



Hi KMS Families,

March 19, 2021

Recently, we mailed home our Welcome Letters for rising 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students that outlined programmatic changes regarding honors courses at Kennett Middle School. After careful consideration, please allow this communication to inform you that KMS will continue to offer honors courses that are currently being offered to students. The tables below summarize our course offerings and processes for recommendation by grade. Please note that the course offerings communicated within our 8<sup>th</sup> grade Welcome Letter remain the same. However, we have included that information once again in this mailing for your convenience.

<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade Courses at Kennett Middle School</b>		
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Course(s)</b>	<b>Process for Recommendation</b>
<b>English/ Language Arts</b> (80 minutes)	-Language Arts 6 -Honors Language Arts 6	The placement process involves the following data points: Language Arts Grade, Teacher Input, and the District Benchmark.
<b>Mathematics</b> (80 minutes)	-Math 6 -Accelerated Math 6	The placement process involves the following data points: Mathematics Grade, Teacher Input, and the District Benchmark.
<b>Science</b> (40 minutes)	-Science 6	All students take the same course.
<b>Social Studies</b> (40 minutes)	-Social Studies 6	All students take the same course.
<b>Marking Period Cycle</b> (40 minutes)	-Art -Family & Consumer Science (Sewing and Cooking) -Health -STEM	All students take one of the four courses during each of the four marking periods. The course changes each marking period (approx.45 days).  Family Consumer Science is split into two courses – Sewing and Cooking and are half of a marking period in duration (22 or 23 days of each).
<b>Year-Long Cycle</b> (40 minutes)	-Music* -Physical Education -Keyboarding	All of the students take one of the three courses listed every three days. These courses rotate on a three-day cycle.  *Please note: Music is the only course that sixth grade students and families select. Please see the next page regarding Music selection!
<b>WIN (What I Need)</b> (40 minutes)	-WIN ELA -WIN ELD -WIN Executive Functioning -WIN Individual Support -WIN Math -WIN Resource -WIN Science and Social Studies	Depending on the individual needs of the student, a WIN course is assigned. A screening process is conducted for students who may qualify for support classes such as WIN ELA or WIN Math.



For rising 7<sup>th</sup> grade students, KMS will continue to offer Honors Language Arts 7, Algebra 7, and Honors Science 7 based on the criteria below. Upon completion of Algebra 7, all students are required to take the Keystone Exam. To help our rising 7<sup>th</sup> grade students prepare for their math course next year, a summer enrichment opportunity for all rising 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will be offered from July 6 through August 5, 2021. More information is forthcoming.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Courses at Kennett Middle School

Subject	Course(s)	Process for Recommendation
<b>English/ Language Arts</b> (80 minutes)	-Language Arts 7 -Honors Language Arts 7	The placement process involves the following data points: Language Arts Grade, Teacher Input, and the District Benchmark.
<b>Mathematics</b> (80 minutes)	-Math 7 -Algebra 7	The placement process involves the following data points: Mathematics Grade, Teacher Input, the District Benchmark, and the Algebra Readiness Exam.
<b>Science</b> (40 minutes)	-Science 7 -Honors Science 7	The placement process involves the following data points: Science Grade, Mathematics Grade, Teacher Input, the District Benchmark, and the Algebra Readiness Exam.
<b>Social Studies</b> (40 minutes)	-Social Studies 7	All students take the same course.
<b>Marking Period Cycles</b> (40 minutes)	-Art -Family & Consumer Science (Sewing and Cooking) -Health -STEM	All students take one of the four courses during each of the four marking periods. The course changes each marking period (approx.45 days).  Family Consumer Science is split into two courses – Sewing and Cooking. Each course lasts half of a marking period in duration (22 or 23 days).
<b>Year-Long Cycles</b> (40 minutes)	-Music* -Physical Education -Keyboarding	All of the students take one of the three courses listed every three days. These courses rotate on a three-day cycle.  *Please note: Music is the only course that sixth grade students and families select. Please see the next page regarding Music selection!
<b>WIN (What I Need)</b> (40 minutes)	-WIN ELA -WIN ELD -WIN Executive Functioning -WIN Individual Support -WIN Math -WIN Resource -WIN Science and Social Studies	Depending on the individual needs of the student, a WIN course is assigned. A screening process is conducted for students who may qualify for support classes such as WIN ELA or WIN Math.



As previously mentioned, the course offerings communicated within our 8<sup>th</sup> grade Welcome Letter remain the same. However, we have included that information once again in this mailing for your convenience. Additionally, to help our rising 8<sup>th</sup> grade students prepare for their math course next year, a summer enrichment opportunity for all rising 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be offered from July 6 through August 5, 2021. We are excited to announce a few changes to our programming that are specific to this grade. 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and families will now have more “choice” in their schedule than 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students.

- **World Languages:** All current 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will need to choose their preferred World Language course and an alternate for their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year.
- **Specialized Cycles:** All current 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will choose their three preferred Cycles courses and an alternate.

This letter serves to outline all possible World Language and Cycles options and scheduling processes. We encourage all families and students to talk about these options and make decisions together.

### Overview of 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Courses at Kennett Middle School

Subject	Course(s)	Process for Recommendation
<b>English/ Language Arts</b> (80 minutes)	-Language Arts 8 -Honors Language Arts 8	The placement process involves a point system with students receiving points in the following areas: Language Arts Grade, Teacher Input, & District Benchmark.
<b>Mathematics</b> (80 minutes)	-Math 8 -Algebra I* -Geometry*	The placement process involves a point system with students receiving points in the following areas: Mathematics Grade, Teacher Input, District Benchmark, and the Algebra Readiness Exam.
<b>Science</b> (40 minutes)	-Science 8 -Honors Science 8	The placement process involves a point system with students receiving points in the following areas: Final Grade in Mathematics, Final Grade in Science, Teacher Input, District Benchmark, and the Algebra Readiness Exam.
<b>Social Studies</b> (40 minutes)	-American History	All students take the same course.
<b>Specialized Cycles</b> (80 minutes)	All courses related to Art, Financial Literacy & Entrepreneurship, Family & Consumer Science, Health & Physical Education, Music, and STEM	All students will choose their 3 preferred Cycles courses and an alternate. All courses will be 80 minutes in length which will allow our students to dive deeper into subjects that most interest them. <b>Course names, descriptions and introductory videos</b> for all Cycles course options are available later in this mailing.
<b>WIN (What I Need) and World Languages</b> (40 minutes)	-WIN ELA -WIN ELD -WIN Executive Functioning -WIN Individual Support -WIN Math -WIN Resource -WIN Science and Social Studies -World Languages*	Depending on the individual needs of the student, a WIN course is assigned. A screening process is conducted for students who may qualify for support classes such as WIN ELA or WIN Math.  World Languages (8 <sup>th</sup> grade only): Spanish I, French I, & Latin I*

*\*Algebra I, Geometry, & World Language courses taken at the middle school are considered high school level courses. While KHS credits cannot be earned in middle school, the final grades in these courses are part of the high school GPA and include midterm and final exam grades.*



## Introducing College & Degree Programs + 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Specialized Cycles

### A Look Ahead to Kennett High School:

For the 2021-2022 school year, 9<sup>th</sup> grade students entering Kennett High school (KHS) will be the first Freshman class to be enrolled in College and Degree programs. The **KHS College and Degree Programs** (KHSCDPs) will better prepare all students for the next phase of their educational and professional lives. The KHSCDPs will enhance and enrich an already powerful learning program. Here are some exciting facts about KHSCDPs:

- The KHS Degree Programs not only challenge students with academic rigor in the core content area courses, but they also provide for breadth and depth in the exploration of careers students desire to pursue following graduation and college.
- When students complete a Degree Program, they earn a specialized Kennett High School Diploma that not only indicates meeting the academic rigor of our curriculum, but also the investigation, exploration, and mastery of career-specific skills, concepts, and competencies.
- The certification and internship components of the Degree Programs provide for an enhanced learning experience that will give students a comprehensive understanding and insight into their desired career.

### Kennett Middle School:

Here at KMS, our Cycles teachers are working to expand their content and align our programming to KHSCDPs. We want to **EMPOWER OUR STUDENTS** to choose courses that are most appealing and relevant to them. **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Specialized Cycles** will provide all KMS students with 4,800 instructional minutes throughout the school year in Cycles courses of their choice as opposed to previous school years when students would attend 8<sup>th</sup> grade cycles courses for either 1,800 or 2,400 minutes. We are so excited for these expanded learning opportunities for all of our students.

We encourage all students and families to read through these courses offerings together and have a discussion about which courses will be best for your child. We hope you will make these choices together.

*Note: Although all of our specialized Cycles courses align with KHS's College & Degree Programs, students are not committing to a specific College or Degree Program with their selection of cycles in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.*





## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Specialized Cycles Course Catalog

**Directions:** This course catalog features thirteen Cycles options from which students will choose. All current 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will be selecting three (3) preferred cycles and one (1) alternate in their PRIDE course starting in the final week of March through the middle of April. Here are a few general guidelines about selecting courses.

1. Students may take up to three (3) music courses.
2. Students may take up to two (2) Health & PE courses.
3. Students may take up to two (2) Art courses.
4. Students must select one (1) alternate Cycles course and we will do our best to place all students in at least two of their three preferred Cycles courses.



**Note:** Click on the Course Titles in the 1<sup>st</sup> column below to view course overview videos from the teachers!

Course (Subject)	KHS Connection	Course Descriptions
<a href="#">Ceramic Studio</a> (Art)	Humanities College	Are you ready to take your ceramic skills to the next level? Building off of basic hand-building techniques learned in 6th and 7th grade, this course will allow students to expand and improve individual craft, style and form. Students will explore new and advanced hand-building and glazing techniques while also being introduced to basic potter's wheel throwing skills. This course will help to prepare students who are interested in taking high school ceramics and who are looking to expand their 3D art skills. Possible projects and activities for this course include thrown and hand built pieces such as ceramic shoes, birdhouses and planters, self-portrait tiles, seasonal projects and much more! This course will also participate in community outreach projects including the Empty Bowl project and a KMS tile mural. Our focus will be on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creative problem solving</li> <li>• Exploration of ceramic design</li> <li>• Expanded hand-building construction techniques</li> <li>• Basic wheel throwing</li> <li>• Advanced glazing techniques</li> <li>• Emphasis on aesthetics and art criticism</li> <li>• Developing a digital portfolio to show growth and develop aesthetic choices</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Studio Drawing and Painting</a> (Art)	Humanities College	This course will expand on basic drawing and painting skills learned in 6th and 7th grade and encourage you to find and develop your own personal artistic voice and style. Students will learn about both traditional and modern artists and art styles, all while exploring new methods and materials. An in depth exploration of advanced studio art techniques and materials focusing on drawing and painting. This course will expand upon prior knowledge of the elements and principles of art and design as well as foster personal artistic growth, creative problem solving skills and critical thinking. Students will explore both traditional and more unique methods and materials including but not limited to charcoal, pastel, pen and ink, watercolor and acrylic paints. Students will be exploring advanced techniques and materials that will help to prepare them for higher level art courses as well as to help develop personal style, design aesthetic and skill. Students will create a digital Art portfolio that can be added to and further developed throughout their art education and can be used as a career building tool.
<a href="#">Financial Literacy &amp; Entrepreneurship</a> (Computers)	Business College	This course will empower 8th grade students to take steps to prepare for their future. Students will integrate information technology tools throughout the course while learning about college, careers, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship topics. Examples include: College and scholarship exploration, career research, composing a resume and other business documents, budgeting, money management, and marketing.
<a href="#">Culinary and Home Living</a> (Family & Consumer Science)	Humanities College	In this elective course, students will engage in individual and group problem solving. Emphasis will be placed on making good use of available resources to meet existing needs. Students will have the opportunity refine their culinary skills and add to their experiences with lifelong skills. Students will have the opportunity to experience lifetime skills that will be used on a regular basis as they gain independence. During their culinary unit, the students will learn the importance of safe food handling, basic food preparation techniques, and the basic safety skills to use in the kitchen. During the consumerism unit students will learn that a relationship exists between a simple spending plan and how that relationship allows for managing income, expenses, and savings. That advertising affects teen spending, the importance of planning a budget, banking procedures, how to shop safely on-line, and how to critically evaluate advertisements. Students that choose this as their elective will have the opportunity to take their Family and Consumer Sciences experience to the next level.



<p><a href="#"><u>Family Development &amp; Safety</u></a> (Family &amp; Consumer Science)</p>	<p><b>Humanities College</b></p>	<p>Students will gain knowledge of various stages across the human lifespan (infant, adolescent, adult, older adults, and beyond) and how they impact culture and families. Students will be able to obtain certifications in babysitting and First Aid &amp; CPR. This class is beneficial for job related skills for career paths such as education, childcare, parks and recreation, counseling, family consumer sciences and health services. Students will gain knowledge in diversity of families and the community as well as obtain career skills. Students be able to learn first aid skills associated with many first jobs such as babysitting, lifeguarding, coaching and being a camp counselor. This course will occur in 3 parts.</p> <p>Part 1: Human Development &amp; Family Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical, social and emotional development within the context of the family.</li> <li>• Stages of development</li> <li>• Promotion of healthy family development</li> <li>• Diversity within the family and the community</li> </ul> <p>Part 2: Babysitting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic care to infants and children, what to do during an emergency, how to choose age-appropriate activities, and recognizing and handling specific behaviors, this class can help you gain the skills and confidence needed for babysitting.</li> <li>• Upon successful completion, you will receive a certificate through American Safety &amp; Health Institute (ASHI).</li> </ul> <p>Part 3: First Aid &amp; Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designed specifically for students, this class provides a comprehensive set of skills that may enable you to save a life.</li> </ul> <p>You'll receive a 2 year certification in both First Aid and CPR/AED through (ASHI), and be prepared to respond to a variety of emergencies involving infants, children and adults.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Wellness and Fitness</u></a> (Health &amp; PE)</p>	<p><b>STEM College</b></p>	<p>If you enjoy practicing habits to help attain better mental and physical outcomes, sign up for this class. We will learn techniques to help manage and improve our daily lives. We will learn about healthy eating, building good fitness and all around making healthy lifestyle choices. Half of this classroom will be fitness based and the other half will be classroom based.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Sport and Fitness</u></a> (Health &amp; PE)</p>	<p><b>STEM College</b></p>	<p>If you enjoy team/individual sports as well as staying in shape, sign up for this class. This course will be an active experience and is meant for those who enjoy playing sports and working out. Potential topics being covered includes: Team sports, cardio fitness, invasion games, strength training. This course will occur in the gymnasium.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Foundations of Health</u></a> (Health &amp; PE)</p>	<p><b>STEM College</b></p>	<p>If you are interested in disease, substance abuse and nutrition, this is the class for you. We will explore disease, substance abuse, and nutrition's impact on the body and society. Throughout the year, we will look at diseases from the past, present and future as well as nutrition and its link to disease. We will explore the impact of substance abuse and the implications. This course will occur in a classroom setting.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Band</u></a> (Music)</p>	<p><b>Humanities College</b></p>	<p>Band instruction will be very similar to 6th and 7th grade in that students will be continuing to improve and perform on their selected wind or percussion instruments. With the additional time, the Wind Ensemble will be preparing for more performing opportunities while continuing to progress through our primary text <i>Measures of Success: A Comprehensive Music Learning Method</i>. The students that select band MUST be continuing students. Students in this course will gain more <i>Band</i> in their schedule! We will prepare for fun performing opportunities and spend more time focusing on concert preparation. More opportunities may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play music in the stands (not marching) with the KHS Marching Band in the Fall</li> <li>• Play holiday music at Longwood, the market in downtown Kennett, or the Christiana Mall.</li> <li>• Possible performance at a "Wilmington Blue Rocks" game or adjudicated festival (field trip)</li> <li>• Winter and Spring Concert Performance</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>Chorus</u></a> (Music)</p>	<p><b>Humanities College</b></p>	<p>All skill levels are welcome, no experience is necessary. Concert attendance in the Fall and Spring is required. Chorus welcomes all students who would like to sing music from a variety of time periods, styles and cultures. If you'd like to develop your vocal skills while singing with your friends, sign up for Chorus!</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Guitar &amp; Popular Music</u></a> (Music)</p>	<p><b>Humanities College</b></p>	<p>Students learn the guitar in conjunction with popular music trends of the United States throughout history. Guitar fundamentals include knowledge of the guitar parts, tuning strings, and reading and playing guitar chords for beginning students. Students with previous guitar experience will review the fundamentals and dive deeper into strumming patterns and overall musicianship. The popular music trends covered will begin with music in the 1800s and move chronologically to the 2000s. Specific topics covered within each smaller time period (i.e. 1940s Jazz &amp; Crooners or 1980s Rock &amp; Pop) include major historic events, musical genres, noteworthy artists and their music contributions, and more. Learn to play guitar while learning about popular music trends of the United States! New and experienced guitar players welcome!</p>

<a href="#">Orchestra</a> (Music)	<b>Humanities College</b>	Chamber orchestra will be an exciting opportunity for continuing string students to improve their musical skills, learn new repertoire, and be part of a top-notch ensemble. We will learn and perform music from a variety of genres, including classical, pop, and movie music. Students will gain the musical experience necessary to continue in high school ensembles and beyond. Due to increased instructional time, students will be able to complete assignments and assessments during class time. This group will have the opportunity to perform at a variety of community events.
<a href="#">Automation and Robotics</a> (Stem)	<b>Stem College</b>	Students learn about the history and impact of automation and robotics as they explore mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Using the VEX Robotics® platform, students apply what they know to design and program traffic lights, robotic arms, and more. Real connections to STEM Careers such as engineering, design, and project management are made throughout this course as students work toward accomplishing individual goals and group projects. Students are provided time to work hands-on, building structures and fully-programmed robots. Choosing from project options like race cars, clawbots, elevators, spinning signs, and more; students get to be the designers, developers, builders, and coders of their own project. Students will be able to build, test, and compete with classmates using their built robots. A new project that will be introduced is a full system assembly line, which will be the final project of the year. Students will each build a section of the assembly line. Each project will be lined up back to back across the classroom and the class will compete against the STEM classroom next door to see who can get an object to travel the entire length of the assembly line without falling!

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade World Language Course Selections

In addition to selecting Specialized Cycles, all students will select a preferred and an alternate World Language Course for the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade. Although not all students take a World Language in 8th grade, all students will select 2 options for languages. Students who qualify for a WIN Intervention will receive this course in place of a World Language. Students will choose from the following World Language course options.

- French I
- Latin I
- Spanish I

If you have any questions about these courses, please feel free to call or email. Again, we encourage all students and families to read through these courses together and have a discussion about which music and cycles courses will be best for your child. Remember - Students will make their World Language and Cycles course selections during their PRIDE course starting in the final week of March through the middle of April.

Work on student schedules will occur throughout the summer. Schedules will go live on Skyward the week before school begins. We will continue to be in touch with our families throughout the remainder of this school year and the upcoming summer.

Sincerely with Kennett **PRIDE**,



Lorenzo G. DeAngelis, Jr.  
Principal



Erin A. Miller  
Assistant Principal



Jacob D. Moore  
Assistant Principal