

# HOPATCONG HIGH SCHOOL

## 8th Grade

### Curriculum Handbook

#### 2024-2025



All courses are offered without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, gender, gender identity or disability.

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Mrs. Susan Pallotta - School Social Worker

Mrs. Nancy Stephens - Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant

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# INTRODUCTION

This curriculum handbook is designed to assist students in their academic planning. Students should consult with parents/guardians, teachers and school counselors before determining their program for next year.

Factors to be considered include:

- Requirements for high school graduation
- Career plans
- Course descriptions
- Prerequisites
- Previous credit

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## HHS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Class of: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ /≠ Passed O= Failed W = Withdraw Ø = Passed (2<sup>nd</sup> time)

COURSE	GRADE 8	GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
English – 4 years		English 1	English 2	English 3	English 4
Math - 3 years (Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2 - or equivalent)					
Science - 3 years (Biology, 2 years lab)					
History- 3 years (US 1, US 2, World)					
PE/Health – 4 years		PE/Health 9	PE/Dr. Ed 10	PE/Health 11	PE/Health 12
World Language – 1 year					
Financial Literacy – 1 semester					
Visual or Performing Art - 1 year					
21st Century Life & Careers – 1 year					
Electives (other)					
<b>State Assessment (Demonstrate Proficiency)</b>	<b>ELA</b>	<b>ELA</b>	<b>ELA</b>	<b>ELA</b>	<b>ELA</b>
	<b>Math</b>	<b>Math</b>	<b>Math</b>	<b>Math</b>	<b>Math</b>
TOTAL Credits (min = 120 )	/	/	/	/	/

**NOTES:**

## ART

### **ART - Special**

The course introduces students to the elements and principles of art and encourages students to work with a variety of mediums to investigate the formal elements of design including line, form, texture, composition, and color.

### **GRAPHIC DESIGN - Special**

Students will be introduced into the world of commercial graphics. They will explore design in the areas of typography, desktop publishing, and digital illustration.

### **INTRO TO THE CULINARY WORLD - Special**

Students will be introduced into the culinary world. They will learn basic food safety, basic kitchen skills and food preparation. This course will include written assignments, tests, and hands-on activities. A willingness to sample foods is a must.

### **PHOTOGRAPHY - Special**

This course will introduce students to black & white fine art photography and the essential procedures for understanding the photographic process.

## ENGLISH

### **LANGUAGE ARTS 8 Basic**

The course follows the same theme as English 8 in addition to focusing on improving students' lexile levels, writing and compression skills.

### **LANGUAGE ARTS 8**

This course focuses on reading, comprehension, grammar, writing and vocabulary and is centered around four themes; Rites of Passage, Holocaust, What Matters and Human Intelligence. The units are guided by NJSLs for ELA and novels are selected to drive instruction.

### **LANGUAGE ARTS 8 Advanced**

This advanced course follows the same theme as English 8 but is designed to push students to a higher level of reading and writing ability. Students will select novels for independent reading and be assigned supplemental work including a research paper.

### **CREATIVE WRITING - Special**

This course offers interested students the opportunity to develop and enhance their writing talents beyond the scope of the regular English developmental writing curriculum. Students may contribute to the school's literary publication, as well as demonstrate sufficient writing proficiency to enter professional contests geared to their grade level and including varying writing categories. Enrichment via the reading of famous authors will supplement and enhance instruction.

### **MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS (MLL)**

This course is offered each year to qualifying students requiring language training in English based on family background, teacher recommendation and test results.

# MATHEMATICS

## **MATH 8 Basic**

This grade 8 Mathematics course will move the students from the concepts developed in grades 6 and 7 at a less accelerated pace, modeling relationships with variables and equations and ratio and proportional reasoning, to making connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations. A foundation of conceptual understanding and procedural skills will be laid to prepare for Algebra 1.

## **MATH 8**

Grade 8 Mathematics will move the students from the concepts developed in grades 6 and 7, modeling relationships with variables and equations and ratio and proportional reasoning, to making connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations. A foundation of conceptual understanding and procedural skills will be laid to prepare for Algebra 1.

## **ALGEBRA I CP - 5 High School Credits**

This course emphasizes the basic principles of Algebra and enables students to develop their ability to solve complex problems in a logical and systematic manner. Students will study expressions, equations and the relationship between them. Conceptual understanding and procedural skills will be stressed equally. This course is a prerequisite for Geometry and provides a strong algebraic foundation for all subsequent mathematics courses.

# PERFORMING ARTS

## **BAND (semester) - 2.5 High School Credits**

Band members will learn to appreciate and perform a wide variety of classical and contemporary music for concert band. Knowledge of rhythms, scales and attention to musical interpretation will be stressed. Additional small group and/or individual instruction will employ intermediate and advanced methods of Belwin, Rhubank or the equivalent. The participation of all band members in rehearsals and all scheduled public performances throughout the school year is required unless previously excused by the director. A weekly instrumental lesson is required of all band members.

## **CHORUS (semester) - 2.5 High School Credits**

The choral experience provides an opportunity for students to learn vocal techniques and sing a wide variety of contemporary and classical vocal music. The participation of all chorus members in rehearsals and all public performances scheduled during the semester is required, unless previously excused by the director.

## **PIANO (semester) - 2.5 High School Credits**

No previous music training is necessary for any student who would like to learn how to play a musical instrument. Students with music experience may also take the course to improve the skills they already possess. Electronic synthesizers will be provided for class instruction through an individualized program that will expand his/her musical accomplishments to a proficiency level determined after an initial interview. Music from all time periods will be studied and each student will learn to play a repertoire of music commensurate with his/her ability.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

The Physical Education Program includes instruction in the following types of activities: body mechanics, individual/dual activities, aerobics, recreation activities, games, physical fitness activities, conditioning activities, lifetime activities, team activities, and health education. The Health Education Program will include instruction in the following areas (by grade level):

### **PHYS ED 8/HEALTH 8 (marking period)**

The 8th grade health education curriculum is tailored to meet the NJ State Standards for health education through a variety of teaching styles and learning strategies. Our students will become health literate individuals, with the knowledge and the skills to live long healthy lifestyles beyond the classroom. This course includes such topics as; Health & Wellness, Nutrition, Emotional Health, Personal Safety, Substance Disorder & Treatment, Social & Sexual Health, Pregnancy & Parenting, and Community Health Services & Support.

## **SCIENCE**

### **SCIENCE 8 - Physical Science**

The course provides an overview of the physical world and gives students tools and concepts to think clearly about matter, atoms, molecules, chemical reactions, motion, force, momentum, work and machines, energy, waves, electricity, light, magnetism and other aspects of chemistry and physics as well as topics defining science, technology, and engineering principles.

### **SCIENCE 8 Advanced - Physical Science**

The course provides an overview of the physical world and gives students tools and concepts to think clearly about matter, atoms, molecules, chemical reactions, motion, force, momentum, work and machines, energy, waves, electricity, light, magnetism and other aspects of chemistry and physics as well as topics defining science, technology, and engineering principles. This is the same course as Science 8 - Physical Science, but topics will be explored at a deeper level and in more detail.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **SOCIAL STUDIES 8**

Students will explore the beginnings of American History including lessons in civics, geography, government and economics. The Holocaust and New Jersey history is infused into the curriculum.

### **SOCIAL STUDIES 8 Advanced**

Students will explore the beginnings of American History including lessons in civics, geography, government and economics. The Holocaust and New Jersey history is infused into the curriculum. The advanced course will explore these topics at a deeper level and an accelerated rate.

## TECHNOLOGY

### **INTRO TO WOODSHOP - Special**

The Basic Woodworking course is designed to introduce students to the basics of hand and power tools. Students will learn through hands-on projects and instruction throughout the course. A specific emphasis will be placed on shop safety and correct usage of hand and power tools. This course provides students with preliminary understanding of using tools for general repairs/maintenance and basic woodworking skills.

### **CONCEPTS OF GAMING (semester) - 2.5 High School Credit**

This course is designed to give students a sense of design and art, plus the technical know-how to build an exciting video game. It is an appropriate starting point for students who seek a professional career as a game developer. It is also well-suited for enthusiastic amateurs and gamers looking to explore this exciting field. No prior game or graphics programming experience is necessary. Students work with a game engine software framework to design and implement several kinds of games. Additional topics include animation techniques, physics simulation, user controls, graphical methods, and intelligent behaviors

### **STEAM 8 - Special**

Middle School is the perfect time for students to explore the numerous opportunities open to them, as well as the hidden talents they may not even realize they possess. This STEAM course of study is designed to develop the critical thinking skills of the 8th grade student, giving them ample opportunities to explore problem-solving abilities, work both individually and as part of a team, and employ the Engineering Design Process. This marking period course is designed to give students opportunities for hands-on, project based learning. Student's will review basic principles of engineering, architecture, and design. STEAM - Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics. We will be covering the following topics, which will help us to cover the New Jersey Student Learning Standards: Lab Safety, What is engineering?, The Engineering Design Process, Science of Color, Design Challenges and Problem Solving.

## WORLD LANGUAGE

### **SPANISH 8 - Special**

This course provides students with the interpersonal, interpretive and presentational oral and written skills they need to create communication for a higher level than grade 7. Students will listen to and respond to authentic Spanish conversations and engage in more extensive writing and reading assignments.

### **SPANISH 1 CP (full year) - 5 High School Credits**

This high school course is available for the 8th grade student who has shown exceptional progress in 7th grade Spanish. The fundamentals of Spanish grammar are presented in the first year course with an increasing emphasis on Spanish conversation and pronunciation. Also introduced is the development of knowledge of Spain and selected countries of Central and South America, past and present, with the characteristics and life of the Spanish-speaking people of these countries.