



ARCOLA
Intermediate School

ARCOLA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
Course Description Booklet
2014-2015

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Middle School Teams

The teaming concept is an integral part of Arcola Intermediate School and provides students an opportunity to be a part of a smaller learning community within the larger school framework. There are three teams on each grade level. Students are assigned to a core team of teachers with whom they meet each day for instruction. In seventh grade, each team consists of an English, math, reading, science and social studies teacher. In eighth grade, each team consists of an English, math, science, social studies and world language teacher. In addition to the core subject area teachers, reading and math specialists as well as special education and gifted education teachers provide instruction to students on each of the teams.

All students are required to take health, physical education, and the expressive arts courses in both seventh and eighth grades.

Shared Beliefs and Understandings:

- Middle school is a time of great social, emotional, and intellectual growth for students.
- Students develop critical thinking skills at different rates in different disciplines throughout their academic careers.
- We endeavor to challenge our students and provide them with the most rigorous curriculum that is appropriate for their level of readiness.
- While providing a challenge is imperative, we also want to be sure that our students are working at a comfortable rate and pace, such that they develop the basic skills that provide a foundation for success in high school and beyond.
- We use multiple types of data (standardized assessments, summative assessments, curriculum-based measures, and observational data) to inform our decisions about the most appropriate placements for our students.

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7TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

7TH GRADE ENGLISH / READING:

English // 7th Grade

In seventh grade English, students develop an understanding of a wide variety of reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills as outlined in the Pennsylvania Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts. The purpose of this course is to develop an understanding and appreciation for the following language concepts:

- Demonstrating qualities of effective writing
- Composing in the informational, literary analysis, argumentative, and poetic genres
- Utilizing the writing process and the research process
- Applying proper grammar in writing and speaking
- Demonstrating proper vocabulary usage in the spoken and written forms
- Analyzing the works of a variety of authors – both classic and contemporary

Honors English // 7th Grade

Honors English is differentiated by the level of writing, independent work in the classroom and at home, additional projects to extend learning, and differentiated assessments. Students scheduled for Honors English in 7th grade must meet all of the following criteria:

- Minimum of 95% average grade in 6th grade English, and
- Minimum of 95% average grade in 6th grade reading, and
- 90% average on all major writing pieces in 6th grade English

Reading // 7th Grade

The reading curriculum incorporates a balanced literacy approach to instruction. Students read in a variety of genres which include literary works as well as informational text. Vocabulary development is incorporated throughout all texts. Technology is integrated into the reading curriculum as students engage in online reading and research to use their creativity skills to produce web-based projects. Students work closely with the school librarian to enhance literacy instruction.

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Honors Reading // 7th Grade

Honors Reading is differentiated by the in-depth, analytical, and comparative analysis of the reading selections as well as the comprehensive written components to the reading units. Students scheduled for Honors Reading in seventh grade must meet all of the following criteria:

- 95% average in 6th grade comprehension assessments, and
- Minimum IRL (Independent Reading Level) of 7.0 on the STAR reading assessment, and
- 90% average on Accelerated Reader Assessments in 6th grade, and
- Exceeded page requirements in 6th grade Independent Reading Program each marking period

7TH GRADE MATHEMATICS

Due to the sequential nature of mathematics which builds upon skills already mastered, students must demonstrate appropriate acquisition of prerequisite skills in the previous course before taking the next recommended course of study. Placement in 7th grade math courses is based upon local (curriculum-based) assessments, PSSA scores, and Algebra readiness assessments.

Pre-Algebra Standards // 7th Grade

Pre-Algebra Standards is designed for students identified as benefitting from additional developmental opportunities to enhance basic mathematical skills. The course covers the first half of the pre-algebra curriculum, including topics such as working with integers, decimals, fractions, graphing points on a coordinate plane, simplifying algebraic expressions, and solving equations.

Pre-Algebra 7200 CT // 7th Grade

This differentiated course is for students who would benefit from smaller class sizes and who need reinforcement of basic math skills and procedures. Major topics include integers, solving equations using the properties of equality, ratios and proportions, percent applications, geometry, probability, interpreting data and graphs, finding the least common multiple and greatest common factor and its applications, simplifying algebraic expressions, introduction to trigonometric ratios, Pythagorean Theorem and its applications, and the coordinate plane.

Pre-Algebra 7210 // 7th Grade

This course is a preparatory course for Algebra I recommended for students who have successfully completed the elementary math curriculum. Major topics include integers, solving equations using the properties of equality, ratios and proportions, percent applications, geometry, probability, interpreting data and graphs, finding the least common multiple and greatest common factor and its applications, simplifying algebraic expressions, introduction to trigonometric ratios, Pythagorean Theorem and its applications, and the coordinate plane.

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Honors Pre-Algebra // 7th Grade

Honors Pre-Algebra is an accelerated Pre-Algebra course for students who have demonstrated very strong mathematical ability in grade 6. The topics in the regular Pre-Algebra course are taught with an emphasis on critical thinking and student independence.

Honors Algebra 1 // 7th Grade

Honors Algebra 1 is an accelerated Algebra 1 course that extends the topics of linear functions, linear inequalities, absolute value functions, quadratic functions, polynomials, factoring, radicals, and rational expressions. Students are encouraged to explore the topics through writing prompts, word problems, graphing calculators, and group projects.

7TH GRADE SCIENCE**Science // 7th Grade**

Seventh grade science is an introductory course including topics in biology and ecology. Topics of biology include cells, genetics, classification, and evolution. Ecology topics include biodiversity, populations, communities, and energy flow within ecosystems. Students will experience the process of science in a hands-on laboratory setting acquiring knowledge through collecting and analyzing data. Observation and experimentation are used to describe and explain the natural world.

Honors Science // 7th Grade

Seventh grade Honors Science is a course including topics in biology and ecology. Biology topics include cells, genetics, classification, and evolution. Ecology topics include biodiversity, populations, communities and energy flow within ecosystems. This course should prove challenging for those students who accelerate academically and have an interest in the areas of science and mathematics. This inquiry based course will contain a demanding work load including independent studies and laboratory work. Students will learn the process of science and to think critically through experimentation. They will be expected to collect and analyze data, acquiring knowledge through the use of scientific tools and technologies. Students scheduled for Honors Science in seventh grade must meet all of the following criteria:

- 90% or higher average on major tests in 6th grade science, and
- 95% or higher average grade for marking periods 1, 2 and 3 in 6th grade science, and
- PSSA grade 5 Reading advanced score, and
- PSSA grade 5 Math advanced score

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7th GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies // 7th Grade

Grade seven Social Studies focuses on the history and culture of ancient civilizations of the Mediterranean rim. After a brief introduction to the social studies, students will begin to focus on topics related to Prehistory, the Middle East, Egypt, Greece, Rome, and the Middle Ages. In each unit, students will learn to make connections between the past and the present in order to better understand modern times. Students will also enhance their critical thinking and communication skills while learning to appreciate other cultures and their impact on our modern world.

Honors Social Studies // 7th Grade

The Honors course is designed for students who show an advanced aptitude for the social studies and desire more in-depth study of ancient history and culture. Students in Honors Social Studies will complete more demanding assessments and be exposed to additional material beyond the regular curriculum. Students scheduled for Honors Social Studies in seventh grade must meet all of the following criteria:

- 95% or higher average in 6th grade Geography, and
- PSSA grade 5 Reading Advanced Score, and
- PSSA grade 5 Reading Advanced Score on non-fiction standards A.2 and B.3

7th GRADE HEALTH / PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Health // 7th Grade

This course focuses on the body systems, breathing emergencies, first aid, and safety instruction. The students gain knowledge of the structure and function of the body systems, as well as ways to maintain the health of these systems. Recognition of common diseases and disorders that affect each system is also incorporated into each unit.

Physical Education // 7th Grade

This course is a combination of team sports and individual activities. There is a heavy emphasis on fitness while the students gain knowledge of team sports. In the traditional team sports units, emphasis is placed on the skills necessary for the game, and games are modified to increase skill practice.

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7th GRADE EXPRESSIVE ARTS

Family and Consumer Science // 7th Grade

Introduction to Cooking

In the seventh grade Introduction to Cooking class, students will practice kitchen safety procedures and learn how to use both the stovetop and the oven. Students will also study standardized measuring techniques and practice reading recipes. Using MyPlate as a guide for healthy food choices, students will focus on the importance of a nutritionally balanced diet that includes fresh fruits, vegetables and balanced portions.

Family and Consumer Science // 7th Grade

Child Development

Child development in seventh grade is an introduction to studies that focus on observation of children and their developmental stages. The course focuses on physical, intellectual, emotional and social stages of children between birth and eight years old. Students analyze environments for safety concerns, explore literature and language development, and learn age-appropriate activities for children.

Music // 7th Grade

Musical Instrument Digital Interface

Seventh Grade Introduction to MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) is a class that teaches basic music theory and how to make musical tracks to produce original music. Students learn to use various technologies utilized in the music industry to assist in the composition process.

Music // 7th Grade

Beginning Guitar and European Music History

Seventh grade music class combines guitar and music history to aid in building a well-rounded musical student. Seventh graders learn the basics of guitar, including the parts of the guitar, the strings, reading chord charts, and playing simple chords and songs. Music history, extending all the way back to the Renaissance, is studied in seventh grade. Famous composers of each musical time period are looked at, including Handel and Mozart.

Technology Education // 7th Grade

Basic Tools

The seventh grade program in the materials lab is designed to make students aware of the different tools found in a workshop. The students will learn how to safely operate all of the tools and when it is appropriate to use the tools. They will know the difference between tools that look alike but perform different jobs. The students will make a series of projects to demonstrate their ability and knowledge of the tools.

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Technology Education // 7th Grade**Mechanical Drawing**

Students learn how to utilize a variety of drafting tools in order to create a three view drawing of an object. The main focus includes: tool identification and usage, drawing creation, problem-solving, design, measuring, and application of basic math skills. Students will build these skills through the creation of twelve mechanical drawings.

Visual Arts // 7th Grade

This course includes the study and creation of original art work in several units: printmaking, which involves the study of basic printmaking techniques as well as hands on printmaking assignments, an introduction to graphic arts which explores computer generated and/or computer assisted art work, painting, and drawing through selected subject matter designed to expand the students' repertoire of drawing skills. Lessons are based on, and assessed by, the inclusion of the elements of art, the principles of design, and color theory.

8th GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

8th GRADE ENGLISH / LITERATURE

English // 8th Grade

The eighth grade English class is based upon the Pennsylvania Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts, and as such, prepares students to be effective communicators in the 21st century in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The purpose of this course is to help each student develop an appreciation for the works of a variety of authors, both classic and contemporary, and expand vocabulary usage in the spoken and written form. As writers, students will use the writing process as they hone their skills in research, argument, personal narrative, and informational writing.

Honors English // 8th Grade

The eighth grade English class is based upon the Pennsylvania Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts, and as such, prepares students to be effective communicators in the 21st century in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Instruction in Honors is differentiated to include a wider range of reading and a greater emphasis on analytical thinking and writing. Students in this course are expected to enjoy reading, interpreting, discussing, and writing about challenging texts and demonstrate a willingness and enthusiasm for writing and revising. Students scheduled for Honors English in 8th grade must meet all of the following criteria:

- 95% average in 7th grade English/92% average in 7th grade Honors English, and
- 95% average in 7th grade Reading/92% average in 7th grade Honors Reading, and
- 90% average on all major written pieces in 7th grade English

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Literature // 8th Grade

The goal of the eighth grade Literature program is to help students master reading comprehension strategies. The core of the program is direct strategy instruction using short texts, novels, and nonfiction. Strategies taught include previewing, predicting, questioning, making connections, visualization, inferring, determining importance, summarizing/synthesizing, evaluating, and monitoring. The class philosophy is to gradually shift the strategy instruction from teacher explanation and modeling, to the students using the strategies with teacher guidance, to independent application of the strategies. Students scheduled for eighth grade Literature must meet the following criteria:

- STAR Score < 6.9, and
- Comprehension average in 7th Grade Reading < 80%, and
- Accelerated Reader test average in 7th Grade Reading < 80%, and
- Classroom Diagnostic Tests (CDT) show at least two areas of need on grade level standards, and/or
- Teacher Recommendation based on classroom observations of student

8th GRADE MATHEMATICS

Because of the sequential development of the mathematics curriculum, students must attain the prerequisites in the previous course before advancing to a higher level.

Secondary Concepts of Pre-Algebra

Secondary Concepts of Pre-Algebra is designed for eighth grade students completing Pre-Algebra Standards. The course covers the second half of the Pre-Algebra curriculum including topics such as solving equations and inequalities, graphing functions, solving for values in triangles, using properties of solids, and finding statistics and probabilities.

Algebra Bridges // 8th Grade

The Algebra Bridges course is designed for students who would benefit from taking a course that reinforces the concepts of Pre-Algebra in order to have a solid foundation before taking Algebra 1. Students scheduled for Algebra Bridges have completed Pre-Algebra 7200CT or Pre-Algebra 7210.

Algebra 1 // 8th Grade

The goals of this course are to develop algebraic skills and concepts, and to enhance problem solving ability. Topics include: linear functions and inequalities, systems of equations, exponents and polynomials, factoring polynomials, rational expressions, radicals and quadratic functions. Students completing Algebra 1 will take the Algebra 1 Keystone exam. Students scheduled for Algebra 1 in 8th grade must meet the following criteria:

- $\geq 75\%$ major test average in Pre-Algebra 7210, and
- $\geq 70\%$ mid-term grade in Pre-Algebra 7210, and
- $\geq 70\%$ average on Computation Quizzes in Pre-Algebra 7210, and/or
- Teacher recommendation

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Honors Algebra I // 8th Grade

Honors Algebra I is an accelerated Algebra I course that extends the topics of linear functions, linear inequalities, absolute value functions, quadratic functions, polynomials, factoring, radicals, and rational expressions. These topics are explored through writing, word problems, graphing calculators, and group projects. Students completing Honors Algebra I will take the Algebra 1 Keystone Exam. Students scheduled for Honors Algebra I in 8th grade must meet the following criteria:

- $\geq 90\%$ test average and 95% class average in Pre-Algebra 7210 and/or teacher recommendation
- $\geq 85\%$ class average in Honors Pre-Algebra and/or teacher recommendation

Honors Geometry // 8th Grade

Honors Geometry is an advanced course offered to 8th grade students with exceptional mathematical skills. This course mixes algebra and Euclidean geometry covering topics such as writing proofs, solving for measurements using right triangle properties, and drawing congruence transformations. Critical thinking and technology is utilized in students' pursuit of understanding of logic, reasoning, geometry in architecture and real world applications of geometric concepts. Students scheduled for Honors Geometry must meet the following criteria:

- 80% or higher average in Honors Algebra 1 in 7th grade

8th GRADE SCIENCE**Science // 8th Grade**

Eighth grade Science is an integrated course whereby students are introduced to various topics in physical science. An introductory course in astronomy in the Planetarium provides instruction for students to understand the relationship between math and science through space. Students continue to develop skills in problem-solving, observing, collecting and analyzing data, drawing conclusions, and learning to organize work and think critically. This class encourages students to successfully advance their scientific process in independent and laboratory work.

Honors Science // 8th Grade

Eighth grade Honors Science is an integrated course whereby students are introduced to topics in physical science. An introductory course in astronomy in the Planetarium provides instruction while showing the connection between math and science through space. Students use technology to continue to enhance problem solving strategies, observation, inquiry, data collection, and analysis. This advanced course of study includes variations in materials, tasks, and assessments. Students are required to conduct scientific investigations which focus on the important role of the scientific method in the analysis of a problem. Students scheduled for Honors Science in 8th grade must meet the following criteria:

- 95% class average in 7th grade Science or 93% class average in 7th grade Honors Science

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8th GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies: U.S. History // 8th Grade

In eighth grade social studies, students learn about the history of the United States between the events leading to the drafting of the U. S. Constitution in 1787 and the eve of World War I in 1914. Students develop an understanding of a wide variety of geographic, historical, political, economic, and cultural topics that shaped our nation during that time period. In each unit, students learn to make connections between the past and the present in order to better understand events in the United States today.

Honors Social Studies: U.S. History // 8th Grade

In eighth grade Honors Social Studies, students learn about the history of the United States between the events leading to the drafting of the U. S. Constitution in 1787 and the eve of World War I in 1914. Students develop an understanding of a wide variety of geographic, historical, political, economic, and cultural topics that shaped our nation during that time period. In each unit, students will learn to make connections between the past and the present in order to better understand events in the United States today. The Honors course is designed for independent students who show an advanced aptitude for U.S. history and desire an accelerated pace and more demanding assignments and assessments. It requires the development and application of higher order critical thinking skills. Students can expect enriched writing assignments and group projects. Students scheduled for Honors Social Studies in 8th grade must meet the following criteria:

- 95% class average in 7th grade social studies or 93% class average in 7th grade Honors Social Studies

8th GRADE WORLD LANGUAGES

French 1

Level 1 French is an introduction to grammar and vocabulary presented through thematic lessons simulating real life scenarios. Students are provided many opportunities to use their acquired French speaking skills. Successful completion of this class will provide the opportunity for students to schedule French 2 at the high school.

Spanish 1

Level 1 Spanish students learn an introductory level Spanish which develops their skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in the Spanish language. Successful completion of this class will provide the opportunity for students to schedule Spanish 2 at the high school.

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8th GRADE HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Health // 8th Grade

This course focuses on helping students learn how to make healthy choices. Areas of focus will include nutrition and diet, physical activity, drugs and alcohol, relationships, goal setting, and stress management. Knowledge in these areas will enable students to make informed, responsible, and healthy decisions as they prepare for their high school years.

Physical Education // 8th Grade

This course incorporates both team and individual sports and fitness activities utilizing both traditional and non-traditional physical education activities. Instruction in this course places an emphasis on the components of fitness in an effort to promote total, life-long fitness. In the traditional team sports units, students apply the skills learned in offensive and defensive strategies during game play. Those strategies promote teamwork, communication and a deeper understanding of the sport or activity.

8th GRADE EXPRESSIVE ARTS

Family & Consumer Science // 8th Grade

Exploring Foods

The Exploring Foods class focuses on each food group as the students practice the skills learned in the Introduction to Cooking class. Students study the characteristics of foods common to each food group and learn the procedures to handle problems that arise while cooking. Students analyze the basic nutrients found in foods to gain a better understanding of a healthy diet and to use food labeling information more effectively.

Family & Consumer Science // 8th Grade

Child Development

Child Development in the eighth grade is a laboratory class utilizing the Arcola Play School. Students learn appropriate interactive skills with children, design and carry out age-appropriate activities, and explore basic child psychology concepts. Emphasis is on developmental behaviors and classification of play types.

Music // 8th Grade

Music Technology

This eighth grade course focuses on various technologies that are currently used in the music industry. After a short review of music theory, students learn and use a wide range of technologies to complete projects ranging from simple melodies that can be used as ringtones, to full production of music videos in which students use their own original music.

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Music // 8th Grade**Intermediate Guitar and American Popular Music History**

This eighth grade music class combines guitar and music history to aid in building a well-rounded musical student. Eighth graders go beyond the guitar basics to learn more advanced chords and popular songs like “Island in the Sun” (Weezer), “Everything” (Michael Buble), “Yellow Submarine” and “Hey Jude” (The Beatles). Eighth grade music history focuses on modern popular music, including such styles as jazz, rock and roll, and pop.

Technology Education // 8th Grade**Design and Construction**

The eighth grade program is designed to help students think about cooperation, design, structure, and safety. The challenge is to make a game in which a ball moves through the use of a simple machine, which is fun and safe to play. Students first create a prototype, or example, out of cardboard, to work out any unforeseen problems, and then make a wooden game similar to the cardboard structure. Students use the tools they learned in seventh grade as well as additional tools.

Technology Education // 8th Grade**Metal Technology and Design**

Students learn about the manufacturing process for a sheet metal product from idea conception, to design, to construction. The main focuses of the class are idea conception, design, problem-solving, tool identification and usage, safety, measuring, and application of basic math skills. The avenue to learn these skills is the design and construction of a sheet metal storage box.

Visual Arts // 8th Grade

Students in this course broaden their artistic understandings by engaging in assignments designed to deepen their understanding of aesthetics, art history, art criticism, and the art elements and principles. Such assignments will involve the completion of studio projects class discussions, self-reflections, and writing assignments. Students in eighth grade create two and three-dimensional artworks in the studio units of sculpture, acrylic painting, calligraphy and text, and graphic arts. Students continue to expand their drawing and observation skills through the completion of sketch assignments.

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PROJECT SEMINAR // 7th and 8th Grades

Project Seminar is an optional program that meets once during each six day cycle as a pull-out program for students with GIEPs. The objective of the Project Seminar is to address GIEP goals related to developing the skills that are critical for success which includes leadership, risk-taking, interpersonal communication, time management, and technology. To meet individual needs, students are given the flexibility to design a project of their choice. The seminar teachers provide assistance to students to ensure they receive the support and encouragement necessary to carry out student-driven projects. Students who do not have a particular interest they would like to explore are immersed in a skills-based environment that includes topics such as digital literacy, multimedia creation, academic competitions, and global issues.

CHORAL, BAND, AND ORCHESTRA PROGRAMS

The following chorus, band and orchestra groups are offered but are not graded nor scheduled as classes:

Boys' Chorus // 7th and 8th Grade

Open to every seventh and eighth grade boy, the Boys' Chorus rehearses from mid-September to mid-May. Preparing for a minimum of five concerts per year (including assemblies, evening concerts, and adjudicated [judged] performances), the Boys' Chorus sings a varied repertoire of two-part and three-part music, encompassing many different styles. Boys' Chorus also includes repertoire in conjunction with the Girls' Chorus.

Girls' Chorus // 7th and 8th Grade

Open to every seventh and eighth grade girl, the Girls' Chorus rehearses from mid-September to mid-May. Preparing for a minimum of five concerts per year (including assemblies, evening concerts, and adjudicated performances), the Girls' Chorus sings a varied repertoire of unison, SA (two-part), and SSA (three-part) music, encompassing many different styles. Girls' Chorus also includes repertoire in conjunction with the Boys' Chorus.

Girls' Ensemble // 7th and 8th Grade

Girls must pass an audition to be a member of this group and must be a member of seventh and eighth Grade Girls' Chorus in good standing. The Girls' Ensemble rehearses from mid-September to mid-May, preparing for a minimum of seven concerts per year (including assemblies, evening concerts, adjudicated [judged] performances, and community appearances). The ensemble performs advanced unison, SA (two-part), and SSA (three-part) music at a high level, encompassing many different styles.

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Select Chorus // 7th and 8th Grade

Students interested in select chorus must pass an audition to be a member of this group and must be a member of the seventh and eighth Grade Girls' Chorus or the seventh and eighth Grade Boys' Chorus, in good standing. The Select Chorus rehearses from mid-September to mid-May, preparing for a minimum of seven concerts per year (including assemblies, evening concerts, adjudicated [judged] performances, and community appearances). The chorus performs various styles of SAB (three-part) and SSAB (four-part) music at a high level and performs choreography in conjunction with much of the repertoire.

Senior Orchestra // 7th and 8th Grade

Senior Orchestra is open to students in seventh and eighth grade who play violin, viola, cello, or string bass. Students learn literature in a variety of musical styles. The Senior Orchestra performs at the annual Veterans Day Assembly and Winter and Spring Concerts, in addition to the annual district wide String Jamboree. In May, the Senior Orchestra performs at a Music in the Parks festival. Participation includes small group lessons which are scheduled once a week in a pull-out format. Lessons focus on technique and skill development required to perform alone and with the ensemble. Performances enhance what is being taught in lessons and helps build confidence both individually and collectively.

String Ensemble // 7th and 8th Grade

Students interested in String Ensemble must pass an audition to be a member of this group and must be a member of the Senior Orchestra in good standing. String ensemble rehearses before school every Tuesday and Wednesday morning. Chamber music at a high level is emphasized in String Ensemble. We are also known to play jazz and pop tunes to give the students a chance to flex their musical "muscles." The String Ensemble performs at the Winter and Spring concerts. In addition, the students perform at community events along with the adjudication festival in Hershey.

Symphonic Band // 7th and 8th Grade

Symphonic band is open to students in seventh and eighth grade who play a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument. Symphonic Band learns literature in many different styles and varieties, including contemporary, pop tunes, and transcriptions of classical music. The band performs in four concerts per year, in December and May, as well as attending one "Music in the Parks" festival per year in the spring. Participation includes small group lessons that occur once a week in a pull-out format. Lessons focus on technique and skill development required to perform on the instrument and lessons in music theory, music history, and musicianship. Students draw on the skills and knowledge learned in lessons and apply it to their playing in the symphonic band.

Inherent in the Arcola band program is the teaching of "life skills" such as creativity, analytical thinking, time management, accountability, reliability, commitment, team work, and responsibility.

Pre-requisite for Symphonic Band: Successful completion of the sixth grade band program at Skyview Upper Elementary School **-or-** minimum of two years of school study or private study on the student's band instrument. Pre-requisite can be waived for students with less experience if the student can demonstrate adequate skill to be able to perform seventh and eighth grade level band music.

Jazz Band // 7th and 8th Grade

Arcola Jazz Band is open to any student who plays a traditional jazz instrument: trumpet, trombone, saxophone (alto, tenor, or baritone), flute, piano, bass, drums, and guitar. Membership in the Jazz Band is by audition in October, and the band rehearses after school. Students in jazz band learn jazz styles and music, basic improvisation, and blues scales.

Pre-requisite for Jazz Band: Prospective members must be a member of the Arcola Symphonic Band. The pre-requisite is waived for students who wish to audition on piano, bass, guitar, or drum set as these are not traditional symphonic band instruments.

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