

Dear Parents/Guardians of Sixth Grade Students,

We will soon begin course scheduling for next year, and with the challenge of a successful transition to the junior high setting ahead, we feel it is extremely important to meet with you and your child to discuss the scheduling process. We have scheduled two evenings as follows, and encourage all AASD sixth grade students and parents/guardians to attend:

Please come to the AAJHS Auditorium:

A-K students with their parent/guardian: January 22 at 6:00pm

L-Z students with their parent/guardian: January 24 at 6:00pm

If your schedule does not permit you to attend on your scheduled night, please try to attend the other evening.

Please enter our building through the “Arts” doors facing the high school (7th Avenue, closest to 13th Street).

For handicap accessible entrance, please use the 8th Avenue band doors, closest to 13th Street.

*****Please use AASD parking lots only (do not park in Dr. Chopra’s office parking lot!)*****

BELOW IS SOME INFORMATION THAT MAY BE HELPFUL

What courses will be in my child’s schedule?

- Pre-Algebra
- Integrated Science
- English
- Geography
- Reading

The following semester (half-year) courses will also be scheduled:

- Physical Education
- Health
- Family & Consumer Science
- Information Processing

Additionally, each student will have a Challenge-Based Learning period, where various lessons and activities specific to each core subject are addressed to aid PSSA preparation. It is during this period that students will leave for band, strings, or choral participation.

How are students placed into courses in junior high?

In the junior high setting, we group students according to the level of difficulty of courses that best matches their ability and performance. For seventh grade students, **Academic** is our most challenging and academically advanced curriculum (Honors begins in 8th grade), and requires a good amount of work outside of the classroom. Students in Academic classes are expected to be motivated, organized, independent workers with strong writing, reading comprehension, and mathematics skills. **Core-Academic** is our regular curriculum (the same materials are used; however, the pace is modified to allow for more explanation and learning). In Core-Academic courses, additional supports will be provided by special education instructors or educational support personnel according to your child's individual needs.

During the spring months, junior high counselors begin working with 6th grade teachers and counselors to review placement data. Your child's ability to grasp new material and work independently, as well as his/her homework completion and attendance, are also taken into consideration to determine placement. The ultimate goal is for each student to have a schedule that is challenging, yet not overwhelming while taking into consideration the numerous differences between the elementary and junior high settings.

When will I know about the level of courses recommended for my child for next year?

During the month of May, every student will be mailed a placement letter, indicating the level of courses recommended. The end of May is the planned deadline for parents to contact their child's counselor with any questions or concerns.

Marching/Concert Band, Strings, & Chorus Participation

When we gather information regarding student scheduling, we need to know whether a student plans to participate in **band** (instrument players only... band front participation: majorettes, silks, color guard does not affect a student's schedule), **strings**, or **chorus**. As these classes are only offered at certain times of the day, a schedule must be built around them. Please talk with your child to help him/her decide about participating in the AAJHS music program. Music classes may **not** be added into your child's schedule once school begins.

AAJHS Music Department Teachers will be conducting visits to each elementary school in the spring. **Students must sign up with the appropriate AAJHS music teacher in order to have band (Mr. Martin), strings (Mrs. Detwiler), or chorus (Mrs. Connell) added into their schedule.** The May scheduling letter will include a statement about band/strings/chorus, if it is to be added into the schedule or not. Parents may contact the counseling office to ask to add/delete a music course, if necessary. Whether your child is already a budding musician/vocalist or would like to try something new, the AAJHS music department would love to see some new faces next year!

*We look forward to assisting you and your child in becoming part of our
AAJHS family!*

Sincerely,

*Eileen Starr (A-K) 381-7560 or estarr@asdcats.com ♦ Jamie Connell (L-Z) 381-7544 or jamesconnell@asdcats.com
AAJHS 7th Grade School Counselors*