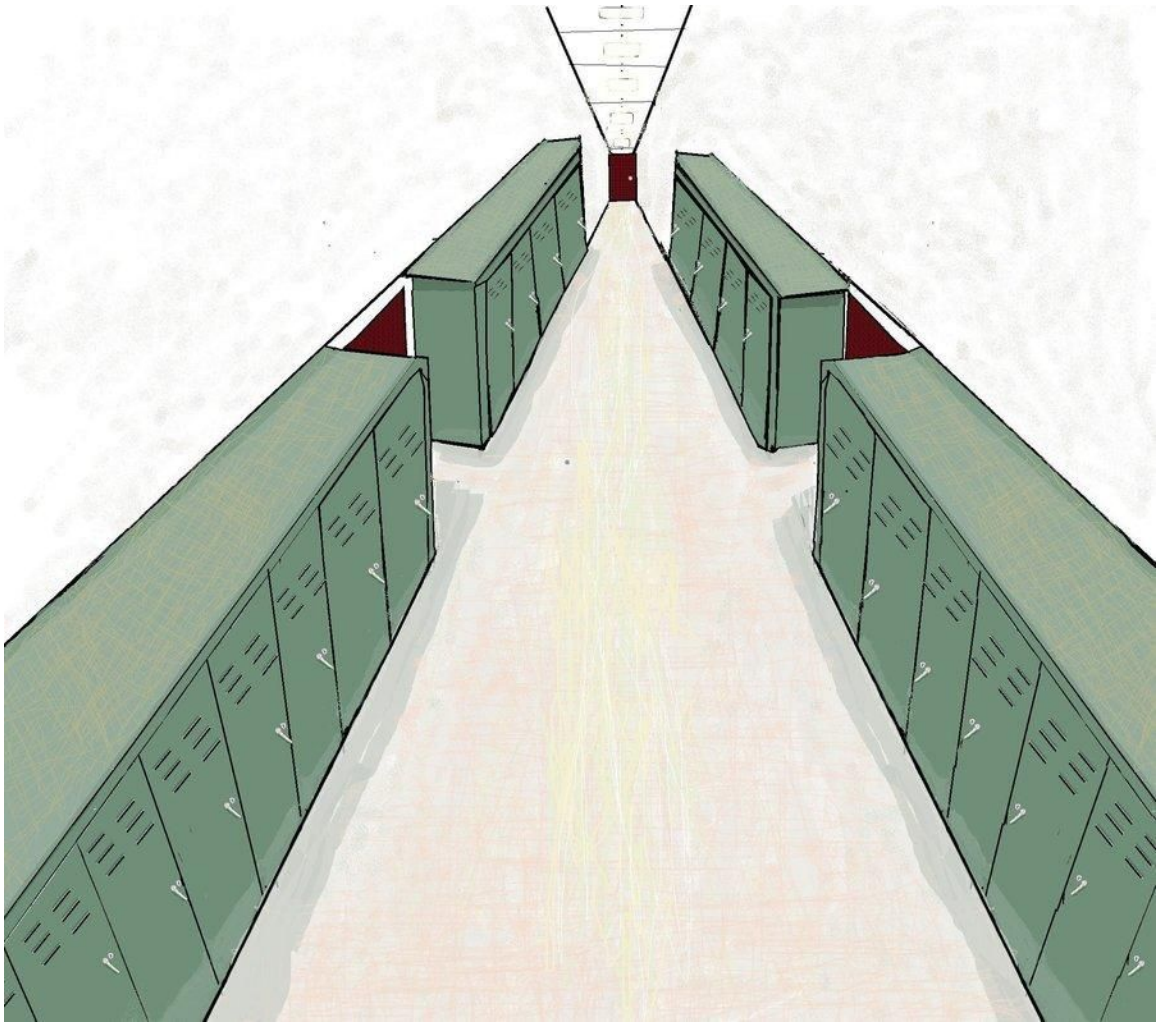


MIDDLE SCHOOL
PROGRAM OF STUDIES

Hillside Avenue School - Orange Avenue School



2018-2019

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The Cranford Public Schools promotes Pre-K-Grade 12 Education as a shared responsibility among students, educators, administrators, parents and community. The Cranford Public Schools strive to create a safe, caring, and rigorous learning environment responsive to the individual needs and interests of our students offering programs of studies consistent with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards and 21st Century College and Career Readiness. Central to our programs are relevant, real-world learning experiences that stimulate and encourage curiosity, effective communications, goal setting and problem solving skills, while providing opportunities that promote creativity, self-expression, physical/emotional wellness and an appreciation of diversity. All students are provided with personalized learning experiences and critical thinking skills needed to become thoughtful, responsible and productive citizens making contributions in local and global contexts fostering respect and accountability in all of their actions.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Hillside Avenue School
Principal – Curt M. Fogas Ed.D.
fogascurt@cranfordschools.org

Orange Avenue School
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Daniel DeMarco
William Hulse
Nicole Sherrin Kessler
Maria Loikith

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Catherine Sheridan

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A MESSAGE TO ENTERING STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

The middle school program of studies will provide you with information about the middle school program in the Cranford Public School District. The world of the middle school learner is filled with constant change. Young adolescents mature physically in so many ways and much of their energy is spent growing. Their ability to reason and problem solve evolves from a very concrete base to one that is extended by their developing ability to think both abstractly and critically.

We focus our energy and resources on developing effective learning communities. Each grade level consists of teams that work collaboratively and is organized to promote the intellectual, physical, social, and emotional growth of each child. The team approach allows teachers to integrate the curriculum and to equip sixth, seventh and eighth graders for subsequent academic experiences and responsible decision-making; and to address the physical, social, emotional and intellectual developmental milestones that confront this particular age group. We strive to provide our students with the opportunity to explore and discover themselves, including vocational and life goals. Parents are welcome to schedule meetings with team teachers for any reason.

We provide a comprehensive program consisting of core academic subjects, practical and fine arts, career-related subjects and extracurricular activities. Our curriculum emphasizes technology integration, 21st Century Learning, scientific thought, quantitative reasoning, the arts, a world language, and research based approaches to reading and writing instruction. This affords students with the opportunity to further strengthen subject area skills already developed in elementary school. Your child will be able to choose and explore areas such as art, family and consumer sciences, technology and computers. In addition, he or she will also have the opportunity to participate in various co-curricular activities and interscholastic sports.

We encourage you to read this program of studies and discuss it with your child. Together you can plan an exciting and dynamic educational experience. We wish your child much success and happiness during his or her years in middle school.

Curt M. Fogas, Ed.D.

Principal

Hillside Avenue School

Email: fogascurt@cranfordschools.org

Hillside Avenue School Web Page:

<https://www.cranfordschools.org/Domain/13>

Marc Edery, Ed.D.

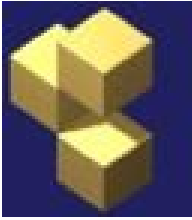
Principal

Orange Avenue School

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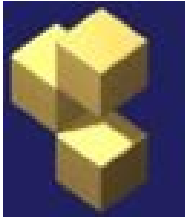
Orange Avenue School Web Page:

<https://www.cranfordschools.org/Domain/9>



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Grades six through eight are organized to reflect a middle school philosophy. The central feature of the middle school model is the interdisciplinary teaching team. Teachers representing different subject disciplines (language arts, social studies, mathematics, science and special education) are given the responsibility for the academic and social progress of the students on their team. Teachers meet on a regular basis to plan instruction, discuss student concerns, organize class time, share instructional strategies and, when necessary, meet with students and/or parents. Teachers plan lessons/activities that integrate their subject areas and provide students with interdisciplinary experiences. Course Placement recommendations are determined through a combination of a student's grades, standardized test score, in house assessment, and teacher recommendation. This process begins during the second marking period and is revisited at the end of the school year. Additionally, students are introduced to a variety of life skills through a series of cycle/elective programs.



SIXTH GRADE PROGRAM

The curricular program in sixth grade consists of the following courses:

Full-year Courses

Language Arts: Reading and Writing

Mathematics

Science

Social Studies

World Language

Physical Education/Health

Cycle Courses

Art

Applied Technology

Computers

Family and Consumer Sciences

Financial Literacy

Music

Music Ensemble Rehearsal (for student participating in band, chorus or orchestra)

TYPICAL SIXTH GRADE SCHEDULE

HAS Grade 6

Period	Time Class
Period 1 (45)	8:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Physical Education/Cycles
Period 2 (43)	9:03 a.m. - 9:46 a.m. World Language
Period 3 (43)	9:49 a.m. - 10:32 a.m. Social Studies
Period 4 (43)	10:35 a.m. - 11:18 a.m. Physical Education/Cycles
Period 5 (43)	11:21 a.m. - 12:04 p.m. Language Arts
Period 6 (43)	12:07 p.m. - 12:50 p.m. Language Arts
LUNCH (25)	12:53 p.m. - 1:18 p.m.
Period 7 (43)	1:21 p.m. - 2:04 p.m. Math
Period 8 (43)	2:07 p.m. - 2:50 p.m. Science

OAS Grade 6

Period	Time Class
Period 1 (43)	8:15 a.m. - 8:58 a.m. Social Studies
Period 2 (45)	9:01 a.m. - 9:46 a.m. World Language
Period 3 (43)	9:49 a.m. - 10:32 a.m. Math
Period 4 (43)	10:35 a.m. - 11:18 a.m. Science
Period 5 (43)	11:21 a.m. - 12:04 p.m. Language Arts
Period 6 (43)	12:07 p.m. - 12:50 p.m. Language Arts
*LUNCH (25)	12:53 p.m. - 1:18 p.m.
Period 7 (43)	1:21 p.m. - 2:04 p.m. Cycles/Physical Education
Period 8 (43)	2:07 p.m. - 2:50 p.m. Physical Education/ Cycles

**6th grade students may have lunch A or
lunch C (Lunch C is shown)*

**6th Grade Cycle Classes Include:
Applied Technology, Art, Computers,
Family & Consumer Sciences, Financial Literacy and Music, Music Ensemble
Rehearsal**

Grade 6 Course Description

In grade six, the core academic courses include language arts (double period), mathematics, science, social studies and world language. The following skills are introduced in each area:

LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade 6 introduces middle school students to the study of language arts on a secondary level with emphasis on increasing students' understanding and appreciation of literature and informational texts. Reading instruction follows a balanced literacy approach through a number of strategies and techniques in Reading Workshop. These include read-alouds/alongs, shared reading, independent reading, small group strategy instruction, one-to-one conferencing, and partnership or book club discussions. At this level, students will read and analyze more complex works of fiction including poetry and short stories. In addition, students will read and analyze more complex informational texts.

Students will develop their ability to write creatively, critically, and argumentatively. Writing Workshop mirrors the same structure of Reading Workshop through strategies including mini-lessons, shared writing, small group strategy instruction, and one-to-one conferencing. An emphasis is placed on the use of mentor texts while encouraging student immersion, independence, voice, and choice. The sixth grade program continues to teach spelling and grammatical skills, but the emphasis is on students' ability to transfer these skills to their own writing.

MATHEMATICS

Previous math knowledge is expanded while also continuing to develop and apply problem-solving techniques. Areas of study include:

- 1.) Operations with fractions
- 2.) Multi-digit numbers, factors, and multiples
- 3.) Rational number system
- 4.) Algebraic expressions
- 5.) One-variable equations and inequalities
- 6.) Relationships between dependent and independent variables
- 7.) Area, surface area, and volume
- 8.) Statistical distributions

SCIENCE - Earth Science

The study of science continues in the sixth grade with a year-long intensive investigation of the systems of Earth. Areas of study include:

- 1.) Space Systems
- 2.) History of Earth
- 3.) Earth's Systems
- 4.) Weather and Climate

- 5.) Human Impacts
- 6.) Engineering Design

SOCIAL STUDIES – AMERICAN HISTORY

Students in the 6th grade study American history, beginning with the writing of the United States Constitution in the new republic. In this course, the students study the problems faced by the new nation, westward expansion, sectionalism, the events leading to the Civil War, the fighting of the war and reconstruction. The geography of the United States is emphasized throughout the course. Primary sources are utilized to enable students to interpret and analyze American history from first-hand accounts, and subsequently students are asked to write in response to these texts. The inclusion of current events as an on-going assignment is used to keep the students informed, and when appropriate, to make content relevant to students' lives. Students are challenged with both project- and problem-based activities in order to gain an enduring understanding of the concepts being taught.

WORLD LANGUAGE

The Middle School world language program offers sixth grade students the opportunity to continue the study of Spanish or to begin the study of Latin, French, German or Japanese. Once students select a language of study in grade 6, they continue to study the language in grades 7 and 8. The three-year sequence affords students the opportunity to reach higher levels of proficiency through consistent exposure to the same language and prepares students for further study in the high school. The departmental goal of increased communicative proficiency is supported through practice in listening, speaking, reading and writing in the target language.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

Physical education will be required of all students unless there is a medical reason for non-participation. The physical education program for students in grades 6, 7 and 8 is a co-educational program in which students participate in activities that stress fitness, skill development and basic game-play concepts. Students in these grades participate in three marking periods of physical education and one marking period of health education.

Health and physical education classes meet five days per week. Middle school students are required to change into proper gym attire for physical education classes.

Health is required of all students in grades 6-8. The course of study at each grade level is designed to present comprehensive coverage of health topics presented in ways that relate directly to students' own experiences. Emphasis is placed on acquiring the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to a healthful life and teaching students to take responsibility for their own health. Study of HIV/AIDS is included in the grades 6-8 health curriculum.

CYCLE SUBJECTS

The middle school provides a variety of learning experiences through the cycle/electives courses. Through these courses, students have opportunities to develop new interests and discover new abilities with the specialized staff and facilities of the middle school. Students in grade six will participate in a variety of exploratory courses (cycles) during the course of the year including:

Applied Technology, Art, Family & Consumer Sciences, Computers, Music/Music Ensemble Rehearsal and Financial Literacy.

APPLIED TECHNOLOGY - Introduction to Applied Technology

This course offers the sixth grade student an introduction to the world of applied technology. They will be introduced to the concept of a design loop and learn to apply what they have learned to solve a variety of foundation level problems. Working as individuals and in teams they will explore concepts related to electricity, computer-aided design, and mechanical engineering.

Developing students' understanding of technology applications and their role in our lives is the focus of this course. In addition, activities and studies in this course will strengthen students' computer, math, and writing skills. This course will prepare students for continued study of applied technology in seventh grade.

ART

Students will explore the visual arts primarily through art making that incorporates the study of art history, art criticism, and aesthetics. Studio experiences may include, but are not limited to, drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, design, crafts, and computer graphics.

The continued development of the individual's creativity and an understanding of the visual arts are the main focus of this course. Careers in the visual arts and related fields are also investigated.

COMPUTERS

The 6th grade computer course focuses on internet safety and how technology has impacted society. A look at the physical make-up of computers and how instructions are provided and interpreted are also covered in the course. Students will begin to think like a computer and understand the complexity of computer languages.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES "LIFE SKILLS"

"Life Skills " is a thirty day introductory course designed to help students become responsible and productive family members as they learn practical skills and gain insights that are both fun and functional. This course introduces students to practical life skills and knowledge in sewing and food preparation/nutrition. The students learn

hand sewing skills by sewing a button and a class project using a variety of hand sewing techniques. The 6th grade students are also introduced to nutrition and simple food preparation skills as they learn about the new Food Plate guidelines, examine food labels, practice measuring skills, and make nutritious food choices. In all areas studied, students will employ technology, problem solving, and hands-on activities as they are encouraged to use skills learned in “Life Skills” at home.

FINANCIAL LITERACY

This personal financial literacy course is designed to educate students about personal finances and money management. Students will begin to develop the skills and strategies that promote personal and financial responsibility related to financial planning, savings, investment, credit and charitable giving in the global economy. Students will learn to create and manage a budget.

MUSIC

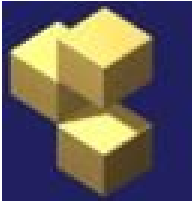
The Grade 6 music cycle will immerse students into the world of music making and composition using technology. Students will learn basic techniques of audio recording and editing as they explore and create original raps, melodies and soundscapes to accompany a poem or short story. The class is all about "hands-on" activities which will allow for an application of the music skills students have been developing through the elementary music program. This cycle will be offered to all students who are not enrolled in the band, orchestra or chorus program.

MUSIC ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL

Music Ensemble Rehearsal will be a required cycle class for all students participating in band, orchestra and/or chorus. This cycle will take place during **one** of the 6 cycle options offered for grade 6 students.

This course will prepare students to successfully participate in an ensemble setting. In daily rehearsal routines, students will study tonal development with a focus on intonation, blend and balance along with the inherent development of ensemble rhythmic unity. Ensemble skill development promotes greater student independence and development of listening and analytical strategies important to good musicianship.

Students will continue to have before school rehearsals and instrumental lessons will be scheduled during the cycles when there is no ensemble class scheduled. Students will perform in the Winter and Spring Concerts and other performance opportunities in their buildings.



SEVENTH GRADE PROGRAM

The curricular program in seventh grade consists of the following courses:

Full-year Courses

Language Arts: Reading
Language Arts: Writing
Math 7
Math 7 Advanced
Science
Social Studies
World Language
Physical Education/Health

Elective Courses

Applied Technology
Art
Computers
Family and Consumer Sciences
Information Literacy
Music
Music Ensemble Rehearsal
Jazz Band

TYPICAL SEVENTH GRADE SCHEDULE

HAS Grade 7

Period	Time	Class
Period 1 (45)	8:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Science
Period 2 (43)	9:03 a.m. - 9:46 a.m.	Physical Education/ Electives
Period 3 (43)	9:49 a.m. - 10:32 a.m.	World Language
Period 4 (43)	10:35 a.m. - 11:18 a.m.	Social Studies
Period 5 (43)	11:21 a.m. - 12:04 p.m.	Language Arts
Period 6 (43)	12:07 p.m. - 12:50 p.m.	Language Arts
LUNCH (25)	12:53 p.m. - 1:18 p.m.	
Period 7 (43)	1:21 p.m. - 2:04 p.m.	Math
Period 8 (43)	2:07 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.	Physical Education/ Electives

OAS Grade 7

Period	Time	Class
Period 1 (43)	8:15 a.m. - 8:58 a.m.	Physical Education/ Electives
Period 2 (45)	9:01 a.m. - 9:46 a.m.	Physical Education/ Electives
Period 3 (43)	9:49 a.m. - 10:32 a.m.	Math
Period 4 (43)	10:35 a.m. - 11:18 a.m.	Science
LUNCH (25)	11:21 a.m. - 11:46 a.m.	
Period 5 (43)	11:49 a.m. - 12:32 p.m.	Language Arts
Period 6 (43)	12:35 p.m. - 1:18 p.m.	Language Arts
Period 7 (43)	1:21 p.m. - 2:04 p.m.	World Language
Period 8 (43)	2:07 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.	Social Studies.

**7th Grade Elective Classes Include:
Applied Technology, Art, Computers,
Family & Consumer Sciences, Music, Music Ensemble Rehearsal, Information Literacy**



Grade 7 Course Description

In grade seven, the core academic courses include language arts, mathematics, science, social studies and world language.

LANGUAGE ARTS: READING

The seventh grade Language Arts/Literacy program encompasses reading literature and informational text and speaking and listening. Reading instruction follows a balanced literacy approach through a number of strategies and techniques in Reading Workshop. These include read-alouds/alongs, shared reading, independent reading, small group strategy instruction, one-to-one conferencing, and partnership or book club discussions. Reading Workshop provides students with the necessary tools to communicate orally and read and comprehend print. This course is integrated with the Language Arts writing course that students are also required to take this year.

LANGUAGE ARTS: WRITING

The Language Arts program during the seventh grade expands the sixth grade program in the areas of writing by crafting narrative, informational, and opinion pieces and enhancing language skills including spelling, grammar, and vocabulary. In addition, students are required to write both creatively and critically. More sophisticated modes of writing are introduced, including the argumentative essay, the memoir and the explanatory/informative essay. Furthermore, students will begin more concentrated work on writing style, literary analysis, and persuasive speech preparation. Writing Workshop mirrors the same structure of Reading Workshop through strategies including mini-lessons, shared writing, small group strategy instruction, and one-to-one conferencing. An emphasis is placed on the use of mentor texts while encouraging student immersion, independence, voice, and choice. Writing Workshop provides students with the necessary tools to write with clarity and purpose for a variety of audiences. This course is integrated with the Language Arts reading course that students are also required to take this year.

MATH 7

The primary objective of the course is to develop algebraic skills and concepts and to become familiar with algebraic notation. Skills and concepts taught in earlier grades are linked to basic algebra skills. Students will extend their skills and begin to learn algebra concepts that serve as a transition into formal algebra and geometry. The focus is on using a wide variety of activities and tasks to prepare students for Algebra 1. The scientific calculator is used as a tool to assist in problem solving.

Topics include:

1. Fluency with fractions, decimals, and percents
2. Operations with rational numbers, including negative numbers
3. One variable expressions and equations
4. Linear equations
5. Graphing linear equations
6. Compare data distributions
7. Data sets and sampling
8. Geometry-area, surface area, volume, congruence, scale drawing, informal constructions, three-dimensional figures, transformations

MATH 7 ADVANCED

This course is for students who have mastered the rational number concepts and operations, who have shown exceptional ability in problem solving, and who have demonstrated a high level of abstraction. Criteria for consideration for entry into Math 7 Advanced include but are not limited to the following: Algebra readiness assessment score, performance level on standardized mathematics exam, cumulative class average, and teacher recommendation (see Appendix A).

SCIENCE - Life Science

This course is designed to provide students with a background in the scientific methods, techniques, laboratory experiences, and concepts of life science. Students practice proper laboratory safety practices. Areas of study include:

- 1.) Growth Development and Reproduction of Organisms
- 2.) Structure , Function and Information Processing
- 3.) Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems
- 4.) Interdependent Relationships In Ecosystems
- 5.) Natural Selection and Adaptations

SOCIAL STUDIES – Ancient Civilizations

Students in the 7th grade study the ancient history and cultures of early humans and the civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Israel, India, China and Greece. Students work chronologically to examine how culture withstands the test of time and the impact of early civilizations on modern society. They will be introduced to world geography, incorporating prior knowledge and understanding of map and geography skills. Students work towards proficiency in interpreting, analyzing, and writing about history and historical events using primary source materials and document-based questions. The inclusion of current events is utilized to teach the students the role of the United States at home and in the world, with emphasis placed on global affairs to encourage global citizenship. Both project- and problem-based activities are incorporated into the content to challenge the students and provide for enduring understanding of the content.

WORLD LANGUAGE

The second year of the three-year sequence affords students the opportunity to continue to study the language chosen in grade 6. Students are supported in reaching higher levels of proficiency in the target language. Increased communicative proficiency is the departmental goal at the seventh grade level as students further develop their skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing in the target language. At this level students begin using previously learned vocabulary and expressions to communicate with others and to negotiate meaning while beginning to understand the importance of grammar for message clarity.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

Physical education is required for all students unless there is a medical reason for non-participation. The physical education program for students in grade 7 is a coeducational program in which students participate in activities which stress fitness, skill development and basic game-play concepts. Students in these grades participate in three marking periods of physical education and one marking period of health education. All seventh grade students have a period each day of health/physical education.

Health is required of all students in seventh grade. The course of study at each grade level is designed to present comprehensive coverage of health topics presented in ways that relate directly to students' own experience. Emphasis is placed on acquiring the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to a healthful life and teaching students to take responsibility for their own health. Study of HIV/AIDS is included in the grades 6-8 health curriculum.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Students in grade seven will have an opportunity to choose four of the six offered elective courses. The elective based program provides our students with a choice of their preferred courses which supports our district goal of personalized instruction.

These courses increase instructional time from 30 days of instruction in grade six to 45 days in grade seven. This provides a better opportunity for articulation between middle school programs and electives offered at Cranford High School.

Students may choose four electives out of the six course offerings:

- Applied Technology
- Art
- Computers
- Family Consumer Sciences
- Information Literacy
- Music
- Music Ensemble Rehearsal (for student participating in band, chorus or orchestra)

APPLIED TECHNOLOGY - Exploring the Designed World

This course offers students the opportunity to continue their exploration of applied technology. Students will engage in engineering and design challenges including, but not limited to, vehicle design and Lego “Mindstorm.” These experiences actively involve students in manufacturing, construction, transportation and robotics technologies. Developing students’ understanding of technology and its application and impact on society is the focus of this course. In addition, activities and studies in this course will strengthen students’ computer, math, and writing skills. This course will prepare students for continued study of applied technology.

ART

The seventh grade art curriculum provides opportunities for exploration in the visual arts through art history, art criticism, aesthetics and art making. Studio experiences may include drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, design, crafts and computer graphics.

Developing individual creativity and an understanding of the visual arts are the main focus of this course. Careers in the visual arts and related fields are also investigated. This course builds upon previously learned art skills and understandings and prepares the student for future art classes.

COMPUTERS

In this course students will learn about the building blocks of the Internet and how websites are created. Students will learn how to make simple webpages using HTML and JavaScript. Students will create a website while integrating their knowledge of HTML and JavaScript into this site.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

This cycle provides 45 days of machine sewing techniques. Students will learn the basics of machine sewing operation, how to utilize small sewing equipment, how to read and follow simple sewing instructions and ultimately how to utilize all these skills to become more independent. An example of class projects are: a t-shirt bag to emphasize the recycle and reuse concept, a drawstring bag and a pillow utilizing basic sewing patterns and instructions and the development of a unique invention of their own to showcase their creative ideas and new skills.

INFORMATION LITERACY

Today’s students live in an increasingly information-rich world. It is critically important that students be able to find, verify and evaluate information from multiple sources, then synthesize and present the information to an audience using an appropriate format. In this course, students will learn to analyze and evaluate media messages

and demonstrate understanding through activities such as creating newspapers, commercials, print ads, and debunking deceptive advertising and websites.

MUSIC

The Grade 7 music cycle will immerse students into the world of music making and composition using technology. Students will learn basic techniques of audio recording and editing as they explore and create original raps, melodies and soundscapes to accompany a poem or short story. The class is all about "hands-on" activities which will allow for an application of the music skills students have been building upon through the elementary music program.

MUSIC ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL

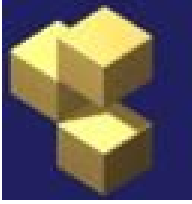
Music Ensemble Rehearsal will be a required cycle class for all students participating in band, orchestra and/or chorus. This cycle will take place during **one** of the 6 cycle options offered for grade 6 students.

This course will prepare students to successfully participate in an ensemble setting. In daily rehearsal routines, students will study tonal development with a focus on intonation, blend and balance along with the inherent development of ensemble rhythmic unity. Ensemble skill development promotes greater student independence and development of listening and analytical strategies important to good musicianship.

Students will continue to have before school rehearsals and instrumental lessons will be scheduled during the cycles when there is no ensemble class scheduled. Students will perform in the Winter and Spring Concerts and other performance opportunities in their buildings.

JAZZ BAND

Instrumental students in grades 7 and 8 will have the opportunity to audition for the Middle School Jazz Band. Jazz Band will meet after school once a week beginning in January and perform on the Spring Concert.



EIGHTH GRADE PROGRAM

The curricular program in eighth grade consists of the following courses:

Full-year Courses

Math 8
Algebra 1
Algebra 1 Advanced
Language Arts: Reading
Language Arts: Reading Advanced
Language Arts: Writing
Language Arts: Writing Advanced
Physical Education/Health
Physical Science
Physical Science Advanced
Social Studies
Social Studies Advanced
World Language

Elective Courses

Advanced Sewing and Fashion Design/History
Applied Technology
Art
Digital Art
Drawing and Painting
Family and Consumer Sciences
Information Literacy 2
Makers Design Space
Music Ensemble Rehearsal (for student participating in band, chorus or orchestra)
Programming and Video Game Design

TYPICAL EIGHTH GRADE SCHEDULE

HAS Grade 8

Period	Time	Class
Period 1 (45)	8:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	World Language
Period 2 (43)	9:03 a.m. - 9:46 a.m.	Literature/Process Writing
Period 3 (43)	9:49 a.m. - 10:32 a.m.	Physical Education/Health Electives
Period 4 (43)	10:35 a.m. - 11:18 a.m.	Social Studies
LUNCH (25)	11:21 a.m. - 11:46 a.m.	
Period 5 (43)	11:49 a.m. - 12:32 p.m.	Literature/Process Writing
Period 6 (43)	12:07 p.m. - 12:50 p.m.	Math
Period 7 (43)	1:21 p.m. - 2:04 p.m.	Physical Education/Health Electives
Period 8 (43)	2:07 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.	Science

OAS Grade 8

Period	Time	Class
Period 1 (43)	8:15 a.m. - 8:58 a.m.	Math
Period 2 (45)	9:01 a.m. - 9:46 a.m.	Literature/Process Writing
Period 3 (43)	9:49 a.m. - 10:32 a.m.	Physical Education/Health Electives
Period 4 (43)	10:35 a.m. - 11:18 a.m.	Physical Education/Health Electives
Period 5 (43)	11:21 a.m. - 12:04 p.m.	Social Studies
Period 6 (43)	12:35 p.m. - 1:18 p.m.	Literature/Process Writing
LUNCH (25)	12:53 p.m. - 1:18 p.m.	
Period 7 (43)	1:21 p.m. - 2:04 p.m.	World Language
Period 8 (43)	2:07 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.	Science.



Grade 8 Course Description

In grade eight, the core academic courses include English, literature/process writing, mathematics, science, social studies and world language.

MATH 8

Math 8 continues to develop skills necessary for Algebra 1. Students will review concepts from sixth and seventh grade and expand upon them in preparation for the formal study of Algebra 1. Students will apply the concepts learned to real-world mathematical problems.

Topics include:

- 1.) Geometry concepts involving congruence, similarity, transformations, volume
- 2.) Number systems involving rational and irrational numbers
- 3.) Radicals and exponents
- 4.) Proportional relationships, linear relationships, using functions to model relationships
- 5.) Work with functions, expressions, and equations
- 6.) Data, statistics, and probability

ALGEBRA 1

Many of the algebraic topics studied are abstract extensions of work done in the seventh grade. Algebra is the study of patterns and functions. The focus of the Algebra I course is to understand the big ideas of equivalence and linearity and to develop fluency and accuracy in working with linear equations. Students will extend their experience and knowledge with tables, graphs, and equations and use what was learned previously about geometry, measurement, data analysis, probability and discrete mathematics as applications of algebra. The scientific calculator is used as a tool to assist in problem solving.

Topics include:

- 1.) Real numbers, including integers, rational and irrational numbers, properties of real numbers, all operations, exponents, absolute value, roots and radicals
- 2.) Solving equations and inequalities
- 3.) Coordinate graphing, including relations, functions, graphing linear equations and inequalities, systems of linear equations and inequalities
- 4.) Polynomials, including all operations, factoring and solving quadratic equations
- 5.) Problem solving
- 6.) Data, statistics and probability

ALGEBRA 1 ADVANCED

This course follows the same curriculum as the Algebra 1 but progresses at a faster pace and in greater depth and emphasis is placed on problem solving. Criteria for consideration for entry into Algebra 1 Advanced include but are not limited to the following: Algebra readiness assessment score, performance level on standardized mathematics exam, cumulative class average, and teacher recommendation (see Appendix A).

LANGUAGE ARTS: READING

This course offers students the opportunity to explore more complex literature with an emphasis on a deep understanding of the work as evidenced in oral discussion and written analysis. Reading instruction follows a balanced literacy approach through a number of strategies and techniques in Reading Workshop. These include read-alouds/alongs, shared reading, independent reading, small group strategy instruction, one-to-one conferencing, and book club discussions. Students will learn how to cite textual evidence to support inferences drawn from the text. Vocabulary, syntax and principles of good writing continue to be studied and emphasized in the course. Traditional and project-based assessments are derived from the works studied in class and are frequently connected to other subject areas. This course is integrated with the Language Arts writing course that students are also required to take this year.

LANGUAGE ARTS: READING ADVANCED

This course mirrors the description of the aforementioned Reading course, yet it focuses more intensely on critical and complex literary genres. Discussion will synthesize information from the various texts and connect ideas to other disciplines such as history and science. This course is integrated with the Language Arts Writing Advanced course that students are also required to take this year. Criteria for consideration for entry into Language Arts: Reading Advanced includes but is not limited to the following: assessment scores, cumulative class average, teacher recommendation, and success in previous class (see Appendix A).

LANGUAGE ARTS: WRITING

This writing-intensive course is designed to prepare the student for high school-level writing. Students will write in various modes of rhetoric while reading and analyzing both published and student-written mentor texts; they will develop various types of expository essays that expand their proficiency in writing. The skills of brainstorming, drafting, revising, editing and publishing are emphasized, and students are encouraged to develop their own styles that reflect their individuality. Students will be required to learn proper MLA format and use it effectively in both critical and research-based essays. Writing Workshop mirrors the same structure of Reading Workshop through strategies including mini-lessons, shared writing, small group strategy instruction, and one-to-one conferencing emphasizing immersion,

independence, voice, and choice. Writing Workshop provides students with the necessary tools to write with clarity and purpose for a variety of audiences. This course is integrated with the Language Arts Reading course that students are also required to take this year.

LANGUAGE ARTS: WRITING ADVANCED

This course mirrors the description of the aforementioned Writing course, yet it focuses more intensely on critical and analytical writing. This course is integrated with the Language Arts Reading Advanced course that students are also required to take this year. Criteria for consideration for entry into Language Arts: Writing Advanced includes but is not limited to the following: assessment scores, cumulative class average, teacher recommendation, and success in previous class (see Appendix A).

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

All eighth grade students have a period each day of health/physical education at HAS and alternate block at OAS.

Health is required of all students in grades 6-8. The course of study at each grade level is designed to present comprehensive coverage of health topics presented in ways that relate directly to students' own experiences. Emphasis is placed on acquiring the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to a healthful life and teaching students to take responsibility for their own health. Study of HIV/AIDS is included in the grades 6-8 health curriculum.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

The grade eight science course is devoted to the study of physical science. Scientific concepts from chemistry and physics are learned through laboratory experiences and teacher-guided activities. Students practice proper laboratory safety practices. Areas of study include:

- 1.) Structure and Properties of Matter
- 2.) Chemical Reactions
- 3.) Forces and Interactions
- 4.) Energy

PHYSICAL SCIENCE ADVANCED

The grade eight science course is devoted to the study of physical science. Scientific concepts from chemistry and physics are learned through laboratory experiences and teacher-guided activities. Students practice proper laboratory safety practices. Criteria for consideration for entry into Physical Science Advanced includes but not limited to the following; End of year assessment score, Cumulative class average, teacher recommendation, checklist of accelerated learners, and success in Science (see Appendix A). Areas of study include:

- 1.) Structure and Properties of Matter
- 2.) Chemical Reactions
- 3.) Forces and Interactions
- 4.) Energy

SOCIAL STUDIES – THE MIDDLE AGES

Students in the 8th grade study the Dark and Middle Ages. Themes or concepts will be identified and the students will learn how they apply to both Europe and Asia. For example, feudalism will be taught as it existed in Europe, but feudal Japan will also be included as part of the theme; additionally, religion, government, and history of these areas are included. Reading for historical accuracy, analyzing, and synthesizing primary source materials will be taught in order to provide the students with the basis for responding to Document Based Questions (DBQs). The inclusion of current events is utilized throughout the course to ensure student understanding of the United States both at home and in the global world. To provide for enduring understanding and demonstrate their command of the content, students will be challenged with project-and problem-based activities

SOCIAL STUDIES ADVANCED

The 8th grade advanced social studies class will focus more intensely on reading and writing. Additional primary source materials will be utilized and research skills will be addressed in more depth. Selective readings will be incorporated into the course material and students will be encouraged to read for historical content and accuracy. Students will analyze materials and be able to synthesize the information in order to respond to Document Based Questions (DBQ's) effectively. Criteria for consideration for entry into Social Studies Advanced includes but not limited to the following; End of year assessment score, Cumulative class average, teacher recommendation, checklist of accelerated learners, and success in Social Studies (see Appendix A).

WORLD LANGUAGE

The third year of the middle school world language sequence provides students the opportunity to reach higher levels of proficiency in the target language with increased focus on accuracy when communicating. Eighth grade students further develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in the target language while developing an understanding of how language works. Students apply previously learned vocabulary and expressions to communicate with others and to negotiate meaning with increased accuracy.

During the second semester, all eighth grade students are formally assessed to provide teachers with an additional component to the high school language recommendation process. Recommendations for placement are determined by proficiency as evidenced through class participation and performance.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Students in grade 8 have the opportunity to elect four courses from the choices listed below. These are marking period elective programs 45 days.

The following are the electives offered:

1. Advanced Sewing and Fashion Design/History
2. Applied Technology
3. Art
4. Digital Art
5. Drawing and Painting
6. Family and Consumer Science "Food for Thought"
7. Information Literacy 2
8. Makers Design Space
9. Music Ensemble Rehearsal (for student participating in band, chorus or orchestra)
10. Programming and Video Game Design

ADVANCED SEWING AND FASHION DESIGN/HISTORY

In this 45 day cycle, students will learn the basics of sewing with a pattern. As students will provide their own materials for this cycle class, they will learn how to shop economically for sewing material and notions. Students will build on the experiences from 7th grade sewing and further develop their knowledge and skills. Students will also discover the world of fashion and understand the importance of fashion throughout history. This course will explore the past, present and more importantly, the student's future in the world of fashion. Through project based activities, class trips and the use of relevant technology, students will learn to appreciate the world of fashion as an art form, a vocational choice, a historical influence on our current times as well as an outlet for personal creativity.

APPLIED TECHNOLOGY - Engineering and Design Challenges

This course offers students the opportunity to continue their exploration of applied technology. Students will engage in engineering and design challenges including, but not limited to, bridge building, airfoil design, vehicle design, and rocketry. These experiences actively involve students in manufacturing, construction, transportation, and aerospace technologies.

Developing students' creative problem solving skills, as well as their understanding of both the scientific method and the technology design cycle, is the focus of this course. In addition, activities and studies in this course will strengthen students' computer, math, and writing skills. This course will prepare students for continued study of applied technology and pre-engineering.

ART

Individually or in cooperative groups, students will engage daily in creative activities that require problem solving, critical thinking and individual expression. Through advanced studio experiences in drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, design, crafts and computer graphics, students will develop their understanding of the visual arts, aesthetics, art history and art criticism.

The main focus of this course is to acquire a deeper understanding of the visual arts and to develop individual creativity and more sophisticated art making skills. The art cycle course prepares the student for a lifelong appreciation of art as a producer, consumer and/or advocate. In addition, it provides a solid foundation for continued studies in the visual arts.

DIGITAL ART

In this course students will have the opportunity to enhance their visual design skills & creativity while making some cross-curricular connections (math & literacy), and becoming technologically savvy (beyond posting photos on social media). The visual arts offer a perfect component in the school curriculum to enhance technological literacy- as part of a STEAM curriculum.

The technological, graphic design, and visual communication skills students will learn from this course will prepare them for more complex software programs, such as Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop, and CAD courses offered at CHS, and beyond. As future employees, students will need a combination of visual design ability and technological literacy for those sectors of commercial art, marketing, advertising, and entertainment that seek ever-talented employees with creative design skills.

DRAWING AND PAINTING

The Drawing and Painting course is designed to further investigate drawing and painting techniques. Students will build on their experiences in 7th grade art and continue to develop a deeper understanding of both techniques by experimenting with various drawing and painting materials. Students will first concentrate on their drawing skills to reinforce the fundamentals of drawing. Later in the course, students will focus on various painting methods that touch on traditional and contemporary painting theories. Students will not only better their drawing and painting skills, but will also develop their observational and analytical skills as they reflect and critique famous drawings and paintings as well as their peers' artwork.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES “Food for Thought”

This 8th grade, 45 day, foods cycle allows the students to become more proficient in food preparation and more knowledgeable about good nutrition. Kitchen safety, sanitation, recipe terms, and basic measurements and equivalents will support any food a student tries to make in class or at home. Food units include: quick breads, yeast breads and healthy breakfast choices. Project-based learning and technology

are necessary parts of the students' research and presentations. This course was developed with the intention to teach young teens how to become more independent and responsible.

INFORMATION LITERACY 2

Today's students live in an increasingly information-rich world and are encountering mass media daily in various types and formats – newspapers, motion pictures, radio, television, and magazines - all of which have the technical capacity to deliver information to millions of people. The course objective is to educate students about the media resources that are available to them and how to best use them. Students will perform daily research-based tasks focusing on evaluating information, plagiarism and citing sources, as well as completing a research project.

MAKERS DESIGN SPACE

This STEM based course provides students an opportunity to apply knowledge and skills in Science, Math and Technology through engineering based projects. review design process, design and building processes, Engineering and STEM career exploration, designing for environmental/world problems, student exploration. Examples include but are not limited to: Technic Lego Design, Google Sketchup.

MUSIC ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL

Music Ensemble Rehearsal will be a required cycle class for all students participating in band, orchestra and/or chorus.

This course will prepare students to successfully participate in an ensemble setting. In daily rehearsal routines, students will study tonal development with a focus on intonation, blend and balance along with the inherent development of ensemble rhythmic unity. Ensemble skill development promotes greater student independence and development of listening and analytical strategies important to good musicianship.

Students will continue to have before school rehearsals and instrumental lessons will be scheduled during the cycles when there is no ensemble class scheduled. Students will perform in the Winter and Spring Concerts and other performance opportunities in their buildings.

JAZZ BAND

Band students in grades 8 will have the opportunity to audition for the Middle School Jazz Band. Jazz Band will meet after school once a week beginning in January and perform on the Spring Concert.

PROGRAMMING AND VIDEO GAME DESIGN

In this course, students enter the world of computer science by learning how to create animations, computer games, and interactive projects. While using graphical computer coding programs, students will learn fundamental programming concepts such as variables, loops, conditional statements, and event handling. As students create their projects, they will learn how to use math and computer code to think creatively. Students will learn how to make and import objects, create audio recordings, and use them to develop interactive projects. At the end of the course, students will share their favorite projects with the class.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Our middle schools offer a full continuum of programs and services to meet the individual needs of students with disabilities as determined by the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team. We are committed to the success of special education students and providing them with an appropriate education in the least restrictive environment. The least restrictive environment allows for learning to be done in a general education setting to the maximum extent that is appropriate.

Our students receiving special education services are provided support as prescribed in their IEPs. A case manager is assigned to every student, and together with the family and teachers, works to create the IEP, that includes such details as goals and objectives, and accommodations and modifications. Each IEP is reviewed annually and can be amended as per the student's needs.

PATHWAYS TO EXCELLENCE

The district acknowledges the need to provide "specialized" services for students who are academically and scholastically exceptional. The Pathways to Excellence (P2E) Program provides continuum of services across the district to address the learning needs of gifted and talented students in grades 3 to 8. The services include a pull out program staffed by specialized teachers and also specifies modifications and adaptations to the regular education program to aid students in exploring and realizing their full potential. Grade 7 and 8 classes are part of the elective program. Lessons are aligned with a theme that carries throughout the year. Students will continue to develop 21st century skills of communication, collaboration, creative problem solving, and critical thinking.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

In keeping with the district's philosophy to provide personalized educational experiences that will meet the needs and potential of every student, the middle schools provide a variety of interesting club activities. Clubs and activities reflect student interest and availability, and as a result, may change from time to time and differ from school to school. Activities are held before and after school and include our Student Council, PEER, Art Club and Environmental Club. Our music program holds

rehearsals before school for the band, chorus and orchestra and we have an annual Musical and Drama production which will also rehearse after school.

APPENDIX A:

* Course offerings for grade 8 are leveled in Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. In mathematics, courses are leveled starting in grade 7. Criteria for consideration for entry into Advanced level courses include but are not limited to the following: subject area assessment score, performance level on standardized testing, cumulative class average, and teacher recommendation. Please see the following pages for advanced course placement rubrics.

**Hillside Avenue and Orange Avenue Schools
Language Arts: Reading and Writing Advanced
Grade 8 Placement**

Student:

Criteria	Rating	Points
<p>Assessment <i>1 point if student earns eighteen or above on a twenty point rubric on the assessment (cold analytical reading of paired texts and essay response)</i></p>		
<p>Class Average <i>1 point for a class average of 95% or above</i></p>		
<p>Seventh Grade Teacher Recommendation <i>2 points if recommended without reservation 1 point if recommended with reservation</i></p>		
<p>The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers <i>2 points if student earns 5 on the sixth grade Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Assessment 1 point if student earns 4 on the sixth grade Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Assessment</i></p>		
<p>Total Points 4 points are needed to be recommended for Language Arts Advanced, grade 8</p>		

Final Recommendation:

Language Arts 8 Advanced

Language Arts 8

Hillside Avenue and Orange Avenue Schools
Mathematics: 6th Grade into 7th Grade

Student:

Criteria	Rating	Points
<p>Assessment</p> <p><i>1 point if student score is at or above the cut-off (46 points) on an Algebra Readiness Assessment</i></p>		
<p>Class Average</p> <p><i>1 point for a class average of 95% or above</i></p>		
<p>Sixth Grade Teacher Recommendation</p> <p><i>2 points if recommended without reservation</i> <i>1 point if recommended with reservation</i></p>		
<p>The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers</p> <p><i>1 point if student earns 4 or 5 on the fifth grade Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Assessment in Mathematics</i></p>		
<p>Total Points</p> <p>4 points are needed to be recommended for Math 7 Advanced</p>		

Final Recommendation:

Math-7 Advanced

Math-7

Hillside Avenue and Orange Avenue Schools
Mathematics: 7th Grade into 8th Grade

Student:

Criteria	Rating	Points
<p>Assessment</p> <p><i>2 points if student score is at or above the Algebra 1 Advanced cut-off (52 points) on an Algebra Readiness Assessment</i></p> <p><i>1 point if student score is at or above the Algebra 1 cut-off (48 points) on an Algebra Readiness Assessment</i></p>		
<p>Class Average</p> <p><i>2 points for a class average of 85% or above in Math-7 Advanced</i></p> <p><i>1 point for a class average below 85% in Math-7 Advanced</i></p> <p><i>2 points for a class average of 95% or above in Math-7</i></p> <p><i>1 point for a class average of 88% or above in Math-7</i></p>		
<p>Seventh Grade Teacher Recommendation</p> <p><i>4 points if recommended without reservation for Algebra 1 Advanced</i></p> <p><i>3 points if recommended with reservation for Algebra 1 Advanced</i></p> <p><i>2 points if recommended without reservation for Algebra 1</i></p> <p><i>1 point if recommended with reservation for Algebra 1</i></p>		
<p>The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers</p> <p><i>2 points if student earns a 5 on the sixth grade Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Assessment in Mathematics</i></p> <p><i>1 point if student earns a 4 on the sixth grade Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Assessment in Mathematics</i></p>		
<p>Total Points</p> <p>8 points are needed to be recommended for Algebra 1 Advanced</p> <p>5 points are needed to be recommended for Algebra 1</p> <p>Less than 5 points recommended for Math-8</p>		

Final Recommendation:

Algebra 1 Advanced

Algebra 1

Math-8

Hillside Avenue and Orange Avenue Schools
Science: Science Advanced
Grade 8 Placement

Student:

Criteria	Rating	Points
Assessment <i>1 point if student score is at or above 80% on a Science Assessment</i>		
Class Average <i>1 point for a class average of 90% or above</i>		
Seventh Grade Teacher Recommendation <i>2 points if recommended without reservation</i> <i>1 point if recommended with reservation</i>		
Labs - follows directions & safety precautions / proper use of materials / works well with others / proper use of time <i>2 points if always demonstrates necessary skills</i> <i>1 point if almost always demonstrates skills</i>		
Total Points 4 points are needed to be recommended for Science-8 Advanced		

Final Recommendation:

Science-8 Advanced

Science-8

Hillside Avenue and Orange Avenue Schools
Social Studies: Social Studies Advanced
Grade 8 Placement

Student:

Criteria	Rating	Points
<p>Assessment <i>1 point if student earns eighteen or above on a twenty point rubric on a Social Studies Assessment</i></p>		
<p>Class Average <i>1 point for a class average of 95% or above</i></p>		
<p>Seventh Grade Teacher Recommendation <i>2 points if recommended without reservation</i> <i>1 point if recommended with reservation</i></p>		
<p>The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers <i>2 points if student earns 5 on the sixth grade Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Assessment</i> <i>1 point if student earns 4 on the sixth grade Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Assessment</i></p>		
<p>Total Points 4 points are needed to be recommended for Social Studies Advanced, grade 8</p>		

Final Recommendation:

Social Studies-8 Advanced

Social Studies-8