

HADDAM-KILLINGWORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

PROGRAM OF STUDIES

2025-2026

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Introduction

To Our HKMS Families,

Welcome to Haddam-Killingworth Middle School! We are excited to share with you the comprehensive learning opportunities available to your child during their time with us. The HKMS Program of Studies is designed to provide you with a detailed overview of the diverse and enriching courses offered throughout our students' three years at HKMS.

At HKMS, we believe that middle school is a time for students to be exposed to a wide range of subjects and experiences. Our philosophy centers on providing students with opportunities to explore various fields of study, helping them to discover their interests and passions.

In the first section, you will find our core academic classes. This includes a progression of learning in English/Language Arts from grades six through eight, as well as detailed descriptions of our Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and World Language courses. This structure allows you to see the clear and intentional development of skills and knowledge in each subject area.

The second section highlights our year-long Applied Academic and Fine Arts (AAFA) classes, which meet every other day. These include our Wellness (PE & Health), Art, and Music classes, each designed to foster creativity, health, and overall well-being.

The final section covers our "wheel" classes—trimester-long courses that meet every other day during one of your child's AAFA periods. Organized by grade level, this section outlines the three wheel classes your child will experience each year, providing a well-rounded and exploratory educational experience.

We hope this Program of Studies ignites excitement and curiosity about the learning journey ahead. Our goal is to support and inspire every student as they grow and discover their passions at HKMS.

Sincerely,

Heather Persson, HKMS Interim Principal

Purpose

Haddam-Killingworth Middle School's purpose is to empower students to discover their strengths, overcome challenges, think critically, and develop into their best selves. Together we foster independent learners to become respectful and responsible members of a diverse society. Collaboratively, the HKMS community guides students on their journey of self-discovery.

Daily Schedule

Grade 6 Schedule

In sixth grade, students have double periods each day for ELA (English/Language Arts) and mathematics. They also have a double period that alternates between units of study in science and social studies.

Sixth graders have two periods per day of Applied Academics and Fine Arts (AAFA).The sixth grade applied academic classes are as follows:

- World Language – Spanish or French
- Band, Chorus, or Art
- Wellness (PE & Health)
- Wheel classes – Life Skills, Design & Modeling, General Art or Music

Students who are recommended for LEAP will have this class during Flex. Students who are recommended for reading intervention, math intervention, and/or targeted instruction will have this class during Flex or applied academics.

Grade 7 Schedule

In seventh grade, students have double periods each day for ELA (English/Language Arts) and mathematics. They also have a double period that alternates between units of study in science and social studies.

Seventh graders have two periods per day of Applied Academics and Fine Arts (AAFA). The seventh grade applied academic classes are as follows:

- World Language – Spanish or French
- Band, Chorus, or Art
- Wellness (PE & Health)
- Wheel classes – Personal Finance, Computer Science, General Art or Music

Students who are recommended for reading intervention, math intervention, and/or targeted instruction will have this class during Flex or applied academics.

Grade 8 Schedule

In eighth grade, students have double periods each day for ELA (English/Language Arts) and mathematics. They also have a double period that alternates between units of study in science and social studies.

Eighth graders have two periods per day of Applied Academics and Fine Arts (AAFA). The eighth grade applied academic classes are as follows:

- World Language – Spanish or French
- Band, Chorus, or Art

- Wellness (PE & Health)
- Wheel classes – Foods & Nutrition, Computer Science: Drones, General Art or Music
- Jazz Band or Honors Choir (during flex) - audition required

Students who are recommended for reading intervention, math intervention, and/or targeted instruction will have this class during Flex or applied academics.

Language Arts Curriculum Overview

In our English Language Arts (ELA) program which builds on the knowledge and skills students learned in K-5, students read and study award-winning fiction and nonfiction texts, famous works of art, videos, photographs, and more. Our students will learn about compelling topics rooted in science, history and literature, such as the Great Depression, Mythology, World War 2, the Middle Ages, Poetics and the power of storytelling, and World War 1. Through their work with these topics and texts, students will hone their abilities to read challenging books and to write and speak clearly, logically, and effectively. Students will write in response to texts and across genres (narrative, opinion, informational) for a variety of purposes. They will participate in speaking and listening activities such as socratic seminars, turn and talks, small group and partner work where they will share and grow ideas. Students will build strong knowledge and skills that will transfer across grades and content areas.

Language Arts, Grade 6: **Meets two periods per day**

Grade 6 students will build knowledge of key topics in history, science, and literature through the study of excellent texts. By reading and responding to stories and nonfiction texts, they will build knowledge of the following topics:

Module 1 - Resilience in the Great Depression: In Module 1, students will study one of the worst economic situations in United States history, the Great Depression. Students will explore the hardships families faced and the triumphs they endured during that period.

Module 2 - A Hero's Journey: In Module 2, students will study what makes a hero. Is it simply courage, or something more? What traits do all of us share with the most famous heroes in literature?

Module 3 - Narrating the Unknown: In Module 3, students work across multiple texts and genres to construct a complex picture of life and struggle in Jamestown, assessing the forces—both internal and external—that brought the near demise of the colony. They will study the question: How did the social and environmental challenges in the unknown world of Jamestown shape its development and decline?

Module 4 - Courage in Crisis: In Module 4, students work across multiple texts to construct a complex understanding of what it means to endure hostile environments and respond heroically to positively impact others. They will answer the question: How can the challenges of a hostile environment inspire heroism?

Language Arts, Grade 7: **Meets two periods per day**

Grade 7 students will build knowledge of key topics in history, science, and literature through the study of complex texts. By reading and responding to stories and nonfiction texts, they will build knowledge of the following topics:

Module 1 - Identity in the Middle Ages: In Module 1, students are introduced to the daily lives of medieval Europeans. Immersed in the Middle Ages (500–1500 AD), students will focus on identity and character and the impact of society on both.

Module 2 - Americans All: In Module 2, students will explore how we react when faced with war. The World War II experiences of Japanese Americans and Native Americans show how the war affected Americans in different ways. Students will explore the question: How did World War II affect individuals?

Module 3 - Language and Power: In Module 3, students have many rich and engaging opportunities to explore the power of language to inspire, persuade, and control. Throughout, students will answer the question: What is the power of language?

Module 4- Fever: In Module 4, students travel back to one of the pivotal crises in American history: the yellow fever epidemic of 1793. Throughout the module, students analyze and evaluate the ways Philadelphians responded to the epidemic, deepening their exploration of how times of crisis can affect citizens and society.

Language Arts, Grade 8: **Meets two periods per day**

Grade 8 students will continue to develop their knowledge and skills through the study of key topics in history, science, and literature. By reading, writing, speaking, listening and responding to texts, they will build knowledge of the following topics:

Module 1- The Poetics and Power of Storytelling: In Module 1, students will study how we build community, understand ourselves, and explain the world around us using stories and poems to answer the question; What is the power of storytelling?

Module 2- The Great War: In Module 2, students will study how writers and artists tell the story of World War I through a rich variety of texts.

Module 3- What Is Love?: In Module 3, students examine a question that has vexed humans—and the world's most renowned literary authors— for generations: What is love? Many of the students will have their very first exposure to a Shakespeare play as they read A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Module 4- Teens as Change Agents: Module 4 explores the idea that social change is rarely a linear, straightforward process, but often, a combination of circumstance and opportunity, spontaneous and highly strategic action, personal agency and collective action. Social change is the ideal topic to engage students in independent research as they work to identify a teen change agent and present their findings through writing and a multimedia presentation.

Mathematics Curriculum Overview

The HKMS mathematics program builds on the knowledge and skills that students learned in elementary school. Students in grades K-6 are heterogeneously grouped for math. We offer two levels of math beginning in grade 7 - grade level and accelerated. Student placement decisions for grades 7 & 8 are made around spring parent-teacher conferences in collaboration with teachers, families and students. The accelerated pathway is based on class performance, classroom assessments, district assessments and teacher recommendation.

If a student is at grade level for math throughout middle school and high school, a typical pathway through mathematics instruction is as follows:

Grade	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Course	Math 6	Math 7	Math 8	Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra 2	• Pre-Calculus • Probability/ Statistics • Personal Finance

If a student is accelerated in math, a typical pathway through mathematics instruction is as follows:

Grade	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Course	Math 6	Accelerated Math 7	Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra 2	Pre-Calculus	• AP Calculus AB • AP Calculus BC • AP Statistics

While placements can shift along the path throughout middle and high school, students typically follow these common sequences in later years.

Note that there are high school science courses that have math prerequisites.

Mathematics, Grade 6: **Meets two periods per day**

In sixth grade math, students extend their reasoning of multiplication and division to the concepts of ratios and rates; complete their understanding of division of fractions; extend their understanding of rational numbers including negative numbers; write, interpret and use expressions and equations including variables; solve problems involving area, surface area and volume; and develop an understanding of statistical thinking.

At the end of sixth grade, students are placed in Grade 7 Math or Accelerated Grade 7 Math based on class performance, classroom and district assessments, teacher recommendation with parent and student input.

Mathematics, Grade 7: **Meets two periods per day**

Students will add, subtract, multiply and divide positive and negative rational numbers and apply absolute value. Students will create algebraic expressions along with applying the distributive property and combining like terms. Seventh graders will create and solve multi-step equations using operations of integers along with solving and graphing solutions to inequalities.

In addition, students will use proportions and scale factors to identify unit rates and calculate the best purchase prices. Students will perform operations with percents, including finding taxes, tips, discounts and percent change. Seventh graders will explore proportionality in scale drawings and solve problems involving angle measure, area, surface area and volume. Students find the probability of single and multiple events using charts, tree diagrams and fractions and use probability to predict the frequency of an event. Students collect and organize data in order to make inferences about populations from a sample and compare populations.

In 7th grade Accelerated math, students learn the curriculum taught in Math 7 as well as concepts that are taught in Math 8. Students learn this content at an accelerated pace.

Mathematics, Grade 8: **Meets two periods per day**

This course is designed to increase foundations math skills and prepare students for Algebra 1. The curriculum includes real numbers (number theory), Pythagorean theorem, congruence and similarity, transformations, linear relationships and functions, systems of linear relationships, volume of cones, cylinders and spheres and patterns in data. This class was formerly called Pre-Algebra yet the shift to Connecticut Core Standards extends beyond just algebraic thinking to include ratio and proportional thinking, number systems, geometry, probability and statistics, so it has been renamed Math 8.

Algebra 1, Grade 8: **Meets two periods per day**

The Algebra 1 curriculum is based on the big ideas of algebra, conceptual understandings, real world applications, hands-on experiences gathering data and appropriate uses of technology. The curriculum is organized into units which include a variety of investigations and activities that engage students in active learning. Unit topics include patterns, equations, inequalities, system of equations, scatter plots, trend lines and functions. Students are expected to have a solid foundation in arithmetic skills for all operations (whole numbers, fractions, decimals, integers), problem solving, order of operations, combining like terms and distribution. Successful completion of Algebra 1 at HKMS earns credit towards HKHS graduation requirements.

**Note: HKMS no longer has a course named "Pre-Algebra". With the shift to Connecticut Core Standards, the math of middle school extends beyond just algebraic thinking to include ratio and proportional thinking, number systems, geometry, probability and statistics. Therefore, it has been named Math 8 to align with the grade 8 standards. In addition, Accelerated Math 7 is not the same as Math 8. Accelerated Math 7 includes grade 7 standards and grade 8 standards.*

Science Curriculum Overview

The science program at HKMS is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards and designed to provide students with rich experiences to improve their scientific understanding. The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) for middle school science focus on developing a deep understanding of science through hands-on learning, integrating scientific practices like experimentation and data analysis, and connecting concepts across different scientific domains (physical, life, and earth/space) using crosscutting concepts like cause and effect, systems, and stability and change, all while building knowledge progressively through grade levels; emphasizing "doing science" rather than just memorizing facts.

Science, Grade 6: Meets two periods/day in a 30-day unit each trimester

Grade 6 science offers a rigorous curriculum of study based on student inquiry. Our mission is to create an atmosphere where students can collaboratively construct physical models that help build an understanding of scientific concepts. Sixth grade students investigate the following essential questions:

- How can disease impact the ability of living systems to survive?
- How do the motions and complex interactions of air masses result in changing weather conditions?
- How can reproduction and growth impact the ability of a living system to survive?
- How can thermal energy transfer impact the ability of a living system to survive?

Students discover the answers to the essential questions while designing their own investigations and are guided to develop a deeper understanding of scientific phenomena through their scientific research.

Science, Grade 7: Meets two periods/day in a 30-day unit each trimester

In seventh grade, students learn about the earth's structure and history, as well as the natural forces constantly changing the surface of the earth, by examining fossils and other evidence from the earth's past. Students study photosynthesis and cellular respiration to understand how living organisms make and get energy from food. Additionally, students learn about different ecosystems and the interaction with organisms living in them. Seventh grade students investigate the following essential questions:

- What causes changes in matter?
- How do organisms and ecosystems interact?
- How has the Earth changed?

During these units, students will form deeper connections between scientific concepts and skills, such as designing proper investigations, developing and revising models based on evidence, and analyzing data to make sense of phenomena.

Science, Grade 8: Meets two periods/day in a 30-day unit each trimester

The goals of eighth grade science are to engage students in scientific practices to develop broader understanding of content and a deeper level of scientific inquiry skills. Our eighth grade students will investigate the following units of study through these essential questions:

- Natural Selection and Common Ancestry: How could things living today be connected to the things that lived long ago?
- Genetics: Why are living things different from one another?
- Contact Forces: What happens when two objects collide?
- Non-Contact Forces: How can an object exert a force on another object without physically touching it?
- Waves: How do waves transfer energy and information?

During these investigations, students will form deeper connections between scientific concepts and skills, such as evaluating methods for collecting data, revising models based on evidence, and analyzing data to make sense of phenomena.

Social Studies Curriculum Overview

Social studies classes prepare students for their roles as citizens by developing knowledge of the regions of the world as well as of the past in order to understand present-day challenges and plan for the future. Students will examine primary sources and use critical thinking, reasoning and research skills to investigate history, geography, economics, and civics. Social studies classes support student achievement with respect to reading, writing, speaking, listening, and research/inquiry.

World Geography I, Grade 6: Meets two periods/day in a 30-day unit each trimester
Students in sixth grade learn geography continent by continent using the five themes of geography as a framework, which builds their understanding of the impact of geography on how people live. During their study of the Caribbean, South America, and Asia, students focus on the geographical, historical, political, social, economic and cultural aspects of each different region/continent. Through inquiry, students will investigate topics about geography and history. They will find and evaluate primary and secondary sources, improve their informational writing, and develop their presentation skills.

World Geography 2, Grade 7: Meets two periods/day in a 30-day unit each trimester
Students in seventh grade learn geography continent by continent using the five themes of geography as a framework, which builds their understanding of the impact of geography on early civilization. During their study of Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Europe, students focus on the geographical, historical, political, social, economic and cultural aspects of each different region/continent. Through inquiry, students will investigate topics about geography and history. They will find and evaluate primary and secondary sources, improve their informational writing, and develop their presentation skills.

US History, Grade 8: Meets two periods/day in a 30-day unit each trimester
Eighth grade social studies is designed as a chronological survey in early American history building on the work of grade 5. Time periods and eras included in our study are the American Revolution, creation of the new republic and Constitution, growth and expansion, Industrial Revolution, westward expansion, reform and social change, the differing north and south, and the Civil War. Students will study the political, economic, social, and geographical changes of the United States during these years. Each student will use inquiry to explore questions and analyze primary sources to draw conclusions. Students will expand their listening, speaking, writing, reading and citizenship skills to a high level of proficiency.

World Language Curriculum Overview

The HKMS world language department provides students the opportunity to learn French or Spanish with the goal of speaking, reading, and writing in the target language.

The students' world language choices for the 2024-25 school year are as follows:

- **Incoming 6th graders**: Students will continue their study of French I or Spanish I, a two year course starting in 5th grade, which meets every other day. At the end of sixth grade, they will have completed French I or Spanish I.

- **Incoming 7th graders**: Students will begin their study of French II or Spanish II, the first part of a two year long course, which meets every other day. At the end of seventh grade, they will have completed the first part of French II or Spanish II.

- **Incoming 8th graders**: Students will continue the study of French II or Spanish II which they began in seventh grade. This course meets every other day. At the end of eighth grade, they will have completed French II or Spanish II, in preparation for their third year of the language in high school.

The chart below summarizes the 2025-26 world language pathway at HKMS for each grade level.

Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
French or Spanish I (part II) (started in 5th grade)	French II or Spanish II (part I)	French II or Spanish II (part II)

French I or Spanish I (part 2), Grade 6: Meets every other day, all year

Sixth grade students continue to build on the Spanish/French I curriculum. They will learn concepts such as how to use the correct pronoun to address elders in a culturally appropriate way, how to describe themselves or others, how to express their likes, dislikes and wishes for the future, and possessive adjectives. In addition, they will learn about cultural traditions, such as bullfighting in Spain and Southern France. The course is designed to extend students' understanding of Spanish/French culture through authentic and adapted sources of art, music, media, customs, history, and geography. Students will extend their knowledge of novice vocabulary, grammar, and syntax in order to read, write, speak, and further comprehend the language at a novice level. Students will be expected to speak primarily in the target language in preparation for the Spanish/French II curriculum.

French II or Spanish II (part 1), Grade 7: Meets every other day, all year

Spanish/French II builds upon the knowledge and skills learned in Spanish/French I. Students will learn to give and follow commands, express needs, ask for help and offer assistance. They will expand their understanding of French and Spanish cultures through the study of Latin and French cuisine and the flavors associated with each culture as well as their individual preferences. This course will continue to extend students' understanding of Spanish/French culture through authentic and adapted sources of art, music, media, customs, history, and geography. Students will extend their knowledge of novice vocabulary, grammar, and syntax in order to read, write, speak, and further understand the language at a novice level. Students will be expected to speak primarily in the target language as they progress through this course.

French II or Spanish II (part 2) Grade 8: Meets every other day, all year

The second part of Spanish/French II continues to build upon the knowledge and skills learned in the first part of Spanish/French II. Students will learn about emotions such as what they fear using the verb "to have". They will talk about their feelings and make comparisons to build on the vocabulary from previous units. In addition, students will learn to retell stories and talk about sports. French students will use adjectives and er, ir, re verbs to learn about a traditional Haitian story continuing to build on their awareness of culture. This course will continue to extend students' understanding of Spanish/French culture through authentic and adapted sources of art, music, media, customs, history, and geography. Students will extend their knowledge of vocabulary, grammar, and syntax in order to read, write, speak, and further understand the language at a novice/intermediate level. Students will be expected to speak primarily in the target language as they progress through this course in order to be prepared for Spanish/French II at the HS.

8th grade students are expected to take a final exam at the end of the school year and a placement exam in early spring to demonstrate their language proficiency. The placement exam will include reading and listening comprehension as well as speaking and writing. Recommendations made in January may be adjusted based on results of the placement exam.

Art Curriculum Overview

The art curriculum at the middle school aligns with the National Core Arts Standards. Both full-year and trimester-long courses are offered. Students will study two- and three- dimensional art through units of study in drawing, painting, printmaking, clay and mixed media. Course descriptions for trimester-long general art courses are found in the "Wheel Classes" section.

Art, Grade 6: **Meets every other day, all year**

This course is a compilation of art media experimentation and personal expression. Students are challenged to further their knowledge about art making and the processes involved in creative problem solving. Projects are based on the National Core Arts Standards. Students are continually asked to reflect on their artistic choices and analyze what makes their art successful.

The sixth grade curriculum includes both two- and three-dimensional art based on utilizing the elements of art and principles of design. Units of study include drawing, painting, printmaking, clay hand-building and mixed media.

Students will complete 3-4 projects per trimester as part of a year-long portfolio and may include gelli printing, coil clay, still-life and a mixed media project.

Art, Grade 7: **Meets every other day, all year**

The seventh grade art curriculum incorporates the National Core Arts Standards and focuses on perspective, and color theory through two and three dimensional art including drawing, painting, printmaking, clay hand building, and mixed media design. Elements of art are covered, and students also gain a knowledge of principles of design and how to organize and lay out a piece of art.

Students will complete 3-4 projects per trimester as part of a year-long portfolio and may include perspective drawing, landscapes, functional clay pieces and collages inspired by art history and visual culture.

Art, Grade 8: **Meets every other day, all year**

The eighth grade art curriculum incorporates the National Core Arts Standards and focuses on visual culture, through creating two and three dimensional art including drawing, painting, printmaking, clay hand building, and mixed media design. The elements of art and principles of design are explored to provide students with a well rounded experience that includes design in a variety of mediums.

Students will complete 3-4 projects per trimester as part of a year-long portfolio and may include street art, functional or sculptural clay pieces, self portraits and a mixed media piece.

Music Curriculum Overview

Students at HKMS have multiple courses in which to pursue their interests in music.

Below are the opportunities for music instruction at each grade level.

- **Grade 6:** Students will choose between Band or Chorus as full year courses or select one trimester of General Music. Students may start a new band instrument in sixth grade.
- **Grade 7** – Students will choose between Band or Chorus. If they do not select a performing ensemble, they will take a trimester of General Music.
- **Grade 8** – Students will choose between Band or Chorus. If they do not select a performing ensemble, they will take a trimester of General Music.
- **Audition groups** – Students in grades 7 and 8 can audition for Jazz Band and Honors Choir. All students in Jazz Band and Honors Choir all need to be members of a grade level music ensemble.

Beginning Band, Grade 6: **Meets every other day, all year**

Sixth grade beginning band is designed as an introduction to the basics of performing on a wind or percussion instrument. The course includes note reading, basic music vocabulary, and beginning music theory. In addition to listening to, describing, and performing music from a variety of cultures, students demonstrate a knowledge of performance etiquette and work together in an ensemble. Team teaching is an integral component to the structure of this class. As a result of this class, beginning band students will have the opportunity to experience the power of performing as a member of a group and will be prepared to perform in their next year at the 7th grade level.

Band, Grade 6: **Meets every other day, all year**

Sixth grade concert band incorporates and builds on the skills that were acquired during fourth and fifth grade band. Students refine their performance skills, learn to be self-reflective through ensemble critiques, and gain an understanding of the diverse nature of the music they perform. Team teaching is an integral component to the structure of this class. As a result of this class, students will have the opportunity to experience the power of performing as a member of a group. They will have a chance to listen and respond to diverse music and at the highest level, create and explore musical ideas. Twice per year there will be formal band concerts, with other informal performance opportunities throughout the school year. Students may choose flute, clarinet, saxophone, trombone, trumpet, baritone/euphonium or combined percussion.

Band, Grade 7: **Meets every other day, all year**

Seventh grade concert band incorporates and builds on the skills that were acquired during sixth grade band. It offers students the opportunity for more extensive experience with a wider variety of concert band literature. Continuation of team teaching provides a stable environment for small group instruction and individual assessment. Students will have a chance to listen and respond to diverse music and at the highest level, create and explore musical ideas. Twice per year there will be formal band concerts, with other informal performance opportunities throughout the school year. All participants in the seventh grade band are prepared for future involvement in the eighth grade concert band.

Band, Grade 8: Meets every other day, all year

Through performance and the study of music theory, students will respond to the following questions throughout the school year:

- What makes a significant and meaningful performance?
- What defines a great musician?

By discussing and responding to these two questions, students will come to understand that music is personal. It expresses human experiences and values and is embedded in all aspects of life. Paying attention to detail and consistent work/practice habits play a big role in student achievement. Essential techniques are needed to achieve mastery and practice/preparation is vital for technique. Students in eighth grade band perform in the Winter Concert, HKHS Cooperative Concert, Spring Concert, and Memorial Day Parade.

Students typically have at least two years of instrumental performance experience before joining the eighth grade band. All traditional concert band instruments are allowed.

Jazz Band, Grade 7 & 8: Meets once every three days during flex, all year

HKMS Jazz Band is an audition group consisting of seventh and eighth grade students. This band meets during the seventh & eighth grade applied academic classes. The group consists of saxophones, trumpets, trombones and a full rhythm section (drums set, bass, guitar and piano) in a traditional big band setting. The group studies and performs a variety of literature from various periods of jazz performance, ranging from swing to Latin to funk and rock. Jazz Band has a tradition of playing at many concerts, including the two formal school concerts, the Applied Academics and Fine Arts night, the annual Six Flags Music in The Parks Competition, the HK Holiday Show, and numerous others throughout the year

Chorus, Grade 6: Meets every other day all year

In sixth grade Chorus, students will learn how to sing, read music, and create a fun and supportive community environment, building upon what they did the previous year in their music class. Most sixth grade choir music will be in two or three parts. Students will learn intermediate concepts of sight singing, including Solfege (do, re, mi….) with skips and more complex rhythm counting. Students will be encouraged to find the beauty in their own voices. Twice per year there will be formal chorus concerts, with other informal performance opportunities throughout the school year.

Chorus, Grade 7: Meets every other day, all year

In seventh grade Chorus, students will learn how to sing, read music, and create a fun and supportive community environment, building upon what they did the previous year in their music class. Most seventh grade choir music will be in 3 or 4 parts. Students will learn advanced concepts of sight singing, including Solfege (do, re, mi….) with many skips and syncopated rhythm counting. Many of our seventh grade students will also learn how to use their newer changed or changing voices in a supportive environment. Twice per year there will be formal chorus concerts, with other informal performance opportunities throughout the school year.

Chorus, Grade 8: Meets every other day, all year

In eighth grade chorus, students will learn how to sing, read music, and create a fun and supportive community environment, building upon what they did the previous year in their music class. Most eighth grade choir music will be in 3, 4 or more parts. Students will continue to build on their sight reading skills, and begin to focus on basic concepts in music theory, including chords. Twice per year there will be formal chorus concerts, with other informal performance opportunities throughout the school year.

Honors Choir, Grades 7 & 8: Meets once every three days during flex, all year

Honors Choir is an auditioned seventh and eighth grade ensemble which usually accepts between 16 and 24 members. The Honors Choir has a tradition of singing many concerts, including the two formal school concerts, the Applied Academics and Fine Arts night, the annual Six Flags Music in The Parks Competition, the HK Holiday Show, and numerous others throughout the year. Members of the Honors Choir are expected to practice at home on a nightly basis. Students from the Honors Choir will also be given the opportunity to audition for Regional Music Festivals. They will also be student leaders for the entire HKMS choral program.

Wellness Curriculum Overview

HKMS Wellness combines both Physical Education & Health Education into one course.

The HKMS physical education program is designed to encourage students to develop not only physically, but also socially and emotionally, as they progress through our curriculum into responsible, respectful and physically literate young adults. Students reach these objectives through a variety of individual and group activities that stress concepts, strategies, skills, wellness theories, and lifetime activities.

The HKMS health curriculum is a comprehensive program, aligned with Connecticut and national health education standards. It is designed to increase student awareness of essential information, skills, behaviors, and attitudes associated with a lifestyle focused on overall wellness (physical, social, environmental, emotional and mental health).

Wellness (PE & Health), Grade 6: **Meets every other day, all year**

Physical Education: The sixth grade curriculum at HKMS builds on the knowledge and skills acquired during fifth grade. Sixth graders continue to enhance their skills in order to focus on applying them during game play. We use a variety of group and individual activities such as modified games and drills to reinforce those skills and introduce new concepts and strategies. Units of study may include team and individual games, cooperative games, fitness center/training (cardio programs and record keeping), racquet sports, and golf. As required by the Connecticut State Department of Education, all sixth graders will complete the Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment which includes push ups, curl ups, sit and reach (flexibility) and mile/PACER (cardio fitness).

Health: The skills and topics included in 6th grade health curriculum are:

- Communication for Healthy Relationships:
- Self-Management for Safety
- Accessing Information about Nutrition

Wellness (PE & Health), Grade 7: **Meets every other day, all year**

Physical Education: The seventh grade curriculum continues to build on the students' experiences from previous years while stressing the application of strategies and concepts in individual and group activities. Students will begin to take on more responsibility in the outcomes and pace of class with the introduction of the Sports Education Model. During this year students are challenged to develop connections between Physical Education and other academic courses to enhance their knowledge of concepts, strategies, skills and anatomy. Units of study may include: Racquet sports, group & individual activities, invasion games, backyard games, fitness center and end of year "National Tournament"

The skills and topics included in the 7th grade health curriculum are:

- Decision making for Alcohol, Drugs and Nicotine
- Analyzing Influence
- Advocating for Mental and Emotional Health

Wellness (PE & Health), Grade 8: **Meets every other day, all year**

Physical Education: The eighth grade curriculum is an extension of seventh grade where students further develop their knowledge of their strengths in PE and how those can be an asset for success. Students are required to transition to a higher level of thinking regarding concepts and strategies within units. Game play and lifetime activities are a key component to the eighth grade PE experience. Eighth graders focus on the use of various fitness activities while in the fitness center to help them develop their physical fitness, in which they will complete a fitness project. Units of study may include: Racquet sports, group & individual activities, invasion games, backyard games, fitness center and Olympics

The skills and topics included in 8th grade health curriculum are:

- Analyzing Influences with Substances of Abuse
- Communicating through Positive Romantic Relationships
- Decision Making for Community Health

Wheel Classes Overview

Wheel classes are elective courses that allow students to explore a variety of Applied Academics and Fine Arts disciplines. Wheel courses at HKMS meet every other day for a trimester, for a total of approximately 30 classes. The number of wheel classes a student is able to take may depend on whether or not they have targeted instruction or support classes. Please see the following pages for the wheel classes for each grade level. It is possible for a class to not run due to low enrollment.

Grade 6 Wheel Classes

Design & Modeling, Grade 6: Meets every other day, 1 trimester

Students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. Students are introduced to Computer-aided design (CAD) using a 3D modeling program called Tinkercad. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned throughout the course to solve real-world problems.

Life Skills, Grade 6: Meets every other day, 1 trimester

Life skills is a program that engages students within individual and cooperative learning environments to further build and develop their life skills. Themes, skills, and concepts that students will be developing are healthy living choices, non-verbal and verbal communications, design and production, time management, and goal setting. Through differing instructional strategies, the students will create and strengthen abilities in subjects that will aid them in becoming young adults.

General Music, Grade 6: Meets every other day, 1 trimester

Sixth graders who do not take band or chorus are required to take one trimester of general music. This course explores both music history and music theory through the study and performance of ukulele and guitar. The students will spend time learning to play each instrument. Students will also learn to describe and evaluate performances by famous musicians. Each student will be equipped to play basic harmonic and melodic passages, and they will be given the tools to continue their studies if they wish.

General Art, Grade 6: Meets every other day, 1 trimester

This course is a compilation of art media experimentation and personal expression. Students are challenged to further their knowledge about art making and the processes involved in creative problem solving. Projects are based on the National Common Core Arts Standards, and connections are made to a variety of other disciplines including math and science. Students are continually asked to reflect on their artistic choices and analyze what makes their art successful.

The sixth grade curriculum includes both two- and three-dimensional art based on utilizing the elements of art and principles of design. Units of study include pencil and charcoal drawing, watercolor painting, and clay hand-building and pottery on the wheel.

Grade 7 Wheel Classes

Computer Science, Grade 7: Meets every other day, one trimester

This introductory course in computer science builds on ideas from the Intermediate School course on coding. Students program interactive animations through Code.org resources. They begin with simple shapes and sprite objects, then use loops to create flipbook style animations. Next, they learn to use booleans and conditionals to respond to user input. Through the use of a micro:bit, students will learn to control inputs like buttons and outputs like the LED Screen. Students also interact with inputs and outputs in the App Lab, such as using buttons and text inputs and dropdowns.

Personal Finance, Grade 7: Meets every other day, 1 trimester

This new course will help students build core personal finance skills and learn real-world strategies they can use. Through engaging resources and activities, students will practice these skills so they can get started on the right track to effectively manage their personal finances!

General Music , Grade 7: Meets every other day, 1 trimester

Seventh graders who do not take band or chorus are required to take one trimester of general music. This course will blend non-Western and Western music notation and music styles to create a well rounded musical appreciator. This first half of this course will include introduction to basic keyboard skills, chord reading, and research skills. The second half of this class will be based primarily on the drumming traditions of West Coast Africa and the islands of the Caribbean. Rhythms are taught through the use of imitation and repetition.

General Art, Grade 7: Meets every other day, 1 trimester

The seventh grade art curriculum incorporates the National Standards for Visual Art Education and focuses on two- and three-dimensional art including, drawing, printmaking, and sculpture. Elements of art are covered, and students also gain knowledge of principles of design and how to organize and lay out a piece of art.

Grade 8 Wheel Classes

Computer Science - Drones, Grade 8: Meets every other day, 1 trimester

Students continue to develop their knowledge of computer science and coding through their application of a programmable drone. Expanding upon concepts from the 7th grade Computer Science class, students will use block-based coding to program and fly drones. Students will apply their coding skills through programming sensors and lights. They will also apply their knowledge of the engineering design process and use algorithmic thinking throughout the course. Students will also learn drone basics, including safety and maintenance.

Foods & Nutrition, Grade 8: Meets every other day, 1 trimester

Foods and nutrition is a program which focuses on nutrition and serves as an introduction to safety and sanitation within the kitchen environment. The students, through individual and cooperative learning, will build and develop their understanding of kitchen fundamentals and nutritional foundations. Themes, skills, and concepts that we will be developing are healthy food choices, dietary guidelines and nutrient facts, kitchen safety, kitchen sanitation, kitchen math, food borne illness, cooking terms and abbreviations, team work, and the ability to become an active part of their own household. This course will culminate in a final food project which will be created at home and brought to school. Students taking this course during trimester III will also be expected to participate with food production for the AAFA Show.

General Music, Grade 8 (Music Production): Meets every other day, 1 trimester

Eighth graders who do not take band or chorus are required to take one trimester of general music. For eighth grade students, music production offers an opportunity to blend students' knowledge and skills in music with modern technology. Students use keyboards and computers to compose and improvise music, build on music literacy skills, critique compositions and performances, and gain appreciation for the diverse cultural, historical and stylistic music they perform and compose.

General Art, Grade 8: Meets every other day, 1 trimester

In eighth grade art, students have a strong focus on self expression through 2D projects, ceramics, and graphic arts. We will explore composition, technique, the elements and principles of design, and attention-to-detail. Art history, art appreciation, problem solving, and critical thinking are integrated into lessons.

Unified P.E., Grade 8: Meets every other day, 1 trimester

Unified Physical Education at HKMS will offer a unique opportunity for students of varying ability levels and backgrounds to come together on equal terms through ongoing fitness, sports, leadership and wellness activities. The Unified P.E. program will focus on the physical, intellectual and social growth of all participants as well as fostering a more inclusive school environment. Activities will include Outdoor Pursuits (orienteering, snowshoeing,

bouldering/traversing/climbing), Fitness Activities (Yoga, Pilates, resistance training, running, fitness walking), Performance (tumbling, track & field), and Games & Sports (volleyball, basketball, badminton, pickleball, table tennis, golf and bowling).

Supporting All Students at HKMS

At HKMS we recognize the importance of meeting students' individual needs through a variety of supports. The following supports are offered throughout the day to help our students maneuver through the challenging years of adolescence.

Flex Period, all grades **Meets daily**

Each grade level has a flex period every day during a core double-period, on a rotating schedule. During Flex, students might ask a teacher for extra help; make up a test or quiz or take a retake; work on long-term projects or lab reports; read; receive reading, math, or targeted instruction from an interventionist or special education teacher; meet with a school counselor or other support personnel; gather together for a team meeting or a monthly town meeting.

L.E.A.P., Grade 6 **Meets 2 times per week**

Students who qualify for the L.E.A.P. (Learning Enrichment for All People) program will be a part of a small group setting and will complete projects that will expect them to apply evaluative criteria, identify personal learning styles, and communicate with others socially and academically. Projects and assignments vary in topic and nature, and are usually chosen by the students based on their interests, mostly in the areas of mathematics and language arts. Students problem solve, make decisions, and investigate challenging and complex problems over an extended period of time. These projects are student-driven and provide students with 21st century skills such as communication, independent and critical thinking, and research. Non-project based tasks include logic problems, philosophical reasoning, and short critical thinking assignments in the areas of mathematics, reading, and writing.

Math Lab, all grades **Meets as available**

Math Lab is offered during the Flex period to provide additional support to any student. Math Lab is facilitated by our math interventionists and provides the opportunity for students to ask questions and get extra help on their current unit of study in math. Students may be recommended by their math teacher to attend once or twice per week, or students may take the initiative to attend when they feel the need.

Math Intervention, all grades **Meets every other day**

The math intervention program is designed for students who need additional help in mastering math skills and to support grade level math learning. Our goal is to provide high-quality instruction and practice of skills that is differentiated according to the students' needs. The program offers both small group and/or individualized instruction. The topics are individualized

for each student enrolled to promote success in their primary math class. Enrollment in math intervention is based on performance in class and assessments.

Reading Intervention, all grades **Flexible for student needs**

The reading intervention program is designed for students who need additional help in mastering reading skills such as encoding, decoding, comprehension and fluency. Our goal is to provide high-quality instruction and practice of skills that is differentiated according to the students' needs. The program offers both small group and/or individualized instruction. The targeted skills are individualized for each student enrolled. Enrollment in reading intervention is based on performance in class and assessments.

Targeted Reading Instruction, all grades **Flexible for student needs**

Targeted reading instruction is designed to provide additional individualized and explicit reading instruction beyond grade level language art classes. Instruction is designed to meet the specific needs of each student, in order to improve decoding (reading), encoding (spelling), fluency and/or reading comprehension skills. Reading instruction often includes vocabulary building activities through the teaching of the most common prefixes, suffixes and roots. The goal of the course is the advancement of foundational reading skills and overall reading achievement.

Targeted Instruction, all grades **Flexible for student needs**

Students are placed in targeted instruction based on a recommendation from a Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meeting. An Individualized Education Plan (IEP) is developed at the PPT meeting. The primary purpose of this class is for the special education teacher to utilize specialized instruction to address specific goals and objectives determined at the PPT meeting. The targeted instruction class is graded on a pass/fail basis. The special education teacher teaches the students self-advocacy, organization/time management, and study skills. Remediation of skills and classroom support is a component of this class. The goal of targeted instruction is to provide the students with tools needed to be independent, self-directed learners.

Support Services, all grades **Flexible for student needs**

Students are served by two counselors, a school psychologist, and a social worker. The team works together to ensure the social, emotional and academic success of our students. Our student support staff meets with individual students and groups. Additionally, our school psychologist completes evaluations as a part of the special education process. An additional member of the Support Services Team is the speech therapist. The primary responsibility of the speech therapist is to assist students who are in need of support with speech or language. The speech therapist works with all members of the middle school faculty and staff to ensure a coordinated response to students' individual needs.

Sports, and Extracurricular Clubs & Activities

Participation in after-school activities is a critical part of a student's learning and engagement in school. Students who participate in after-school activities are more connected to students and adults at school and typically are more successful academically. Below is a sample of the many sports, clubs, and activities that are offered at HKMS. Our clubs run three different times a year: fall, winter, and spring. This list is subject to change each year because student interest drives our offerings. If your child does not see a club in his/her area of interest, see Principal Bates to start a new club.

Fall Interscholastic Sports, all grades

- Co-ed Cross Country
- Girls' Field Hockey
- Boys' Soccer
- Girls' Soccer
- Unified Sports (year-long)

Winter Interscholastic Sports, all grades

- Co-ed Swimming
- Co-ed Wrestling
- Boys' Basketball
- Girls' Basketball
- Unified Sports (year-long)

Spring Interscholastic Sports, all grades

- Co-ed Track
- Baseball
- Softball
- Unified Sports (year-long)

Extracurricular Activities, all grades (Options vary each year depending on interest)

- Alliance
- Animation Club
- Beach Bag Bonanza
- Cornhole Club
- Digital Photography Club
- Drama Club (Spring Musical)
- Fitness Club
- French Food & Film Club
- Game Club
- Garden Club
- GSA

- Hang Out Club
- Hiking Club
- Homespun Fun Club
- Homework Club
- Kindness Rocks
- Maple Sugaring Club
- Math Counts
- Outdoor Adventure Club
- Robotics Club
- SPARK
- Street Hockey Club
- Volleyball Club
- Yearbook Club
- Yoga Club