

2026 - 2027 Junior High Curriculum Guide



Lackawanna Trail Jr./ Sr. High School

28 Tunnel Hill Road
Factoryville, PA 18419
(570) 945-5181

Lions,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year at Lackawanna Trail Junior-Senior High School! To those of you who are starting your 7th grade year, we are thrilled to have you join us, and to our returning 8th graders, welcome back!

We are excited about the year ahead and the many opportunities it offers. From academic challenges to exciting extracurricular activities, we encourage you to make the most of your time here. Take full advantage of all the resources and support available to you as you grow both academically and personally.

The **Junior High School Course Description Guide** is an important resource that provides an overview of the subjects and courses you'll be studying throughout your 7th and 8th grade years. It aligns with the educational requirements set forth by the Lackawanna Trail School Board of Education and the Pennsylvania State Department of Education. Please take the time to review this guide carefully, alongside your parent/guardian and school counselor, as you prepare for a successful school year.

On behalf of the faculty and staff at Lackawanna Trail, we wish you a fantastic and rewarding year. We are here to support you every step of the way. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need assistance.

Sincerely,

Cody Opalka
Principal

Paul Biagioli
Assistant Principal

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Guide to Selecting Your Subjects

.....4

Absent Student Homework Policy

.....5

High School Bell Schedule

.....6

Junior High Regulations

.....7

Grading System

.....

7

Report Cards

.....

.....7

Honor Roll

.....

.....8

Graduation Requirements

.....8

College and Career Readiness

.....8

Social Emotional Learning
.....9

Student Information System
.....9

Online Learning Platform
.....10

School Counseling Department
.....10

Special Education Department
.....12

Seventh Grade Course Selections
.....13

Eighth Grade Course Selections
.....19

Homeless Student Liaison and Foster Care Liaison
.....25

Lackawanna Trail School Board and Administration
.....26

A GUIDE TO SELECTING YOUR SUBJECTS

Before selecting courses with your school counselor:

- Evaluate your personal strengths, interests, aptitudes, and needs.
- Set personal goals with the support of your parents.
- Define specific academic goals and objectives for your 7th and 8th grade years.

Then:

- Choose the courses and subjects that will best help you achieve the goals you've set for yourself.

SCHEDULE CHANGE REQUESTS

Course selections are an important part of the student experience at Lackawanna Trail. Core courses are chosen for you based on the requirements of junior-senior high school and prior academic achievement, but there are several electives that you may choose based on your interests, aptitude, and future college and career plans. Requests for changes in your schedule may be made through the School Counseling Department and your school counselor. Schedule changes are not guaranteed, however, and cannot be made without administrative approval.

Changes often are requested because of a student's preference for a certain teacher, desire for a reduction of course load because of academic difficulties, outside employment, the desire to be placed with friends, or change of mind as to personal preference for course content. Such changes cannot be accommodated. The only changes that will be considered are those that meet two or more of the following criteria:

- A change in a student's educational plan requires a change of electives.
- A student is in need of meeting credit requirements for grade promotion.
- The request is the result of courses taken during the summer session.
- The teacher and/or counselor determine a student is placed in an inappropriate class.

If you feel that you have a valid request for a schedule change, as previously outlined, the request must be made in writing and signed by your parent/guardian. A form for schedule changes can be found in the School Counseling Department. The School Counseling Department will review your request after consultation with your parent/guardian before seeking administrative approval.

ABSENT STUDENT HOMEWORK POLICY

If your child is expected to miss fewer than two (2) days of school, please have them collect work directly from their teachers upon their return. If your child is expected to miss three (3) or more consecutive days of school due to illness or another excused absence, please notify the main office by emailing lthsattend@ltsd.org. Missed assignments can often be collected through the Google Classroom but completing work asynchronously does not count as having attended class for attendance purposes. Students must be physically present to be considered in attendance. The office staff will assist with collecting any work that cannot be provided electronically.

Students will have one day for every excused day of absence to make up work missed. Lackawanna Trail High School reserves the right to **NOT** provide work for students who do not have an excused absence.



HIGH SCHOOL BELL SCHEDULE

Regular Schedule		2 Hour Delay		3 Hour Delay (A)		3 Hour Delay (B)	
Homeroom: 7:40 - 7:45		Homeroom: 9:40 - 9:45		Homeroom: 10:40 - 10:45		Homeroom: 10:40 - 10:45	
Period 1	7:48-8:30	Period 1	9:48-10:16	Period 5	10:48-11:23	Period 5	10:48-11:23
Period 2	8:33-9:15	Period 2	10:19-10:47	Period 6	11:26-12:01	Period 6	11:26-12:01
Period 3	9:18-10:00	Period 3	10:50-11:18	Period 7	12:04-12:39	Period 7	12:04-12:39
Period 4	10:03-10:45	Period 5	11:21-11:51	Period 8	12:42-1:16	Period 2	12:42-1:16
Period 5	10:48-11:30	Period 6	11:54-12:24	Period 9	1:19-1:53	Period 3	1:19-1:53
Period 6	11:33-12:15	Period 7	12:27-12:57	Period 1	1:56-2:30	Period 4	1:56-2:30
Period 7	12:18-1:00	Period 8	1:00-1:28				
Period 8	1:03-1:45	Period 9	1:31-1:59				
Period 9	1:48-2:30	Period 4	2:02-2:30				

Academic Mentoring Schedule			
Homeroom: 7:40 - 7:45			
Period 1	7:48-8:26	Period 5	11:08-11:46
Period 2	8:29-9:07	Period 6	11:49-12:27
Period 3	9:10-9:48	Period 7	12:30-1:08
Period 4	9:51-10:29	Period 8	1:11-1:49
Academic Mentoring	10:32-11:05	Period 9	1:52-2:30

Early Dismissals: will take place at 11:15am. Students will attend periods one through four on early dismissal days. Period four will be extended.

The **Academic Mentoring Program** offered during 10th period is a focused period of time in which the faculty mentor provides a small group of students, with whom they are authentically paired, timely information pertaining to their academic progress and refers that information to various intervention programs when necessary. Academic mentors will also provide instruction relative to academic success, executive functioning, and social skills, in grades 7-9, and college and career readiness (i.e. resume writing, interview skills, college and/or career applications) in grades 10-12.

The 10 period schedule is also used for special presentations and assemblies, such as pep rallies and holiday concerts. Mentoring and Advisory days are advertised to the students by homeroom teachers and during morning announcements.

JUNIOR HIGH REQUIREMENTS

- For seventh and eighth grade students, all major subjects (i.e. math, ELA, Science, History) must be satisfactorily completed for promotion to the next grade level.
- Additional electives are required during the students 7th and 8th grade year (i.e. computer, music, art, technology, health and PE).
- Student scheduling and academic placements are based on prior academic achievement. All previous standardized exams and benchmarking assessments are taken into consideration as well as class performance.

GRADING SYSTEM

A numerical grading system is used at the Jr. / Sr. High School. The specific earned percentage will be reported to parents/guardians and students on the report card. The scale is:

93 -100 - Superior - A
85 - 92 - Above Average - B
77 - 84 - Average - C
70 - 76 - Below Average - D
Below 70 - Failure

REPORT CARDS

Students will receive a report card each quarter. Major courses that run the entire year will be graded according to the following:

- Quarter 1 average
- Quarter 2 average
- Quarter 3 average
- Quarter 4 average

Courses may include a Midterm Exam, Final Exam, or Final Project which is factored directly into the quarter average. Teachers determine the scope of assessment required for mid-term and final exams.

Criteria For 7th Grade Pre-Algebra/ 8th Grade Algebra

- 93% average or better in the last general math course
- Passing/Proficient score on last applicable standardized assessment exam (i.e. PSSA, Keystone exam).
- PVAAS projection score commensurate with coursework and course grade.
- Teacher Recommendation.
- Parent/Guardian requests will not be considered without the aforementioned pre-qualifications.

HONOR ROLL

The Honor Roll will be issued at the conclusion of each marking period.

1. Students will be awarded **Honors** if they have a 87 or higher average with no grade at or below a 76.
2. Students will be awarded **High Honors** if they have a 93 or higher average in major subjects and have met the aforementioned guidelines.
3. Students may not have an incomplete in any subject. Incompletes must be made up within 2 weeks of the end of the marking period.

Note: Students qualifying for Honors recognition in the spring must have an overall G.P.A. of 87 or higher with no failing or incomplete grades. Honors recognition will be based on 1st, 2nd and 3rd marking period grades.

If a parent/guardian does not wish to have his/her child's name published as part of the Honor Roll, a written request should be submitted to the Main Office at the beginning of the school year. A new request is required each year.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Pennsylvania requires students to demonstrate successful completion of secondary-level course work in Algebra, Biology, and English Literature. Students in junior high school may encounter Keystone Exams if they are enrolled in Algebra and/or Civics. The Keystone Exams are standardized assessments given at the time of course completion and are a separate exam to the PSSA.

The Lackawanna Trail School District also requires students to achieve proficiency on these Keystone Exams, or an alternative pathway defined by the Department of Education, as a graduation requirement. Students who fail to meet the proficiency benchmark are required to participate in remedial coursework before being administered subsequent Keystone Exams. Students who fail the exams after two or more attempts will examine alternative pathways, established by the Department of Education.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

The Lackawanna Trail School District utilizes the Smart Futures software to facilitate College and Career Readiness learning, document progress made by our students toward career exploration, and assist them in making their post-secondary choices. College and Career Readiness is part of the larger Chapter 4 regulations for Career Readiness Indicators. Student indicators for College and Career Readiness are reported annually as part of the Future Ready PA Index and ESSA Accountability. All students in grades K-12 are required to document approximately two (2) artifacts per year. College and career activities culminate in a portfolio review in the student's eighth and eleventh grade year. A completed senior portfolio is also a requirement for graduation. See your school counselor for more information on College and Career Readiness and the Smart Futures software.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL)

The Lackawanna Trail School District will utilize the Collaborative for Social-Emotional Learning (CASEL)

framework to promote and instruct students' social, emotional, and academic development across the following competencies:

1. Self-Awareness
2. Self-Management
3. Social Awareness
4. Relationship Skills
5. Responsible Decision-Making

Specifically, the Lackawanna Trail Jr. Sr. High School utilizes the Navigate 360 software and the School-Connect curriculum to supplement instruction in each of the aforementioned competencies. Additional SEL programming may be provided that is not assessed as part of the required curriculum.

STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (MMS FOCUS)

The Lackawanna Trail Junior-Senior High School utilizes data management software known as Modular Management for Schools FOCUS (MMS FOCUS) to record student attendance, document biographical information, manage disciplinary records, and report grades. The MMS FOCUS software is a tool for your use but does not replace personal contact between you and the school. Below are steps that parents/guardians are required to take in order to access your personalized information on MMS FOCUS. The MMS FOCUS Link is available on the high school webpage (www.ltsd.org) under Helpful Links.

If you have previously held a Parent Portal Account with us, click "I have forgotten my password." This is the option to select even if you have your password available. Enter your email address and select the option to generate a new password. Then retrieve the password from your email and login using those credentials. You will be directed to create your own password before proceeding further. Your student(s) information should appear after you have logged in.

If you have never had a Parent Portal Account with us, click "I DO NOT have an Account Registered on the Parent Portal" to set up your new account. Enter the following information EXACTLY as described below:

Parent Name: This is the first name you entered on your summer mailing paperwork

Parent Email address: This is the email address you provided on your summer mailing paperwork

Student's ID Number: This is also your student's lunch code

Although your child's schedule and grade-to-date will be visible at this point, be mindful that your child's teacher may take up to seven days to grade and upload the grade into the MMS system. If you have problems accessing and using the MMS FOCUS system, we ask that you call the high school office at 570.945.5181 between 8:00am and 3:30 p.m. Any contacts outside of this time will be addressed during the time window outlined. If you need feedback on an assessment, you may call or email your child's teacher directly. Teacher email addresses are listed on the school website (www.ltsd.org) and are hyper-linked in the MMS Focus Portal (<https://ltsd.focusschoolsoftware.com/focus/auth/>).

Please note that MMS FOCUS has a fully integrated mobile application available for you to download and use as well. The App is called "FOCUS PA." You are able to use the same login credentials on the App as you do in the web-based version.

ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORM

The Lackawanna Trail Junior-Senior High School utilizes the web-based platform Google Classroom for online learning. Teachers use this platform to communicate course expectations and announcements, deliver instruction during Flexible Learning Days (FID), collect, and return student work, assess and communicate students' progress, and provide academic resources and support.

Parents/Guardians may request Guardian access to their student's Google Classrooms. To do so, please contact the individual teacher and provide them with your email address.

Jr. High PBIS (POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS)

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a proactive, multi-tiered approach to student behavior management that promotes appropriate student behavior and increased learning.

The purpose of our JH PBIS Program is to teach, and model expected behavior in an effort to improve the social, emotional, behavioral, and academic outcomes for all of our students.

The Lackawanna Trail Jr. Sr. High School's motto follows the elementary center's PBIS acronym (R.O.A.R.): JH students are provided lessons on how to be *Respectful*, *Organized*, *Accepting*, and *Responsible* at the Jr. High level. Each is broken down into expected behaviors in the following areas of the school: Classroom Expectations, Hallways Lockers and Class Transitions, Cafeteria Expectations, Digital Responsibilities, Bus Expectations, and more.

How does the R.O.A.R. system work?

R.O.A.R. expectations are directly taught through lessons at the beginning of each school year, and through teachable moments on a regular basis. Additional supports and interventions are provided to any student who continues to struggle with any of the expected R.O.A.R. behaviors. Students are provided with incentives for consistently demonstrating the expected behaviors as part of this program.

SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

The school counseling department at Lackawanna Trail Junior-Senior High School consists of two counselors, a counseling secretary, and a counseling support professional. The school counseling department services all students in grades 7-12. School Counselors are in charge of all academic, college, and social/emotional aspects of student growth & support.

The school counseling department is also assisted by a full-time school-based social worker.

Lackawanna Trail School Counseling Mission Statement

The mission of the counselors of the LTSD is to provide high-quality, comprehensive school counseling services to all students. School counselors are professional school advocates who provide support to maximize student potential and academic achievement as well as enhance their career, social, and personal strengths. In partnership with other educators, parents or guardians, and the community, school counselors facilitate the support system to ensure ALL students at Lackawanna Trail have access to and are prepared with the knowledge and skills to contribute at their highest level as productive members of society.

School Counseling Vision Statement

To provide data driven counseling services that support the continuous improvement efforts of our schools so that ALL students will succeed. Counselors develop and implement a comprehensive Developmental Guidance Program that: Supports students' accomplishments; Facilitates the efforts of students, parents/guardian, school staff, community, and business partners; Attends to the needs, interests, and challenges related to each stage of student development and education; Facilitates students' transition through these diverse developmental and learning stages.

School Counseling Services:

- Individual and small group counseling (short term solution-focused interventions)
- Provides academic, personal/social, and career counseling
- Classroom lessons throughout the year on career development
- Crisis intervention counseling
- Conflict resolution and peer facilitation
- Consultation/collaboration
- Referrals to outside services (including mental and physical health)
- Advocate for individual students and for positive change in the school and in the district

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Emotional Support Services

The Lackawanna Trail Junior Senior High School offers a continuum of support to 7th and 8th grade students in the Emotional Support program through both Itinerant and Supplemental levels of support. Students may receive instruction in the regular education setting with or without a special education teacher/paraeducator. Students in the program may also receive social skills instruction and/or school-based social work, and/or additional academic support with Learning Support faculty, when appropriate. Students in the emotional support program are supported through the use of Positive Behavior Support Plans.

Emotional support students also receive transition services in their IEPs with emphasis on skills for employment and post-secondary education, as well as independent living skills, as determined by the individual student's IEP team.

****Students who are enrolled in a social skills course within the Emotional Support classroom will receive equivalent elective credit for the course****

Learning Support Services

The Lackawanna Trail Junior Senior High School offers a continuum of support to 7th and 8th grade students in Learning Support that includes Itinerant, Supplemental, or Full-Time Support. Learning Support Services are provided both in the regular and special education setting. Students may receive instruction in the regular education setting with or without a special education teacher/paraeducator. Students may receive instruction for English Language Arts or Mathematics in the resource room and may be provided other academic support as needed in the resource room. Structured Study Hall is a class scheduled in the resource room that allows time for additional academic support for students with disabilities.

Learning support students receive transition services in their IEPs with emphasis on skills for employment and post-secondary education, as well as independent living skills, as determined by the individual student's IEP team.

Life Skills Support Services

In grades 7-8, Life Skills Services are provided in the special education setting with appropriate inclusion in the regular education setting. Life Skills support focuses on functional and academic skills. At the Junior High School and High School level, there is emphasis on transition planning that includes skills for employment and independent living, as well as postsecondary education. Out of district placements for transition programming are utilized, when determined appropriate by the individual student's IEP team.

Life Skills students will receive individual and small group instruction in the life skills classroom, as per their IEP. Students spend time with same-aged peers in the regular education classroom, as per their IEP.

SEVENTH GRADE COURSE SELECTIONS

The following sequence of courses has been included as a planning guide for parents/guardians and students. It presents information to you that can be helpful in determining courses that fulfill seventh grade requirements and when those courses can be scheduled.

Note: Some elective courses require mandatory attendance after the school day. Those elective courses should be discussed with the school counselors and teachers to best determine if you can fulfill the obligations of the elective course.

<u>Language Arts</u>	Language Arts 7	Junior High Language Arts, as assigned		
<u>Math</u>	Math 7	Pre-Algebra A	Pre-Algebra	Junior High Math, as assigned
<u>Science</u>	Life Science			
<u>Social Studies</u>	World Cultures and Geography			
<u>Music / Electives</u>	JH Chorus	JH Band, 7	or	Social-Emotional Learning Study Skills
<u>¼ Credit Courses</u>	Music 7	Design and Modeling	Art 7	Careers 7
<u>1/4 or 1/3 Credit Courses</u>	Physical Education (Required)			
<u>Band/Chorus Credit</u>	Students may take a full credit of JH Band or a full credit of JH Chorus. Students may also elect to take JH Band and JH Chorus for a ½ credit each (total = 1 full credit).			

Note: A student who chooses Band or Chorus will choose Physical Education and three additional 1/4 credit courses. Students who are not in Band or Chorus must take Music 7.

ART

7th Grade Art - 1/4 Credit - Required Course

In this 7th-grade art course, students will explore a variety of media, including drawing, painting, and sculpture. They will be encouraged to discover and express their authentic, creative voice in each artwork. Students can enjoy a relaxed art-making atmosphere and are expected to bring positive energy to the experience.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

7th Grade English Language Arts - 1 Credit

This course is an integrated language arts program offering high-quality traditional and contemporary literary selections in both literature (fiction) and informational (non-fiction) text in the following genres: short story, drama, poetry, myths, folk tales, and novels. Emphasis is placed on the reading and appreciation of literature and informational text as well as the writing process. Different types and styles of writing are studied including narrative, argument, and text-dependent analysis. All language arts terms, skills, and concepts as specified by the Pennsylvania Department of Education Core Standards are emphasized, including grammar and vocabulary.

Junior High Language Arts - 1 Credit

This course provides students with developmental reading skills. Emphasis is placed on reading comprehension as well as written and verbal communication, study, and research skills, listening skills, and theme related projects and assignments. Improving PSSA test scores will also be addressed. Students will be identified for the Seventh and Eighth Grade Reading Program based upon Standardized Test Scores (i.e. PSSA, AimsWeb, etc.) and/or teacher recommendation. This is a mandatory program for those students who are identified. Students whose test scores are at or above grade level will not be required to be enrolled.

Study Skills – ¼ Credit

This course will provide junior high school students with the skills necessary to achieve academic success across curriculum in the junior high school and beyond. Topics include but are not limited to: taking and organizing notes, creating time to study, study aids, managing projects, setting school priorities, 1:1 technology, effective reading skills, executive functioning, and academic references.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

7th Grade Health - Mandatory Component of Phys. Ed. 7

This course teaches the care and maintenance of one's overall wellness, which includes physical, social, and mental/emotional health. A wellness approach is utilized throughout to allow students to set positive goals for their personal health. Students will explore ideas of self-esteem, peer pressure, social skills, and decision-making skills needed to overcome these circumstances. Child Exploitation will also be covered.

Social-Emotional Learning – ¼ credit

This course will introduce students to topics and skills that are essential to personal development and wellness throughout junior high school. The course aims to support social-emotional wellness, and student's mental health, while preparing them for academic success throughout their 7th and 8th grade coursework. Topics include but are not limited to: making responsible decisions, setting personal priorities, managing emotions and stress, maintaining healthy relationships, problem-solving, empathy for others, and applied leadership skills.

Physical Education - 1/4 or 1/3 of Credit - Required Course

This course is designed to help students improve their skills and their knowledge of various athletic and lifetime sports activities. Knowledge of rules and physical techniques will be explored. Class activities will directly involve students in experiences related to various sports and personal fitness techniques.

MATHEMATICS

Junior High Math - 1 Credit

This course provides students with developmental skills in mathematics. Emphasis is placed on number sense fluency, and the individual development of math concepts and applications. Students will be identified for the Seventh and Eighth Grade Learning Support Math based upon individualized needs and/or school-based evaluations. This is a mandatory course for those students who are identified. Students whose test scores are at or above grade level will not be required to be enrolled.

Math 7 - 1 Credit

This course emphasizes five key areas: thinking proportionally using ratios, rates, and proportionality; operations with integers and rational numbers; algebraic concepts through evaluating and solving expressions, equations, and inequalities; probability through analyzing data and drawing inferences; and measurement through angle relationships, triangle constructions, and cross-sections.

Pre-Algebra A - 1 Credit

This course emphasizes five key areas: thinking proportionally using ratios, rates, and proportionality; operations with integers and rational numbers; algebraic concepts through evaluating and solving expressions, equations, and inequalities; probability through analyzing data and drawing inferences; and measurement through angle relationships, triangle constructions, and cross-sections. This course moves at a faster pace and covers topics in greater depth than Math 7.

Pre-Algebra - 1 Credit

This course emphasizes six key areas: thinking proportionally using ratios, rates, and proportionality; operations with integers and rational numbers; algebraic concepts through evaluating and solving expressions, equations, and inequalities; probability through analyzing data and drawing inferences; measurement through angle relationships, triangle constructions, and cross-sections; and extending geometric principles to include the Pythagorean Theorem and geometric transformations. This course is structured to progress at a faster pace than other 7th-grade math courses, offering a more in-depth exploration of topics. It is designed to prepare students for Algebra I in 8th grade.

MUSIC

7th Grade Music - 1/4 Credit Elective

The emphasis of the class will be on contemporary commercial music, including different styles of songs, roots of modern music, and popular music production. This course is an inquiry and project-based course that is designed to increase student engagement with the contemporary music world. Pennsylvania State Standards will be presented and upheld through this course of study. Students will be assessed through alternative assessment techniques such as self-critiques and group evaluations. Written exams, quizzes, and other more formal evaluations will also take place.

Note: Attendance at school concerts, outside of the posted school hours, may be integrated into the class as graded elements of the course. In the event of extreme scheduling hardships or situations, alternate assignments may be presented to the student.

Junior High Chorus, Grade 7 - 1 Credit

This ensemble meets daily and is an elective for any student in 7th grade. Previous choral experience is not necessary, but all students must enjoy singing and performing. The Chorus performs a repertoire of unison and two-part music as chosen from the guidelines set by the Pennsylvania State Standards.

- The music rehearsed and performed will be of the highest level, be from all periods of music history and will require the student to commit to musical excellence. Practicing at home may be required.
- This ensemble will perform publicly at least 3 times each academic year.
- Participation in each performance is mandatory and will be recorded as an exam grade.
- Failure to participate in a public performance will require a make-up exam. Exam requirements will be outlined in the course syllabus.
- Grades are based on daily participation in-class, monthly vocal exams, all public performances, in-class assessments, and occasional theory tests.

- Students will be required to attend concerts by other Lackawanna Trail ensembles, either at the high school or at the elementary center.

Note: Attendance at school concerts, outside of the posted school hours, may be integrated into the class as graded elements of the course. In the event of extreme scheduling hardships or situations, alternate assignments may be presented to the student.

Junior High Band, Grade 7 - 1 Credit

This is an elective course open to interested students with a background in performance and study of instrumental music of the band genre. Students without said background may request entrance in this course and will be considered by the Director of Bands on a case-by-case basis. Seventh grade band is designed to help students prepare for 8th grade band and beyond. The course will prepare the students to engage in and successfully execute a musically mature concert band program; the students will be trained in the art of small ensemble music and will be guided towards successful performance on their individual instrument as well as unified performance as an ensemble. This guidance will include individual playing tests, memorization, weekly pullout lessons, and daily individual practice. Pennsylvania State Standards will be presented and upheld through this course of study. Students will be assessed through alternative assessment techniques such as self-critiques and group evaluations. Scale tests, playing tests and other more formal evaluations will also take place. Daily practice is to be considered as homework.

Note: This ensemble will perform publicly at least 3 times per year. Students will be required to attend concerts by other Lackawanna Trail ensembles, either at the high school or at the elementary center.

READING

Junior High Reading - 1 Credit

This course provides students with developmental reading skills. Emphasis is placed on reading comprehension as well as written and verbal communication, study, and research skills, listening skills, and theme related projects and assignments. Improving PSSA test scores will also be addressed. Students will be identified for the Seventh and Eighth Grade Reading Program based upon Standardized Test Scores (i.e. PSSA, AimsWeb, etc.) and/or teacher recommendation. This is a mandatory program for those students who are identified. Students whose test scores are at or above grade level will not be required to be enrolled.

SCIENCE

7th Grade Life Science - 1 Credit

Life science students will be introduced to the study of biology. The major topics that will be covered are cellular biology, zoology, botany, and ecology. Students will apply their knowledge by doing laboratory activities using microscopes, dissecting animals, and preparing botanical collections. Cooperative learning will be a major part of seventh grade science.

SOCIAL STUDIES

7th Grade World Cultures and Geography - 1 Credit

This course will introduce students to a number of civilizations. The main topics taught over the course of the year will include the Americas, Europe, Africa, and Asia. The class will cover the historical, religious, and cultural aspects of the people of these regions, and offer students a better understanding of their impact on the world. Students will also be given a basic geographic understanding of the regions in which these civilizations developed. Map exercises, topical discussions, lectures, presentations, and reading assignments will be employed to help the students better grasp the subject matter. The goal of this course is to present the history and cultures of non-Western peoples inclusive to modern day.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

Project Lead The Way - Design and Modeling - ¼ Credit - Required Course

Students actively engage in the design process to solve problems and explore the role of creativity and innovation in their everyday lives. They work both individually and collaboratively to develop a variety of projects, documenting their ideas and progress in an engineering notebook throughout the process. Using Autodesk design software, students create detailed virtual models and compile a professional portfolio that showcases their creative problem-solving abilities.

7th Grade Career Education - 1/4 Credit - Required Course

Career Education is a one quarter course that gives students the opportunity to explore the various career areas that exist and introduces them to the realities of the workplace. Students will be encouraged to research careers that interest them, understand personal goal-setting, and decision-making patterns and attitudes. They will be made aware of their own personal characteristics, interests, aptitudes, and skills and have an awareness of and respect for the diversity of the world of work. The course has high-interest features that engage students, enhance their understanding, and expand their involvement on the topic of careers with hands-on computer activities.

EIGHTH GRADE COURSE SELECTION

Note: Some elective courses require mandatory attendance after the school day. These elective courses should be discussed with the guidance counselors and teachers to best determine if you can fulfill the obligations of the elective course.

<u>Language Arts</u>	English Language Arts 8	Junior High Language Arts, as assigned			
<u>Math</u>	Math 8	Pre-Algebra B	◊ Algebra 1	Junior High Math , as assigned	
<u>Science</u>	Integrated Science				
<u>Social Studies</u>	Civics				
<u>Music / Electives</u>	JH Chorus, 8	JH Band, 8	Or	Automation and Robotics	Study Skills
<u>¼ Credit Courses</u>	Keyboarding 8	Consumer Science	Spanish 8	French 8	
<u>½ Credit Courses</u>	Physical Education / Health 8				
<u>Band/Chorus Credit</u>	Students may take a full credit of JH Band or a full credit of JH Chorus. Students may also elect to take JH Band and JH Chorus for a ½ credit each (total = 1 full credit).				

◊ Denotes Keystone “trigger” course

Note: A student who chooses Band or Chorus will choose Physical Education and three additional 1/4 credit courses.

CONSUMER SCIENCE

8th Grade Consumer Science - 1/4 Credit

This quarter-long course introduces 8th grade students to essential life skills in budgeting, nutrition, and sewing. Students will learn the basics of personal finance, including how to create a budget, write checks, and manage money effectively. In nutrition, they will explore the main nutrients necessary for a healthy diet and discover where to find them in everyday foods. Additionally, students will gain hands-on experience with basic sewing techniques, learning how to make simple repairs with the skills learned. This course serves as a foundation for future study in Consumer Science, where these topics will be expanded upon in greater depth. By the end of the course, students will have practical skills that they can apply to daily life and begin building a strong foundation for their future education.

COMPUTER LITERACY

8th Grade Keyboarding - 1/4 Credit - Required Course

The 8th Grade Keyboarding course is a quarter-long class designed to help students develop essential typing and computer literacy skills for academic and professional success. Students learn proper keyboard technique, accuracy, and speed through structured lessons and daily practice. The curriculum integrates digital communication, document formatting, and basic word processing to strengthen students' efficiency in using technology. In addition to improving typing proficiency, students explore digital citizenship, online safety, and responsible technology use. By the end of the course, students will be able to produce well-formatted documents, demonstrate improved typing fluency, and apply their skills confidently across all subject areas.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

8th Grade English Language Arts - 1 Credit

This course is an integrated language arts program offering high-quality traditional and contemporary literary selections in both literature (fiction) and informational (non-fiction) text in the following genres: short story, drama, poetry, myths, folk tales, and novels. Emphasis is placed on the reading and appreciation of literature and informational text as well as the writing process. Different types and styles of writing are studied including narrative, argument, and text-dependent analysis. All language arts terms, skills, and concepts as specified by the Pennsylvania Department of Education Core Standards are emphasized, including grammar and vocabulary.

Junior High Language Arts - 1 Credit

This course is designed to familiarize students with the concepts and skills associated with reading. Emphasis will be placed on written and verbal communication and comprehension. Students will learn study methods, techniques of developing report-writing skills and to read to follow directions via special projects. Students will develop good listening habits and read a variety of novels to practice good reading habits. Students identified for the Seventh and Eighth Grade Reading Program will be included based upon Standardized Test Scores (i.e. PSSA, AimsWeb, etc.) and/or teacher recommendation. This is a mandatory program for those students who are identified. Students may test out of the program. Students whose test scores are at or above grade level will not be required to be enrolled.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Exploratory French/Spanish - 1/4 of Credit - Required Course

This course is designed to introduce students to the French and Spanish languages. Students will learn basic conversational skills and vocabulary with an emphasis on listening and speaking in the target language.

HEALTH EDUCATION

8th Grade Health - Mandatory Component of Phys. Ed. 8

This course teaches the care and maintenance of one's overall wellness, which includes physical, social, and mental/emotional health. A wellness approach is utilized throughout to allow students to set positive goals for their personal health. Students will explore ideas of self-esteem, peer pressure, social skills, and decision-making skills needed to overcome these circumstances. Child Exploitation will also be covered.

Physical Education - 1/4 or 1/3 Credit - Required Course

This course is designed to help students improve their skills and their knowledge of various athletic and lifetime sports activities. Knowledge of rules and physical techniques will be explored. Class activities will directly involve students in experiences related to various sports and personal fitness techniques.

MATHEMATICS

Junior High Math - 1 Credit

This course provides students with developmental skills in mathematics. Emphasis is placed on number sense fluency, and the individual development of math concepts and applications. Students will be identified for the Seventh and Eighth Grade Learning Support Math based upon individualized needs and/or school-based evaluations. This is a mandatory course for those students who are identified. Students whose test scores are at or above grade level will not be required to be enrolled.

Math 8 - 1 Credit

This course emphasizes Algebraic concepts including solving equations, graphing and writing linear equations, systems of linear equations and functions. Other topics of study include exponents and scientific notation, the real number system, transformations, volume, and data analysis and displays.

Pre-Algebra B - 1 Credit

This course emphasizes Algebraic concepts including solving equations, graphing and writing linear equations, systems of linear equations and functions. Other topics of study include exponents and scientific notation, the real number system, transformations, volume, and data analysis and displays. This course moves at a faster pace and covers topics in greater depth than Math 8.

Algebra 1 - 1 Credit

Students use letters and symbols to express numbers and the relationships between them, based on principles related to the real number system. Topics of study include linear equations and inequalities, functions, radical expressions, polynomials, quadratics and factoring, and data analysis and displays. This course culminates with the Keystone Algebra exam which is a requirement for high school graduation. A student's academic record, standardized test scores and PVAAS projections are reviewed prior to acceptance into this course.

MUSIC

8th Grade Music - 1/4 Credit Elective

This course will allow students to explore and understand the fundamental principles of basic music theory and study the history of western culture music. This will include an intermediate study of music theory. Major scales, key signatures and interval relationships will be presented. Also presented as a continuation of the 7th grade course is the study of the history of music, with a stated goal of reaching 20th century and modern era music. Pennsylvania State Standards will be presented and upheld through this course of study. Students will be assessed through alternate assessment techniques such as self-critiques and group evaluations. Written exams, quizzes and other more formal evaluations will also take place.

Note: Attendance at school concerts, outside of the posted school hours, may be integrated into the class as graded elements of the course. In the event of extreme scheduling hardships or situations, alternate assignments may be presented to the student.

Junior High Chorus, Grade 8 - 1 Credit

This ensemble meets daily and is an elective for any student in 8th grade. Previous choral experience is not necessary. But all students must enjoy singing and performing. The Chorus performs a repertoire of unison, two part and three-part music chosen from the guidelines set by Pennsylvania State Standards.

- The music rehearsed and performed will be of the highest level, be from all periods of music history and will require the student to commit to musical excellence. Practicing at home may be required.
- This ensemble will perform publicly at least 3 times each academic year.
- Participation in each performance is mandatory and will be recorded as an exam grade.
- Failure to participate in a public performance will require a make-up exam. Exam requirements will be outlined in the course syllabus.
- Grades are based on daily participation in class, monthly vocal exams, all public performances, in-class assessments, and occasional theory tests.
- Students will be required to attend concerts by other Lackawanna Trail ensembles, either at the high school or at the elementary center.

Note: Attendance at school concerts, outside of the posted school hours, may be integrated into the class as graded elements of the course. In the event of extreme scheduling hardships or situations, alternate assignments may be presented to the student.

Junior High Band, Grade 8 - 1 Credit

This is an elective course open to interested students with a background in performance and study of instrumental music of the band genre. Students without said background may request entrance in this course and will be considered by the Director of Bands on a case-by-case basis. Seventh grade band is designed to help students prepare for concert band and other senior high ensembles during their high school career and the progression into these ensembles is anticipated. This course will prepare the students to engage in and successfully execute a musically mature concert band program; the students will be trained in the art of small ensemble music and will be guided towards successful performance on their individual instrument as well as unified performance as an ensemble. This guidance will include individual playing tests, memorization, weekly pullout lessons, and daily individual practice. Students will be assessed through alternative assessment techniques such as self-critiques and group evaluations. Scale tests, playing tests and other more formal evaluations will also take place. Daily practice is to be considered as homework.

Note: Attendance at school concerts, outside of the posted school hours, may be integrated into the class as graded elements of the course. In the event of extreme scheduling hardships or situations, alternate assignments may be presented to the student.

SCIENCE

8th Grade Integrated Science - 1 Credit

This course will provide students with a hands-on approach to learning the many disciplines of science. The course will focus on Physical Science, Biological Science, and Earth and Space Science. The course will tie these disciplines together using the “Nature of Science,” and fundamental scientific theories, to develop the student’s investigative skills and problem-solving ability within the previously mentioned disciplines of Science.

SOCIAL STUDIES

8th Grade Civics and Government - 1 Credit

This course has been developed to give Junior High School students a basic understanding of the functions and responsibilities of citizens in a democratic society. Students will be introduced to the basic structure of government and how they function in that system. The course is aligned to the projected requirements of the Keystone examination for Civics and Government.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

Project Lead the Way - Automation and Robotics - ¼ Credit

This Project Lead The Way (PLTW) course explores robotics and automation by designing, building, and programming mechanical systems using gears, motors, and sensors. Working in teams as engineering interns, they apply the engineering design process to create automated solutions that respond to real-world challenges. Through hands-on projects, students develop skills in problem-solving, collaboration, and computational thinking while exploring careers in robotics and technology.

HOMELESS STUDENT LIAISON AND FOSTER CARE LIAISON

If you or someone you know is experiencing homelessness or is an unaccompanied youth, please contact:

Amie Talarico

Homeless and Foster Care Liaison

Tel. 570-945-5184 x 3044

LACKAWANNA TRAIL SCHOOL BOARD

Mr. Joseph Ross, President

Mr. Eric Johnson, Vice President

Mrs. Tracy Westcott, Secretary

Dr. Michael Mould, Treasurer

Mrs. Heather Clark

Mr. Brendan Dwyer

Mrs. Susanne Green

Mrs. Jaclyn Litwin

Mr. Joseph Strauch

Mr. Matthew Rakauskas, Superintendent

Mr. Cody Opalka, Junior-Senior High School Principal

Mr. Paul Biagioli, Junior-Senior High School Assistant Principal

Mrs. Shannon Kuchak, Director of Curriculum and Federal Programing

Miss Amie Talarico, Special Education Director



www.ltsd.org
28 Tunnel Hill Road
PO Box 85
Factoryville, PA 18419
Phone: 570-945-5181
Fax: 570-945-3832