J. T. HENLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL
EIGHTH GRADE REGISTRATION INFORMATION 2020-2021

This packet contains information regarding eighth grade academic and elective offerings for the 2020-2021 school year. Academic course level descriptions are listed below.

**Language Arts 8/Math 8** is offered to students working at an eighth grade instructional level or below. Class instruction will focus on skills and strategies for content, but will also develop and reinforce abstract thinking skills, higher-level critical thinking skills, problem solving skills, and study skills. The goal of these classes is to increase skill and performance levels to prepare students for high school courses. Students in these classes will typically move to Standard or Advanced level classes in High School. Language Arts meets **every day** while Math 8 meets **every other day**.

**Advanced/Honors** is offered to students working independently one or more grade levels above eighth grade. Students are expected to keep up with a rapid pace, work independently as well as with others, and complete assignments outside of class such as independent reading and in-depth projects. These classes focus on skills, strategies, discussion, higher-level thinking and problem solving. The goal of these classes is to increase critical thinking skills and promote competency in high school level work. Students in these classes will typically move to Advanced or Honors level classes in High School. We recognize that some students, although capable of high-level work, need more time and support to be successful in the rigorous Advanced/Honors Language Arts and Honors Algebra 1 classes. To accommodate all students at this level, Advanced Honors Language Arts classes and Honors Algebra 1 classes are taught both as single (meets every other day and indicated by “alternate”) and double blocks (meets every day). The course content is the same. Honors Geometry meets every **other day**.

**Honors Algebra I and Honors Geometry** are high school credit courses.

**Important Information**

*PLEASE READ*

- School counselors will be visiting classrooms the week of March 9th to individually meet with students and enter their elective requests for next school year. Please have your student complete the attached elective course request form prior to the week of March 9th. **Students need to bring the completed form with parent/guardian’s signature to the meeting with their school counselor.**

**February 24 - April 3** Henley families are able to VIEW ONLY (not make any changes) as school counselors and administrators will be meeting individually with all rising 7th and 8th grade students. Henley counselors will notify all families about the registration process and any applicable deadlines. Families may contact their school counselors at any time if they want to make any changes and/or meet individually with the school counselor.

- If you have questions concerning your child’s **academic recommendations** for next year, please contact your child’s **current teacher**. If you would like to request a change in the academic level, an override form must be completed and returned to the School Counseling Office by **Friday, April 24**.

- If families would like to change elective requests, please contact your child’s school counselor by **Friday, April 24** as all changes need to be made by this date.

- We have the utmost confidence that every member of the Henley staff will provide a strong and nurturing education for all students. Because of the number of students we schedule and other complexities, we cannot honor teacher requests.

- If your family does not have computer access, please notify Mr. Eberly and a paper copy of your child’s academic recommendations will be given to your child.
EIGHTH GRADE ELECTIVE DESCRIPTIONS

Elective courses are an integral part of the curriculum at Henley Middle School. The term "elective" refers to courses offered for a year or a semester. Elective grades are based on progress, attitude, cooperation, and effort. This packet contains the course descriptions and related information necessary to register for next year's electives.

Please note that if your placement in an elective class conflicts with your placement in a recommended academic class, we will, of course, place you in the proper academic class.

The electives described in this packet are offered pending appropriate staffing and adequate student requests. Changes in either of these areas may make it necessary to change or delete affected program offerings.

ALL YEAR ELECTIVES

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is a nationally recognized program for students who have the capability to achieve in rigorous, college preparatory courses but may currently be underachieving. The AVID elective will be embedded within an advanced/honors Language Arts course and will provide students with academic support and motivational activities. Students must apply to AVID and meet national and local requirements for participation. Please see the school counselor for more information.

ART 7 is a year-long course that will provide students the opportunity to advance their art skills and knowledge by making two-dimensional and three-dimensional art using a variety of art mediums. Students will be introduced to Art History, Art Appreciation, Aesthetics, Criticism, the Elements of Art and Principles of Design. Students will draw using a variety of media including pencil, marker, chalk, oil pastel and ink. Painting will be explored using watercolor, tempera and acrylic paint. Students will build sculptures using clay, wire, plaster and found objects.

ART 8 is a year-long course that will provide students the opportunity to advance their skills and knowledge by producing two-dimensional and three-dimensional art using a variety of art mediums. In this course students will continue to expand and explore technical skills and techniques, such as drawing, painting, ceramics, collage, printmaking and sculpture. Students will discuss Art History, Art Appreciation, Aesthetics, Criticism, the Elements of Art and Principles of Design. This course is designed for the highly motivated art student. A portfolio is required for the course.

BROADCAST JOURNALISM is a year-long class. Students will be responsible for producing the video announcements, learning and integrating state-of-the-art equipment, and producing and distributing public service announcements.

DESIGN uses the latest Adobe graphics programs. Students will engage in the study of basic art design concepts, learn photo imaging, understand the use of color, use templates, draw from scratch, and develop a portfolio consisting of lessons and individual projects all generated on the computer. Students will also become familiar with the formats of computer imaging such as PDF, JPEG, and TIFF. Real world skills can carry over to high school and give a foundation for possible career choices. Final projects will consist of a poster design contest that will be used to advertise subject areas within the school.
YEARBOOK is the school yearbook. Students will be involved in activities such as selling ads, collecting money, photography, proofreading, drawing layouts, art work, and putting the layout and words on the computer. During interim periods, students will work on various school-related activities, such as publications and art works.

CTE BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP EXPLORATION is a high school credit Career and Technical Education (CTE) course that focuses on introducing students to the exciting world of creating, owning, and launching their own business. Students will learn concepts and techniques for planning an innovative business and living the entrepreneurial lifestyle. Students who are interested in owning their own business, marketing their ideas and creations, and those who want to polish their presentation and management skills are encouraged to sign up.

CTE STEM Design and Construction Exploration XT (formerly CTE Mechatronics): is a more advanced year long (recommended that you've taken Engineering and/or Mechatronics before signing up for this class) 8th grade Career and Technical Education (CTE) course that students will learn how to modify and control the world around them through exploring, designing, analyzing and evaluating the systems of design, programming, and electronics. Students will learn programming and electronics through the use of microcontrollers. Students will use computer-aided design software and advanced manufacturing technologies (3D printing, die-cutting, CNC machining, etc.) to create physical objects. The three systems of computer programming, electronics and design will be combined to create mechanical-electrical devices that are computer-controlled. Students will also explore technology-oriented careers. In past years, we have built and flown model airplanes and participated in the KidWind Wind Turbine Contest. (CTE Verso Code 8463)

NEWSPAPER students will be part of a staff responsible for writing, editing, and producing several newspaper publications throughout the school year. Through the use of interviews, research and perseverance students will write and rewrite articles that will pass through several stages of editing by peers and the teacher. Use of the Adobe publishing program InDesign is mandatory. Students will also be responsible for the use and care of expensive photography equipment. This is your one class where everything you write will be public, accessible and read by the student body and staff.

WORLD LANGUAGES (Most students need a “C or better” average in English courses to be successful in World Language courses.)

FRENCH is a class for one full year of study in French. Upon successful completion of this class, students will be awarded one high school credit and will be allowed to enroll in a second year of French at the high school. Students will develop their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills with emphasis on conversation. Students will learn how to use the French language to exchange information about themselves, family, friends, and community. Instruction is story based and focuses on the development of language through comprehension. Students will also learn the various cultural practices of Francophone countries and how to contrast other cultures with their own.

SPANISH offers two consecutive semesters of Spanish language. Upon successful completion of this class, students will be awarded one high school credit and will be allowed to enroll in a second year of Spanish at the high school. Students will develop their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills with emphasis on conversation. Students will learn how to use the French language to exchange information about themselves, family, friends, and community. Instruction is story based and focuses on the development of language through comprehension. Students will also learn the various cultural practices of Spanish speaking countries and how to contrast other cultures with their own.
ALL YEAR MUSIC ELECTIVES

**CONCERT BAND** is for the student who has successfully completed beginning band and is technically ready to move to a more advanced level. Membership is dependent on the band director's recommendation and the master schedule of electives; scheduling conflicts may arise.

**SYMPHONIC BAND** is for the student who has acquired more advanced proficiency on an instrument and has approval from the band director to participate in this group.

**JAZZ ENSEMBLE** is for students recommended by the band director. The class plays jazz and popular music on an advanced level. This class meets before school (and therefore not listed on ranked electives). *Teacher nomination is required.*

**CHORUS 8** is open to all eighth grade students. No experience necessary. Students learn and use healthy singing technique and sing more advanced harmony parts. We sing a variety of musical styles, from classical to folk, jazz, and Broadway. Singers support each other as they sing solos or small-group numbers. Singers all learn music reading and listening skills, along with creating some music of our own. All members are required to attend concerts and activities scheduled throughout the year. *Note:* students who are accepted into Jazz Singers must be a part of Hornet Choir, Band, or Strings, unless there is a conflict in the master schedule.

**ORCHESTRA 6** is for students with little or no instrumental experience. This option is available for 8th grade students only if the master schedule allows.

**ORCHESTRA 8** is for students who have successfully completed Beginning Strings and are ready to perform more advanced music. Depending on approval from the strings director, students with instrumental experience before their enrollment at Henley Middle School may join Advanced Strings without having to participate in Beginning Strings.

**18 WEEK (SEMESTER) ELECTIVES**

**2D STUDIO ART** students will continue to develop their drawing and painting skills. Students will learn to reflect, envision, stretch and explore their visual ideas, while developing their craft. Group mural painting as well as individual canvas painting will be available options in this class.

**3D STUDIO ART** students will continue to develop additive and subtractive sculptural skills while working with a variety of media including clay, plaster, paper, aluminum, wire, natural elements, wood and found objects. There will be opportunities to work on group artwork as well as individual pieces.

**CREATIVE WRITING** students write poetry, myths, fairy tales, comic books, mysteries, and a silent movie screenplay.

**DEBATE** Students in debate will become better at the business of argument. Everyone knows how to argue, but few people know how to argue well. As you study the practice of debate, you will become more competent at making arguments as well as listening critically to the arguments of others. Both skills are necessary for success in debate and life.

**DRAMA 8** is an introductory class open to students in 7th and 8th grade. Students will learn improvisation, the basics of acting, as well as technical aspects of theatre. Students with the desire to learn the technical side of theatre will also have the opportunity to learn how to operate lighting and sound equipment as well as some of the basic concepts behind stage design. This class will culminate in a production for the school and for the public in the evening. Every drama student is required to attend performances.
CTE STEM Engineering Exploration (formerly Engineering/Technology): is a semester long 7th/8th grade Career and Technical Education (CTE) course that students will explore the engineering design process and real-world problem solving through the use of technologies including computer-aided design software, electronics, 3D-printing and CNC machining to discover their related applications. Students make models of significant inventions that have advanced society. After studying these developments, they explore contemporary technological problems facing them, their community, or the world and apply systematic procedures to invent new products or innovations as solutions. (CTE Verso Code: 8454)

GUITAR is open to seventh and eighth grade students who have had no previous guitar experience. Students will learn to read from traditional music notation at a beginning level, learning chords and melodies. Acoustic guitars will be used, with the occasional electric guitar.

CTE LEADERSHIP EXPLORATION is a 7th/8th grade Career and Technical Education (CTE) course that offers students many opportunities to further build their talents and interests in food preparation, textiles, consumerism, money management, and “Making” in general. Life Skills is often considered one of the major hubs of DIY (Do it Yourself) in middle school, and creativity, teamwork, and personal choice are integral parts of the course. Life Skills implements various facets of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) throughout each unit. This class is directed to students that would like to improve their cooking and sewing skills, be savvy shoppers, and develop more independence. The class is project-based, supports team efforts, and uses technology frequently.

CTE STEM Design and Construction Exploration (formerly Mechatronics): is a semester long 7th/8th grade Career and Technical Education (CTE) course that students will learn how to modify and control the world around them through exploring, designing, analyzing and evaluating the systems of design, programming, and electronics. Students will learn programming and electronics through the use of microcontrollers. Students will use computer-aided design software and advanced manufacturing technologies (3D printing, die-cutting, CNC machining, etc.) to create physical objects. The three systems of computer programming, electronics and design will be combined to create mechanical-electrical devices that are computer-controlled. Students will also explore technology-oriented careers. (CTE Verso Code 8457)

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES Students will learn about how humans impact our environment and how we can make better choices to ensure the future our planet. The course will cover the basics of climate change, ecology, botany and sustainable living. We will be participating in projects which will start at our school level, but impact our local and global community.

MIXED MEDIA ART students will continue to develop their artistic skills while learning to combine media such as wood, metal, clay, plaster, wire, found objects, paint, text and paper. Large and small-scale projects will be explored, working in small groups and individually.

PHOTOGRAPHY is offered for a semester and will provide students with the opportunity to advance their ability to take quality photographs using a digital camera. This introductory course will cover the basics of using a digital camera and related editing software. The history of Photography, Aesthetics, Criticism, the Art Elements and Principles of Design will be explored as students learn how to compose photographs, edit their work using a variety of software and produce an iMovie Portfolio, highlighting their best work. Cameras are provided for this course.

WORLD PEACE GAME is a hands-on political situation that gives players the opportunity to explore the connectedness of the global community through the lens of the economic, social, and environmental crises and the imminent threat of war. The goal of the game is to disengage each country from dangerous circumstances and achieve global success with the least amount of military intervention. As “nation teams,” students will gain greater understanding of the critical impact of information and how it is used.
2020-2021 J.T. HENLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL
EIGHTH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSE SELECTION SHEET

Please read the course descriptions carefully and, after deciding upon selections, rate your desired choices. Please indicate your choice by placing a number from 1-8 opposite of the courses listed below using both sections to create your top 8 list. Number one is your most desired choice with number eight as your least desired choice. Please complete this form by March 9th and bring it with you when you meet with your counselor. Any changes to your course requests must be submitted through your counselor before April 24th.

**Year Long Electives**

_____ French  
_____ Spanish  
_____ Art 7  
_____ Art 8  
_____ AVID  
_____ Broadcast Journalism  
_____ Design  
_____ Yearbook  
_____ CTE Business and Entrepreneurship Exploration  
_____ CTE STEM Design and Construction Exploration XT  
_____ Newspaper  
_____ Concert Band (Teacher recommendation needed; if the schedule allows)  
_____ Symphonic Band (Teacher recommendation needed)  
_____ Chorus 8  
_____ Orchestra 6 (If the schedule allows)  
_____ Orchestra 8  

**Semester Electives**

_____ 2D Studio Art  
_____ 3D Studio Art  
_____ Creative Writing  
_____ CTE Engineering Exploration (formerly engineering and technology)  
_____ Debate  
_____ Drama 7/8  
_____ Environmental Studies  
_____ Guitar I  
_____ Leadership Exploration (formerly life skills)  
_____ CTE STEM Design and Construction Exploration (formerly mechatronics)  
_____ Mixed Media Art  
_____ Photography  
_____ World Peace Game

Student’s Signature ___________________________________________ Date _____________

Parent’s Signature ____________________________________________ Date _____________
PLEASE BRING THIS COMPLETED SHEET WITH YOU WHEN YOU MEET WITH YOUR COUNSELOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 9th.