishes to sing a variety of music literature ranging from pop to the classics. Individual voices are tested each fall for range and choir/ part placement. This class travels to at least two competitions and has two required concerts during the school year. Required Uniform: White top & black bottoms for performances. **Singers Fee is \$30 (Full Year)**

EXPRESSIONS (Audition required): Expressions is open to students through an audition process and combined with students from Dauphin Junior High, they make up Enterprise Expressions. This is an elite group of students who sing & dance, performing at several competitions on various Friday nights January through March. Rehearsals, in addition to class, begin in August on Monday nights & in January, Thursday nights are added just prior to competition season. Additional performances may be added as requests are received. A retreat will be scheduled in the fall to learn the competition show which is taught by a nationally recognized choreographer. Expressions is a full-year course. **Expressions Fee is \$350 (Full Year)**

INTRO TO THEATRE: Explore beginning theater concepts including creating and performing as well as an understanding of how theater communicates ideas and allows for self-expression. **Theatre Fee is \$15 (One Semester)**

THEATRE II (8th Grade only, teacher approval required): Uses the platform of communication and drama to develop personal skills in effective speaking, organized thinking, team work, and confidence building. Creative and improvisational assignments are designed to improve individual performance and collaborative skills. Students will be engaged in activities that will encourage learning through movement and acting activities. **Theatre Fee is \$30 (Full Year)**

CREATIVE WRITING: This course is offered to students interested in developing and improving their creative writing skills. (One Semester)

COMPUTER SCIENCE DISCOVERIES: Computer Science Discoveries is an introductory course that empowers students to engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun! (One Semester)

APP CREATORS (8th Grade Only): Students will learn the basics of computer science through mobile app development (PLTW). Students will start with basic concepts of programming in “Blockly,” a simple drop-and-drag programming language using MIT’s App Inventor. Students will then progress to “Python” in which they learn introductory elements of text-based programming and language syntax. Students will explore the impact of

computing in society and the application of computing across career paths. (One Semester)
Prerequisite: Computer Science Discoveries. (One Semester)

MULTIMEDIA DESIGN: Multimedia Design is an art class that allows students to use computer programs within a digital art classroom. There is a focus on digital arts careers like art and animation, graphic design and web design. This course will allow students to blend computer and technology skills with art. (One Semester)

PERSONAL FINANCE: Personal Finance is for students interested in learning the fundamentals of financial planning, banking basics, digital literacy, and managing money after high school. Students will use the EVERFI online program. Personal Finance may also help teach students how to research and find money to help pay for college. (One Semester)

DJHS News Team (Audition required): The DJHS WFIN News Team is a group of 7th & 8th grade students interested in media production. The students work together each morning to present our students and staff with school announcements. The Dauphin News Team rotates responsibilities on a daily basis so students are able to have a broad understanding of media production as a whole. Students will learn to write and edit a script, record and edit video, troubleshoot technology, manage personnel, upload the news to YouTube, and perform other media duties. Students must audition for the News Team, look on the DJHS website for details. (Full Year)

INTRO TO ART (7 & 8): Intro to Visual Arts – is a one semester introductory course to the visual arts. Students will develop a greater understanding of the visual arts through experimentation with a variety of media, techniques, and processes to produce original works of art. Students will develop and discuss the elements of art and principles of design to advance their art skills and be able to apply these to their work. Areas of study include, but are not limited to, drawing, shading, perspective, watercolor painting, pastels, and art history. Art Fee is \$10. (One Semester)

ADVANCED ART (8th Grade only, teacher approval required): Advanced Art is for students with previous art experience & approval of Art Teacher. Students will develop a greater understanding of the arts through experimentation with a variety of media, techniques, and processes to produce original works. Students will discuss the elements of art and principles of design in relation to their own work, and examples from art history. This course is all year. First semester will review drawing, shading, and various mediums. Second semester will focus on color mixing, painting and three-dimensional work. With teacher approval, after taking this course you may advance to Level II Visual Arts at the high school. Advanced Art Fee is \$10 (One Semester)

AUTOMATION & ROBOTICS: Robotics is a hands-on Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Engineering course that introduces students to the world of robotics and automation. Students will learn how to design and build robotic systems and write computer programs to control them. Students will complete exciting projects such as: maze-solving vehicles, drag racers, robotic arms, elevators, and many more. (One Semester)

DESIGN & MODELING: In Design & Modeling, students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned throughout the unit to design a toy. (One Semester)

FLIGHT & SPACE: The exciting world of aerospace comes alive through Flight and Space. During this unit, students delve into the history of flight and space, discover the science behind aeronautics, and explore traveling and living in space. Students are then challenged to use their knowledge to design, build, and test an airfoil. (One Semester)

MEDICAL DETECTIVES: Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, examine nervous system structure and function, and investigate disease outbreaks. (One Semester)

STUDENT AIDE (8th Grade Only with prior approval): Student aides assist where needed. Duties may include greeting guests, running errands, making copies, filing, or answering the telephone. Students must be enrolled in 8th grade and in good standing academically and have no discipline referrals. Students who fail to remain in good standing are removed from this position. (Full Year)