Irvington Middle School
8th Grade Parent Orientation
January 2021
Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Academic Program
- Support Services
- 8th Grade Schedule
- Electives & Selectives
- Extracurricular Opportunities
- PAL Program
- Career Days
- Washington, DC Trip
- Questions
8th Grade Academic Overview
Mathematics

- Math 8
  - Units of Study aligned to Next Generation Learning Standards
  - NYS Mathematics Assessment in April

- Algebra I (Accelerated)
  - HS course – becomes part of transcript
  - Students will take Regents Examination in June
8th Grade Academic Overview

English Language Arts

- Double block every other day with a single period on opposite days
- Assured Reading/Writing Experiences
- Genre-based Units of Study aligned to NGLS
- NYS ELA Assessment - March
8th Grade Academic Overview Science

- **Science 8**
  - Connection of literacy skills between ELA and Social Studies
  - NYS Grade 8 Science Assessment

- **Earth Science**
  - HS course – becomes part of transcript
  - Selection process
  - Students will take Regents Examination in June
8th Grade Academic Overview
Social Studies

- Study of post-Reconstruction US History
- Connection of literacy skills between ELA and Social Studies
- Continued and increased focus on analysis of primary sources as a tool for achieving deeper understanding
8th Grade Academic Overview

World Language

- **Spanish 8**
  - Thematic units of study – Travel, Health, Community
  - Focus on speaking & listening
  - Locally-developed proficiency exam in June leads to HS credit

- **French 8**
  - Thematic units of study – Travel, Health, Community
  - Focus on speaking & listening
  - Locally-developed proficiency exam in June leads to HS credit
8th Grade Academic Overview

Art

- Art 8
  - Remains as part of Unified Arts rotation
  - Focus on composition – wire sculptures, brick project

- Studio Art (Accelerated)
  - HS course – prerequisite for other Art electives
  - Selection process
8th Grade Academic Overview

- PE
- Unified Arts
  - Home & Careers
  - Health
  - Technology – PLTW Gateway
  - Art
8th Grade Academic Overview

Music

• Performing Groups
  ▪ Band, Orchestra, & Chorus
  ▪ Weekly or Bi-Weekly Lessons
    • Rotating Basis

• Additional Ensembles
  ▪ Jazz Band & Chamber Ensemble
Support Services

• Extra Help with Teachers – *Before School*
• Homework Center
• AIS
  – Academic Lab
  – Building Support Program (BSP)
  – Reading Support
  – Writing Workshop
  – Math AIS
• Speech & Counseling Services
### 8th Grade Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Classes</th>
<th>Period(s) Used</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ELA</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>1-1.5*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Language</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unified Arts</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>8-8.5</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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*Depending on course taken*
Student Agency

Student agency refers to learning through activities that are meaningful and relevant to learners, driven by their interests, and often self-initiated with appropriate guidance from teachers. To put it simply, student agency gives students voice and often, choice, in how they learn.

- Renaissance Learning
## 8th Grade Schedule - Elective/Selective

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elective/Selective Options</th>
<th>Period(s) Used</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Earth Science*</td>
<td>.5**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studio Art*</td>
<td>1***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music - Chorus, Band, or Orchestra</td>
<td>.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLTW Elective(s) -</td>
<td>.25 (each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• App Creators</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Green Architecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Energy &amp; The Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Computer Science for Innovators &amp; Makers</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Sample 8th Grade Schedules**

*Subject to application process

**Above required period for Science

***Meets during 0 period
Extra-Curricular Opportunities

- Baking Club
- Chess Club
- Debate Club
- French Club
- Environmental Club
- History Club
- IMS Music Honor Society
- Intramurals
- Literary Magazine

- Math Club
- Midnight Run
- Ping Pong Club
- School Store
- Science Olympiad
- Spanish Club
- Student Council
- Theater (School Play)
- Yearbook
Scheduling Process & Timeline

- **January** - Parent Orientation Program
- **February** - Notification of Earth Science application & placement test
- **Early February** - Counselors visit PE 7 classes with course selection & IPR forms
- **Late February/Early March** - IPR meetings with counselors
- **March/April** - Placement test for Earth Science
- **Mid-April** - Placement process for Studio Art
- **Mid-May** - Letter w/ list of courses mailed home
- **June-August** - Schedules created
PAL Program

- Leadership opportunity
  - 6th grade transition
  - Begins in spring of 7th grade and continues through the beginning of the school year
Career Days

• Occur at the end of the career unit in the Home & Careers class
• Parent volunteer speakers welcome!!
Washington, DC Trip

- 3-Day, 2-night trip for all 8th grade students in spring
- Connected to educational and social experiences throughout the school year
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