

**To Students/Parents/Guardians of 7<sup>th</sup> graders:**

Below you will find list of elective choices for 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Please use this as a reference of the available electives. The elective descriptions are also included.

*Fitness for life will be scheduled automatically.*

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please rank the semester courses below indicating your first (1), second (2), and third (3) choice with 1 being the top preference. Only THREE elective classes are scheduled. Remember to add an “alternate” elective.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Art 8
- \_\_\_\_\_ Child Development
- \_\_\_\_\_ Computer Science Discoveries III
- \_\_\_\_\_ Entrepreneurship
- \_\_\_\_\_ Exploration of Popular American Music Genres
- \_\_\_\_\_ Foods and Nutrition
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pre-Engineering
- \_\_\_\_\_ Principles of Transportation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Spanish Introduction
- \_\_\_\_\_ Steel Drumming
- \_\_\_\_\_ Theater Arts

**Additional Information:**

**SCHEDULE CHANGES:** Course selections made during pre-registration are considered FINAL. Any request for a change in course after spring pre-registration must be in writing. The random changing of courses at the beginning of school will not be honored due to the effect these changes have on classroom enrollment and the disruption of classroom instruction.

The Ambridge Area School District reserves the right to change selections depending on test results, individual school staffing and other factors which may affect course offerings. **When selecting courses, it is the responsibility of the parent and the student to make certain that the courses selected are the ones they want.**

Equal opportunities are provided by the AASD for all students without regard to race, religion, national origin, sex, or handicapping.

## **EIGHTH GRADE EXPLORATORY SEMESTER COURSES (STUDENTS WILL TAKE FOUR COURSES)**

**Fitness for Life:** (MANDATORY REQUIREMENT) (18 Weeks) The 8th Grade Health Curriculum (Health for Life) will begin to elaborate on health topics that will help prepare them for healthy lives as young adults. The topics covered will enhance skills that students were introduced to in the 6th and 7th grade curriculum while also adding in a multitude of new important subjects. This course will expand on harmful substances while focusing on the specifics of tobacco, various drugs, alcohol, and the ways to prevent making poor substance decisions, and consequences that would coincide with usage. Social health and relationships will help educate students on dating, peer pressure (refusal skills), conflict resolution, parent involvement, decision making skills and social media decisions. The Physical Education curriculum offers a variety of physical activities that meet the individual preferences and activity needs of all students. The students will participate in team sports, racquet sports, fitness and leisure activities.

**Art 8:** (18 Weeks) This course is an extension of art 7. Both 2-D and 3-D art will be explored. Students will have the opportunity to experience various types of drawing, and painting methods. Students will also use clay and plaster to create sculptures. There will be weekly assignments for both art history and creativity.

**Child Development:** (18 Weeks) This course will take a look at the development of a child from the beginning phases of conception to the later stages of childhood. Students will learn about the pregnancy and child-birthing process, as well as the physical, social, and emotional development of children and how it changes throughout different age stages. Students will have the opportunity to learn about providing care for infants and children, how to choose age-appropriate activities, and how to recognize and handle a variety of behaviors. Students will also learn the basics of providing childcare and babysitting.

**Computer Science Discoveries III:** (18 Weeks) Where the introductory prerequisite courses center on the immediately observable and personally applicable elements of computer science, this advanced Computer Science course asks students to look outward and explore the impact of computer science on society. Students will see how a thorough user-centered design process produces a better application, how data is used to address problems that affect large numbers of people, and how physical computing with bare circuit boards allows computers to collect input and return output in a variety of ways.

**Entrepreneurship:** (18 Weeks) While learning technology skills, students will start their own company. They will perform daily business functions using Microsoft Office and Web 2.0 tools. Students will have the opportunity to apply technical writing in developing a business plan, use creativity and design skills to produce the required documents, use decision-making skills as they pertain to developing a business plan, and apply entrepreneurship concepts to an individualized business. Time permitting, students will also become familiar with desktop publishing and practicing their keyboarding skills. 16

**Foods and Nutrition:** (18 Weeks) This course, which expands upon FCS6, provides students with the opportunity to continue growing their knowledge and skill sets in relation to nutrition and food preparation. The course reviews information such as reading recipes, measuring, kitchen safety and cleanliness, and kitchen equipment and tools. Additionally, students will take a more in-depth look at nutrition and the role it plays in our body's ability to function on a daily basis. Through hands-on experience, students will discover new types of foods, as well as learn a variety of methods for cooking and preparing various foods.

**Exploration of Popular American Music Genres 8:** (18 Weeks) This course engages students in discussion of important artists, history, performances, topics and music of the most familiar and iconic genres that American music has contributed to global culture. Genres such as Rock n' Roll, Alternative, Jazz, Country, Funk, and more will be explored through listening and watching recorded performances, as well as research and discovery. Students will have the opportunity to play instruments such as guitar, drums, and other classroom instruments to learn approachable songs from the various genres. Opportunities will also be available for use of online music programs to create original music, beats, grooves, and accompaniments using characteristics in discussed genres.

**Pre-Engineering:** (18 Weeks) Students will be formally introduced to a multi-segmented activity-based curriculum that provides those opportunities to develop a broad base of competencies in the world of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM). Problem solving and design activities will be assigned in the areas of systems control technology, leadership, structural engineering, communications, and robotics. Students will participate in the leadership training experience and the competitive events involved with the Technology Student Association (TSA). Students will compete individually and/or in groups to gain valuable experiences with engineering concepts, technology, technical writing, and prepared presentations. Students will also explore STEM Careers through an interactive STEM curriculum built to empower learners with the knowledge they will need to discover potential career pathways. Evaluation will reflect successful completion of assignments and teacher observation.

**Principles of Transportation:** (18 Weeks) The students will explore the basic types of transportation systems. Areas of exploration will include land, air, and sea transportation systems and logistics. A strong focus on the science and engineering that go into Transportation Engineering will be included. Some activities may include Creating Safe and Efficient Transportation Systems, Mouse Trap Vehicles, Gliders, Boat Hulls, and Rockets. Students will become acquainted with the many career opportunities in transportation engineering and technology and its related fields. Evaluation will be based upon successful completion of assignments, quizzes, and teacher observation.

**Spanish Introduction:** (18 Weeks) Spanish Introduction introduces the basic principles of grammar and aims to build an introductory vocabulary. The culture and customs of Spain and Mexico, and South America are given special attention via videos, readings, and discussion. Spanish influences in the U.S. are also discussed. This course is reserved for students who do not qualify to take a World Language. Course requirements include frequent homework assignments, participation in class discussions, presentations, and various assessments. Due to limited capacity, not all students who qualify for this course will be scheduled for it.

**Steel Drumming:** (18 Weeks) This performance-based course will provide students the opportunity to develop the skills necessary to perform on steel pans. Along with fundamental performance techniques, students will explore the cultures of other countries and enhance their overall understanding of musicianship. Prior or current experience in band or chorus is highly recommended. Possibly an evening performance will take place at the end of the semester.

**Theater Arts:** (18 Weeks) This introductory level course will provide students the opportunity to explore both theatrical technology and performance. The course will focus on the skills needed to carry out the responsibilities of six primary categories of technical theatre, including costumes, props, lighting, sound, stage management, and scenery as well the skills necessary to produce and perform a small-scale theatrical performance.