



Welcome to  
Issaquah Middle School  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade course selection  
2018-19

CHOOSING CORE AND ELECTIVE CLASSES



# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Selection Packet

Fill out and sign the form and return it to Joni Apman, IMS registrar.

[apmanj@Issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:apmanj@Issaquah.wednet.edu)

- ▶ In addition to requesting electives, you will be deciding between:
  - ▶ Regular or Advanced Language Arts
  
- ▶ Before choosing, review the information in your packet and in this PowerPoint to learn the recommended criteria for success in advanced classes. Find the best fit for your child.
  
- ▶ Our district has provided information and recommended criteria which is included with the form. Please read the information carefully. Following the recommendations will result in a better 7<sup>th</sup> grade experience for your child.

# All 8<sup>th</sup> graders take the following:

## REQUIRED CLASSES:

- Language Arts – regular or advanced (1 year)
- Social Studies (1 year)
- Math – CC 8 (Students taking compacted or advanced math have been automatically scheduled into the next level)
- Science – (1 year) \*Students continue on Path 1 or 2
- PE (2 trimesters)
- Health (1 trimester)
- Homeroom

## ELECTIVE CHOICE (You will choose from):

- One year-long elective – Band, Chorus, Orchestra, Spanish 1
- Two year-long electives with Independent Health 8 (see information in packet)
- Three single-trimester electives (see packet for complete list of electives)

NOTE: Students with an IEP, ELL or academic support will take a support class in place of the elective.

**Please review 2018-19 Course Descriptions on the IMS website**

# Before deciding on regular or advanced language arts and electives consider the following:

- ▶ Core courses increase in rigor from grade 7 to grade 8
- ▶ Consider your child's readiness to take on the challenge of advanced classes. Maturity, motivation, organization and study habits are key to success in advanced classes.
- ▶ In addition, students considering Advanced Language Arts or Spanish 1 should consistently get top scores on their report card **and** exceed standard on standardized tests in:
  - Reading/Comprehension and Writing
- ▶ When deciding, consider your whole child – balance is important
  - ▶ Taking multiple high school courses in middle school means students spend more time on homework.
  - ▶ Consider time commitments to sports, music and other extra curricular activities.
- ▶ Choose what is right for YOUR child – the correct choice means a better 8<sup>th</sup> grade experience.
- ▶ Follow the guidelines in your packet and visit the ISD website for additional information if necessary.



# Profile of a successful advanced student:

- ▶ Strong work habits and initiative, and high desire to engage in learning
- ▶ Consistently earns high marks on report cards AND exceeds standards on standardized tests
- ▶ Excellent organizational skills
- ▶ Motivation, perseverance and stamina for learning challenging material
- ▶ Social/emotional maturity. Active participant in all aspects of the classroom
- ▶ Prepared for and enjoys the challenge of the advanced class
- ▶ Prepared to devote extra time to studies outside the school day
- ▶ Willing to accept that grades could be lower than if they took a typical course

# “Full Meal Deal”

- ▶ This refers to 8<sup>th</sup> graders who take on a number of advanced classes and end up carrying a heavy load of work and responsibility during the 8<sup>th</sup> grade year.
- ▶ Some 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are in Advanced Language Arts, Algebra 1 or Geometry (high school courses) and Biology (high school course). In addition, many of these students continue on with their music program and add a world language (high school course). Students in a music program and a world language are required to take Independent Health and PE outside of the school day.
- ▶ Even top students and their parents report that it can be difficult to manage the academic responsibility (homework) and maintain other interests outside of school.

# Language Arts or Advanced Language Arts

- Students choose between Regular and Advanced Language Arts every year during spring course selection.
- Both courses are designed to support and challenge students.
- For success in Advanced LA students should:
  - Fit the profile of a successful advanced student.
  - Be avid readers AND enjoy writing and be willing to devote extra time to both.
  - Take responsibility for learning in and outside the classroom.
  - Consistently earn top scores in reading/comprehension on both the report card AND standardized tests.



# Math and Science

New 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be enrolled in the next level of math they took in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade from their previous school.

For example: Continuing 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be automatically scheduled into the next level math course for grade 8.

- Students in CC 7 will take CC 8
- Students in CC 7/8 will take CC8/Algebra 1
- Students in CC8/Algebra 1 will take Geometry

New 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be enrolled in Physical Science.

For example continuing 8<sup>th</sup> graders will continue on the Science Path you chose for 6<sup>th</sup> grade and has been automatically enrolled in the next level course.

- Students on Path 1 – will take Physical Science
- Students on Path 2 – will take Biology



# Spanish 1

- ▶ 8<sup>th</sup> grade students may choose to begin Spanish 1. See the course description guide on our website for information about this course.
- ▶ Spanish is a level 1 high school courses and are eligible for high school credit (this decision is made in high school).
- ▶ Before choosing consider the following:
  - ▶ Does your child fit the profile of a successful advanced student?
  - ▶ Is your student taking other advanced courses 8<sup>th</sup> grade? Is he/she prepared to take on another advanced class?
- ▶ Balance is important
  - ▶ Students in these courses can plan to have homework every night.
  - ▶ Consider commitments to sports, music, and other extra curricular activities.

# Independent Health 8 and PE

- ▶ 8<sup>th</sup> graders are required to take two trimesters of PE and one trimester of Health.
- ▶ Students (8<sup>th</sup> graders only) are eligible to take Independent Health if:
  - ▶ They are a continuing music student in Band, Orchestra or Chorus.
  - ▶ They wish to start Spanish 1 or American Sign Language in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- ▶ For success, students signing up for this option should:
  - ▶ Be prepared to take on additional responsibility.
  - ▶ Be independent when it comes to completing homework assignments and meeting deadlines.
  - ▶ Be ready to commit time outside the school day to complete reading/writing assignment for Health.
  - ▶ Be physically active and prepared to document 75 hours of fitness activity.

Course fee of \$130. See your packet for additional information about this option

# ASB Officer and Sound Techs

- ▶ ASB Officers and Sound Techs are decided after course selection in March
- ▶ **Do NOT consider ASB/Sound Tech when you select your 8<sup>th</sup> grade electives**
- ▶ **If your child is elected or appointed to ASB or Sound Tech, the registrar will work with you in May to adjust the schedule**
- ▶ ASB Officers and Sound Techs will be required to take a yearlong Leadership class. The class will take the place of another previously chosen elective. For example:
  - ▶ Elective Option 1 students will drop their elective/s and replace it with Leadership OR, add Leadership and add the Independent Health and PE option
  - ▶ Elective Option 2 students will have to drop one full year elective in order to take the Leadership class

If you still have questions, please contact your student's school counselor.

#### OTHER THINGS TO KNOW:

- ▶ Sign up for IMS E-News on our website
- ▶ In August, you will use your Family Access account to complete online back to school check in. Your family will have plenty of opportunity to visit the IMS campus, meet our office staff and see that IMS is a welcoming place.
- ▶ Save the date for our WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) New Student Orientation on August 31, 2018. You don't want your child to miss this fun event!
- ▶ Be ready for the first day of school by making sure your child gets their Tdap shot after their 11<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- ▶ Students participating in sports should get their physical AFTER June 15.

