

**IROQUOIS**  
**JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**  
**2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR**

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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

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The mission of the Iroquois School District, in partnership with family and community, is to prepare students for an ever-changing world and promote responsible citizenship by providing diverse educational opportunities and effective learning techniques.

## **INTRODUCTION**

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This curriculum guide serves as a reference to courses available for selection by Grade 7 and 8 students in the Iroquois Junior High School. It represents a resource of information pertinent to each course offering.

In planning one's secondary years, it is important to seek the guidance and help of subject teachers, counselors, and administrators. The following material is intended to provide helpful guidance to both students and parents. The information, when combined with assistance from counselors, will enable students to plan their program of study.

This curriculum guide, therefore, is only part of the information available and needed to help you make wise choices. The involvement of your parents and members of the Iroquois staff is equally important.

Your future depends upon the choices that you make now and upon those made periodically as you progress from one grade to the next. We encourage you to familiarize yourself with the contents of this curriculum guide and to use it wisely.

## **SCHEDULING REQUIREMENTS**

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Iroquois Junior High School (Grades 7 and 8) operates on a modified seven-period day that includes an intensive block period for exploratory courses presented in a cycle format. Lunch is a separate period designed to accommodate only junior high students. Physical education, both gym and pool, is required of all students.

## PROGRAM OF STUDIES

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<u>Course No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Periods/Days</u>	<u>Weeks</u>
<b>ART</b>					
1602	General Art 8	8	-	5	9
<b>BUSINESS</b>					
1711	Word Processing 8	8	-	5	9
<b>ENGLISH</b>					
1102	English 7	7	-	5	36
1103	English 7 Accelerated	7	-	5	36
1108	English 8	8	-	5	36
1109	English 8 Accelerated	8	-	5	36
<b>FAMILY &amp; CONSUMER SCIENCES</b>					
1720	Family & Consumer Sciences	7	-	5	9
<b>HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b>					
1801	Physical Education 7	7	-	2	36
1802	Physical Education 8	8	-	2	36
1803B	Health 8 Boys	8	-	5	9
1803G	Health 8 Girls	8	-	5	9
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>					
1301	Math 7	7	-	5	36
1302	Math 7 Accelerated	7	-	5	36
1303	Math 8	8	-	5	36
1304	Algebra I College Prep	8	1.00	5	36
<b>MUSIC</b>					
1604	General Music 7	7	-	5	9
1606	Junior High Band 7	7	-	3	36
1607	Junior High Band 8	8	-	3	36
1608	Junior High Chorus 7	7	-	3	36
1609	Junior High Chorus 8	8	-	3	36
<b>OTHER OFFERINGS</b>					
1112	Content Literacy	7	-	5	9
1120	Testing Strategies	7/8	-	3	36
1121	Interdisciplinary Studies	7	-	5	9
<b>SCIENCE</b>					
1401	Earth & Space Science 7	7	-	5	36
1403	Life Science 8	8	-	5	36
1405	Life & Physical Science 8 Acc.	8	-	5	36
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>					
1201	World History & Geography 1	7	-	5	36
1202	American History & Geography I	8	-	5	36
<b>TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION</b>					
1701	Exploring Technology	8	-	5	9

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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### ART

#### 1602 GENERAL ART 8

General Art 8\* is a required nine-week cycle course offered to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students as a sequential extension of earlier art experiences. The class meets daily for 87 minutes and provides basic art training in drawing, painting, design, and sculpture. The goal of the course is to provide essential vocabulary, materials, techniques, and skills along with an understanding of the artist's commitment for the purpose of fostering an interest in the visual arts.

\*Teacher recommendation for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade elective, *Fundamentals of Art*, is based on this course. Students must obtain an average grade.

### BUSINESS

#### 1711 WORD PROCESSING 8

Students will learn basic keyboard skills, proper keyboarding technique, the alphabetic keys, number keys and symbol keys. The primary emphasis of the course is on learning to use word processing software to create, format, and modify a word processing document. Students will also work with basic drawing and painting applications.

### ENGLISH

#### 1102 ENGLISH 7

Grade 7 English students study composition, grammar, vocabulary, and literature with the goal of achieving proficient or advanced standing on the PSSA Writing and Reading Assessments. Composition study stresses writing as a process and the five elements of effective writing: focus, content, organization, style, and conventions with emphasis on content development. Through the use of McDougall Littell Language Network, the students receive a background in grammar as an aid to better writing. Vocabulary work includes words relating to composition and literature as well as a 7<sup>th</sup> grade vocabulary list. In literature study, a variety of stories are read and analyzed with regard to plot, theme, setting, and characterization. An introduction to the high school library is also a part of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade English curriculum.

#### 1103 ENGLISH 7 ACCELERATED

Accelerated 7<sup>th</sup> grade students study composition, grammar, vocabulary, and literature with the goal of achieving advanced standing on the PSSA Writing and Reading Assessments. Composition study stresses writing as a process and the five elements of effective writing: focus, content, organization, style, and conventions with emphasis on writing style and organization techniques. Thorough development is emphasized in all compositions and lessons. Through the use of McDougall Littell Language Network, the students receive a continued background in grammar. Accelerated students are introduced to advanced grammatical concepts. The study of grammar as a tool to better writing is stressed. An advanced vocabulary program is a major part of the course. Included in literature study are a variety of short stories, which are read and analyzed with regard to plot, theme, setting, characterization and point of view. Certain accelerated selections are on a more difficult reading level and analysis is more in-depth. An introduction to the high school library is also a part of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade English curriculum. Since accelerated students proceed at a faster rate, additional time is spent on enrichment activities.

*Prerequisite: Any of the following criteria:*

- *Recommendation of previous English instructor*
- *Minimum grade of B in Grade 5 and 6 English*
- *Score of proficient or advanced on Grade 5 PSSA Writing Assessment*
- *Writing sample which shows advanced writing skills as assessed by Grade 7 English instructor*

## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

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### 1108 ENGLISH 8

Eighth grade grammar builds on the previously learned grammar skills by studying the eight parts of speech. The function and use of prepositional phrases are introduced as well as verb tenses and subject and verb agreement. The literary studies include the novels, Treasure Island and the unabridged version of A Christmas Carol, short stories, drama, and poetry at an 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading level. Written composition seeks to improve sentence structure, style, and paragraph development. The use of the dictionary, the encyclopedia, the atlas, the almanac, other more specialized reference books, and available computer technology will be stressed in a library unit. The vocabulary and spelling study is at an 8<sup>th</sup> grade level and is incorporated in creative writing assignments. This course is designed to align with the PSSA requirements in reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

### 1109 ENGLISH 8 ACCELERATED

The students are expected to know the eight parts of speech and apply the basic rules of grammar. Eighth grade accelerated grammar covers the function and use of prepositional phrases as well as subordinate clauses. The classics, To Kill a Mockingbird (senior high reading level) and A Christmas Carol, are requirements. An advanced (college prep) vocabulary program is a major part of the course. Having already mastered the shelving system and use of the library card catalog, students concentrate on learning to use the specialized reference materials and computer technology in a library unit and applying this to more sophisticated writing assignments. A more mature development in sentence, paragraph structure, and essays is required. Writing style is stressed. Enrichment activities are pursued at every opportunity to challenge these accelerated students. Students are encouraged and guided to serve in leadership roles in class. This course is designed to align with the PSSA requirements in reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

*Prerequisite:*

- *Recommendation of previous English instructor*
- *Average grade of A or high B (as of scheduling date)*
- *PSSA reading score (Grade 6) of advanced (high proficient will be considered if necessary to fill class)*
- *PSSA writing score (Grade 5) of advanced (high proficient will be considered if necessary to fill class)*
- *Homework completion average of 95%.*

## **FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES**

### 1720 FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES 7

Students are enrolled in Family & Consumer Sciences 7 for a nine-week period. A large portion of the time is related to manual skill development, obtaining a sewing machine license and constructing a personal sewing project. Sewing technique, time management and following directions are stressed. Also included is a unit on self-concept, respect, and responsibility.

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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### HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION

1801 PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7  
1802 PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8

This course strives to promote the health and general welfare of all students. Students will be provided with knowledge and skills that will enable them to achieve a physically active and healthful life. Personal physical fitness will be incorporated into all units. In addition, there will be adequate opportunities to enable the student to develop and display proper group play and socialization skills.

The curriculum will be taught on an odd-even numbered year rotation. It includes: even year - soccer, basketball, aquatics, track and field, physical fitness\*, odd year - floor hockey, volleyball, aquatics, softball, physical fitness\*. Classes will meet two periods a week for thirty-six weeks.

\*At least fifteen minutes of *personal* physical fitness will be included in each physical education class.

1803B HEALTH 8 BOYS  
1803G HEALTH 8 GIRLS

The Grade 8 health curriculum includes the following units:

- social health (relationships, family structure, etc.)
- mental and emotional health (wellness, stress, etc.)
- decision making and goal-setting process
- eating disorders
- alcohol/tobacco/drug abuse
- growth and development
- reproductive systems and pregnancy
- STDs, HIV/AIDS
- communicable diseases

### MATHEMATICS

1301 MATH 7

This course represents an opportunity to reinforce and extend skills in computation. It will help students develop more confidence in their abilities to compute with numbers and apply them to real-life situations. Concepts to be mastered include operations on whole numbers, decimals and fractions. Concepts to be introduced include integers, pre-algebra skills, ratio, proportion, scale, percents, geometry, data analysis, and statistics. These new concepts will be used to help reinforce and extend skills in computation, number sense, and problem solving throughout the course.

1302 MATH 7 ACCELERATED

This course is open to students in 7<sup>th</sup> grade by recommendation only. It is meant to prepare the 7<sup>th</sup> grade high academic math student for Algebra I as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader. Concepts to be mastered include operations on whole numbers, decimals, and fractions. This course gives an opportunity to build on prior knowledge of integers, ratio, proportion, scale, percents, data analysis, statistics and the coordinate plane. Geometry and algebra will be investigated more in depth covering 8<sup>th</sup> grade concepts. Reinforcing and extending skills in computation, number sense and problem solving will be stressed throughout the course.

*Prerequisite: Recommendation of previous math instructor*

## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

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### 1303 MATH 8

This course represents an opportunity to build on prior knowledge and to prepare students for Algebra I. Concepts based on Pennsylvania and National mathematics standards in geometry and algebra are introduced and mastered skills in computation are applied to problem solving. Reinforcement on all skills and concepts is stressed in this course.

### 1304 ALGEBRA I COLLEGE PREP

Students who are recommended by a teacher and pass an entrance exam are eligible for this course. It is equivalent to a grade 9 course. The course includes but is not limited to such topics as:

- application of the four basic operations to the set of real numbers and the set of polynomial expressions
- solution and graphing of linear equations, inequalities, and systems of linear equations and inequalities
- solution of word problems and detailed study of problem-solving techniques
- the use of real numbers as exponents

*Prerequisite: Instructor recommendation and entrance exam*

## **MUSIC**

### 1604 GENERAL MUSIC 7

This course is just as the title describes – a course in general music. The course includes everything from note and rest values to a thumbnail sketch of music history and appreciation through class discussions, active participation, and listening to music.

### 1606 JUNIOR HIGH BAND 7

### 1607 JUNIOR HIGH BAND 8

Junior High Band is a course designed to provide instrumental students in Grades 7 and 8 with the experience of playing in a large ensemble. Some performances that will take place outside of school are a required part of this class. The class meets three times per week all year.

*Prerequisite: Instructor approval*

### 1608 JUNIOR HIGH CHORUS 7

### 1609 JUNIOR HIGH CHORUS 8

This course provides an opportunity to sing together in preparation for performance. Emphasis is placed on quality singing, good performance practices, and using vocal selections in a variety of styles. Class meets three periods per week and is open to any student in Grades 7 and 8 who likes to sing.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

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### **OTHER OFFERINGS**

#### **1112 CONTENT LITERACY**

Content Literacy is a nine-week course for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students, which is designed to further enhance reading skills in the different content areas. This area of study will include focused work on reading comprehension and vocabulary enrichment. Students will investigate the different genres they encounter in their everyday lives and use the presented strategies in order to increase their comprehension of the material.

#### **1120 TESTING STRATEGIES**

The Testing Strategies course is offered to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who do not participate in band or chorus. This class meets three periods per week for thirty-six weeks (opposite gym classes). The Testing Strategies class is aimed at improving students' standardized test scores, enhancing their learning process and improving their daily work across the curriculum.

#### **1121 INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES 7**

Interdisciplinary Studies is a nine-week course designed for 7<sup>th</sup> graders to ensure a smooth transition to the senior high. Students will practice time management, note taking, concentration and memory skills, test preparation, and become familiar with types of learning styles. This course is designed to help students become independent learners by teaching them the systems and techniques associated with good study habits.

### **SCIENCE**

#### **1401 EARTH & SPACE SCIENCE 7**

This required course in the science sequence will further develop the student's understanding of the nature of science. It will also introduce students to the basic concepts of earth science - the study of the physical conditions affecting the earth, solar system, and universe in relation to organisms that have existed and continue to inhabit the earth. The course is largely activity centered, utilizing laboratory investigations and student-centered projects that encourage students to "discover" concepts in earth and space science. Students are required to keep a notebook containing notes and other completed activities. All students will participate in an end-of-the-year project that will test their knowledge on a chosen earth-space topic, engaging the student in both library and internet research along with the application of the scientific method.

#### **1403 LIFE SCIENCE 8**

This required second course in the science sequence introduces the student to the concepts of biological science and the nature of science itself. This course will explore plant cells, animal cells, classification, ecology, heredity, mutation, change over time, and the scientific method. Laboratory activities will both engage and allow students to become proficient in the use of the tools of the life scientist. In addition to laboratory activities, the course will be supplemented with the text, audio-visual materials and computer technology. Students are required to keep an organized notebook of all classroom materials. All students will complete a laboratory investigation that will test their knowledge of the scientific methods.

#### **1405 LIFE & PHYSICAL SCIENCE 8 ACCELERATED**

This course in the science sequence is for students of exceptional scientific ability. While exploring the nature of science, the students will gain an understanding of the concepts of life science (see life science course description) and physical science. Physical science includes matter, atoms, the behavior of chemicals, the relationship of forces and energy, heat, and magnetism. Laboratory activities will both engage and allow students to become proficient in the use of the tools of the life and physical scientist. In addition to laboratory activities, the course will be supplemented with audio-visual materials and computer technology. Students are required to keep an organized notebook of all classroom materials. All students will complete a laboratory investigation that will test their knowledge of the scientific method.

*Prerequisite: Instructor recommendation*

## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

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### **SOCIAL STUDIES**

#### **1201 WORLD HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY I**

This course is designed to help students develop a basic and general knowledge of world history and geography. In this course, students are given a survey of human history from prehistoric times through the Age of Discovery. Later topics will be covered if time permits. The emphasis of the course will be on western civilization, although the Middle East and other areas will also be discussed. Students will also develop social studies skills that will be used throughout other social studies courses. A variety of assessment methods will be used to give students the opportunity for success. The class is a year-long course.

#### **1202 AMERICAN HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY I**

This course is designed to develop a basic and general knowledge of American history from the time of early Native Americans to World War I. Later topics will be covered if time permits. The course will emphasize the United States from 1789-1898. The geography of the United States will be studied independently and in relation to the history of the United States. The role of Pennsylvania in United States history will be covered. Cause and effect relations in history will also be stressed. The class is a year-long course.

### **TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION**

#### **1701 EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY 8**

An activity-based course that introduces students to technology by examining the basic systems of communication, manufacturing, construction, transportation, and biotechnology. Students will study the ways material, energy, and information are processed to transmit information, build structures, make products and move passengers and freight. The class will meet five periods per week for nine weeks.