

HOUGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Dear New Student and Family!

I am Kristen Rundman, the Middle School Counselor. I am glad that we will have many new faces at HMS this year. I know that starting in a new school can be intimidating and you may have a lot of questions.

I would like to invite you to our New Student Orientation on Monday, August 26, 2019 from 9:00-11:00. This orientation is intended for students and parents. At this time, we will discuss specific information about lockers, use of the assignment notebook, classroom expectations, computer use, and hallway rules, lunchroom procedures, class schedules, and other items from the Houghton Middle School Student Handbook.

Sincerely,

Kristen Rundman
HMS Counselor

Middle School Orientation

Houghton Middle School
New Student Orientation Grades 7 & 8
Monday, August 26, 2019 9:00 a.m.—11:00

STUDENTS:

- School tour
- Practice your locker combination
- Find your classes

PARENTS:

- Review classroom expectations,
- Middle School matters
- Get your questions answered



MARK YOUR
CALENDARS
NOW!

General Information

Schedule changes will be permitted during the first 4 days of school and the week prior to the new semester in January. Please be aware that the master schedule may change between now and the start of the new school year. If you have questions about the scheduling process, please contact Mrs. Rundman 482-0450 Ext. 1160 or via e-mail at: krundman@houghton.k12.mi.us.

Reminder to Parents: Please be sure to update the office with any address, email or phone number changes over the summer. New proof of residency is required with any address change. Changes may be sent to kwaite@hpts.us or call 482-0450 Ext. 1090.

7th and 8th Grade EnCore Classes

Choir (Full Year): Choir is a performance-oriented class. The number of performances varies with the interest and abilities of the choir. Opportunities are available to sing in large and small groups and as a soloist. This choir meets every day and is open to all who want to improve their singing skills.

Band (Full Year): This class is performance based. We will have at least three concerts per year. Students will have opportunities to perform at solo and ensemble events and clinics throughout the year. Band is open to any student with previous knowledge of an instrument. Any student may begin band at this level if they take private lessons with a teacher throughout the school year.

Art (9 Weeks): A variety of mediums and techniques used to create artwork will be introduced to students. Projects include drawings, watercolor paintings, acrylic paintings, ceramic pieces, tiles and collages.

CPR/First Aid: The CPR/First Aid class will cover a variety of subject from bandaging and splinting, to certain emergencies and scenarios. CPR and the proper use of an AED machine will be taught. At the end of the course, students will have the option to become Red Cross certified in First Aid/CPR/AED. There is a charge for certification through the Red Cross.

Explorations in Engineering: This course will introduce students to engineering concepts through exploration, hands-on activities and teamwork across engineering disciplines.

Family and Consumer Science (F.A.C.S.) (9 Weeks): In this Family and Consumer Skills class, students will be introduced to basic skills in the areas of cooking, baking, and sewing

Intro to 3D Printing (9 Weeks): Students will learn how to operate the 3d printers. They will learn how to design things using a series of free programs available online. This concept is an idea of open sourced programming and open sourced 3D printing.

Service Learning: Service Learning is a class that integrates community service with academic instruction. It focuses on critical and reflective thinking and civic responsibility (volunteering). Students in the class will be a part of a service project where they will volunteer three times a week in the elementary school during class time. Student will also participate in a large group community service project and develop individual service projects.

Technology 8 (9 Weeks-Required): In Tech Explorations students will investigate what technology is and how it affects our everyday life. This will be a hands-on project based class. Students will work directly with software and develop a basic understanding of how to use them.

Woodshop I (9 Weeks): Woodshop I is a class that teaches students basic woodworking skills. Students will learn shop safety, band saw safety and use, sanding techniques, and basic project assembly by constructing a series of projects designed to challenge the woodworking skills of beginning woodworkers.

Woodshop II –Pre-requisite Woodshop I (9 Weeks): Woodshop II is a class that furthers a student's knowledge and abilities in an industrial woodshop setting. Students will learn shop safety for all tools in an industrial woodshop, and how to assemble projects in a variety of different ways by constructing an advanced woodworking project.

Eighth Grade Core Classes

Algebra I (High School Credit)

The emphasis in this course is placed on algebraic skills and concepts. The content and questions in this book integrate geometry, probability and statistics with algebra. Pure and applied mathematics are also integrated throughout the book. Both reading and writing mathematics are emphasized. Use of scientific calculators is assumed and graphing calculators are introduced. *Prerequisite: Transition Math 7/8*

English 8

English 8 emphasize the connections between reading, writing, speaking, listening, and grammar. Class novels are still in discussion for next year. Students will also be required to read several independent novels throughout the year. Writing will include poems, position paper, informative essays, literary analysis, weekly journal writes, research paper, letters, and other creative and technical writing pieces. Students will use the writing process when working towards final drafts. A variety of oral presentations and speeches will be given.

Physical Education/Health (High School Credit)

This course is a combination of physical education and health. Students may take this course to fulfill their high school requirement of Health/Physical Education. This course encompasses the Michigan standards for high school. There will be periodic tests and an exam at the end of each semester. Participation points will also be used in the calculation of grades for each student.

Science 8

This is a full year earth science course designed for investigations in geology, astronomy, meteorology, oceanography, and limnology. Students will engage in numerous hands-on activities, lecture and discussion sessions, field explorations, and an individualized research project. Completion of this course will give students a better understanding of: rocks and minerals; earthquakes; volcanoes; Earth's interior; a star's life cycles; universe origin possibilities; major stars and constellations; Earth and moon relationship; weather prediction, maps and instruments; fronts and air masses; ocean currents.

Social Studies 8

In Social Studies 8, students will study American History from the Revolutionary War to the end of the nineteenth century. We will study the nation's past and it's relation to the present and future. Subjects covered will include a review of exploration and colonization, the war for independence, formation of the United States government, foreign policy, Westward Expansion, the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Math 8

This course utilizes the enVisionmath 2.0 math program for grade 8. It is the follow up to the current Math 7 course. It emphasizes problem solving and critical thinking skills, while adding in the use of more technology. Successful completion of this course will provide students with a solid foundation for Algebra I.

Classes for High School Credit

We have the opportunity for a limited number of 8th grade students to take a high school courses. Please understand the following about these opportunities:

- The students would be expected to take the full year of the course. Any schedule changes will result in a change of other Core Classes.
- The course will be with high school students.
- **Students earn high school credit for these courses. These credits will count toward High School Graduation progress and GPA.**
- A limited number of slots are available. A lottery may be necessary to select students.

Potential High School Course Options

French I

Prerequisite: *B+ average or better in previous English course.* This is the first year of high school French. No previous knowledge of the language is required. The focus of this course is on mastery of the basic vocabulary, grammar, reading, writing, and oral skills necessary to communicate in French at the introductory level.

German I

Prerequisite: *B+ average or better in previous English course.* This is the first year of high school German. No previous knowledge of the language is required. The focus of this course is on mastery of the basic vocabulary, grammar, reading, writing, and oral skills necessary to communicate in German at the introductory level.

Spanish I

Prerequisite: *B+ average or better in previous English course.* This class assumes you have little or no knowledge of Spanish language or culture. It teaches the fundamentals of Spanish. A four skills approach (speaking, listening, reading and writing) with emphasis on communication is utilized. Latin and Spanish culture will be explored as well. Students should leave class with a basic knowledge base that would allow them to have a short conversation in Spanish.

Other 8th Grade Opportunities

Testing-out of the following core classes:

- Algebra I
- English 8
- Math 8
- Science 8
- Social Studies 8
- Physical Education/Health

We have made available some opportunities for students to accelerate in our core curriculum. This can be accomplished by “testing out” of one or more of the above courses. We do believe there is valuable content taught in these courses. Testing out of a course requires many hours spent learning material independently over the summer. There is a very small percentage of disciplined students who are able to accomplish this. Test out registration forms are available in the office.

Test-out dates for the middle school have been set for Tuesday, August 13th and Tuesday, August 20th from 8:00 AM to noon and 1-3 PM on each day. Registration is due no later than Wednesday, May 1, 2019. Study materials will be available to pick up in the middle school office starting on June 6th. A **\$25.00 cash deposit (no checks) per course is required.**