

# Hasbrouck Heights Middle School



## ACADEMIC COURSE OFFERINGS 2024-2025

# Hasbrouck Heights Middle School

## OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians:

At Hasbrouck Heights Middle School, we work hard each and every day to create the best possible learning environment for our students and staff. We work together as a team to provide a safe environment that is both challenging and nurturing, so that our students may grow into well-rounded, responsible young adults. Our outstanding team of educators will remain committed to ensuring that our students develop the necessary skills needed to be successful in high school and beyond. We will continue to set high expectations for our students and hold them accountable for being the very best that they can be.



As your principal, I promise to ensure a commitment to your child's education that is second to none. We will work tirelessly to support and guide your child to achieve the highest possible academic achievements, while at the same time, develop their interpersonal skills and self-esteem. We believe in our staff members, our community, our school system, and most importantly, our students! I truly look forward to working alongside our Junior Aviators, as well as our parents, the PTSA, and the entire community of Hasbrouck Heights throughout the school year.

This booklet of information has been prepared in order to provide you with an overview of the academic course offerings at Hasbrouck Heights Middle School for the 2024-2025 school year.

Thank you,

Mr. Joseph Mastropietro  
HHMS Principal

Mr. Frank D'Amico  
HHMS Vice Principal



# Hasbrouck Heights Middle School

## 6<sup>TH</sup> Grade

### Courses:

- 2 Math/2 Language Arts/1 Science/1 Social Studies
- Physical Education/ Health
- Art, Research Seminar/Civics, Music, Personal Finance, S.T.E.A.M, World Language (30 day cycles)
- Instrumental Music/Band and Basic Skills are pull-out programs that take place during the elective period
- ESL is offered as a full-year course
- 1 Lunch

## 7<sup>TH</sup> Grade Courses:

- 2 Math/2 Language Arts/1 Science/1 Social Studies
- Physical Education/Health
- Art, Research Seminar/Civics, Music, Personal Finance, S.T.E.A.M, World Language (30 day cycles)
- Instrumental Music/Band and Basic Skills are pull-out programs that take place during the elective period
- ESL is offered as a full-year course
- 1 Lunch

## 8<sup>TH</sup> Grade Courses:

- 2 Math/2 Language Arts/1 Science/1 Social Studies
- Physical Education/Health
- Art, Research Seminar/Civics, Music, Personal Finance, S.T.E.A.M, World Language (30 day cycles)
- Instrumental Music/Band and Basic Skills are pull-out programs that take place during the elective period
- ESL is offered as a full-year course
- 1 Lunch

If you have any questions regarding our programming, please feel free to contact child's school counselor, Director of Curriculum, or Supervisor of Instruction and Programming.

<u>Mrs. Gesell</u>	<u>School Counselor (A-L)</u>	<u>gesellin@hhschools.org</u>	<u>(201) 393-8167</u>
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## GRADE 6 COURSES (Listed Alphabetically)

\*Indicates that the course has an HONORS section

**\*MATH 6:** This course develops fluency with rational numbers and proportional relationships. Analytical skills and algebraic thinking techniques are emphasized. Mastery of the relationships among fractions, decimals and percent is stressed. The program encompasses the development of equivalent expressions and solving variable equations and inequalities. The connections to real life will be realized by verbally, numerically, graphically, and symbolically, analyzing situations. This course also teaches students to describe and classify standard geometric objects, as well



as compare and contrast the properties of geometric objects, make conjectures, and use reason and proof to verify or refute conjectures and theorems. It focuses upon symmetry, congruence, and similarity. NJSLA assessment preparation includes the four basic operations in mathematics as they are applied to fractions, decimals, and percent. Problem solving and logical reasoning are applied to all aforementioned topics.

**\*Each student will have 2 periods of math instruction in their schedule to ensure that mastery of standards is attained. The double period of math allows for in depth instruction of topics, remediation of skills (when needed), as well as focusing math instruction to make math relevant, rigorous, and possible for every student.**

**\*READING 6:** This multi-genre curriculum introduces major foundations in literature to our students, which is experienced through various cooperative projects and novel studies. Students will read drama, novels, short stories, and poetry. They will learn to recognize literary devices contained in the selections, as well as be able to compare and contrast styles employed by authors. Oral fluency is also focused upon as well as comprehension skills. Writing skills are enhanced through journal exercises and multiple writing reflections.

**\*SCIENCE 6 (Earth Science):** Earth and Space Science focuses on the structure and development of the earth over time and concludes with an introduction to astronomy. This course includes units on mapping, plate tectonics, earthquakes and volcanoes, the rock cycle, weathering and erosion, the cycle of water, atmosphere and climate, our solar system, and the universe.



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**\*SOCIAL STUDIES 6 (Ancient Civilizations):** In this course, students study the history, geography and culture of the nations in the Eastern Hemisphere. This course introduces the students to the study of early civilization, Ancient Egypt, Rome, Greece, India, China, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance. Students also will understand how these ancient civilizations have influenced our modern western civilization. In addition to the eight units covered, a review of map and globe skills is incorporated at the beginning of the course with a strong emphasis on the countries and geography of Europe and Asia.

**\*WRITING 6:** Students' skills are developed through various styles of writing, such as narrative, expository, descriptive, and persuasive. In this course, students will plan, draft, revise, and edit their writing. Special attention is given to composition and style as well as sentence formation, usage, and mechanics. Vocabulary, a key to analyzing literature, is an important component of this program. Whenever possible, writing is used as a tool for learning academic concepts. Students develop critical-thinking skills while utilizing rubrics for evaluation.

## **GRADE 7 COURSES (Listed Alphabetically)**

**\*Indicates that the course has an HONORS section**

**\*MATH 7:** Students will focus on the symbols and rules of algebra and how they are used to represent relationships. Topics include concepts typically covered in first semester Algebra, such as translating words into mathematical expressions, solving equations using multiple operations, applications of linear equations and systems, solving systems of linear equations and inequalities, examining perpendicular and parallel lines, and solving absolute value equations. Other topics include reinforcement of reasoning, direct and indirect proof, parallel lines and planes, congruence, similarity, quadrilaterals, measurement, polygons, right triangles, circles, coordinate geometry, reflections, transformations, and symmetry. Students will master skills and concepts through practice problems and interactions within each lesson. Data analysis, graphics, probability, geometry, and measurement are applied to problem solving.

Topics in geometry are investigated, with the employment of inquiry-based learning. Test taking skills and logical reasoning are an important part of this curriculum.

**\*Each student will have 2 periods of math instruction in their schedule to ensure that mastery of standards is attained. The double period of math allows for in depth instruction of topics, remediation of skills (when needed), as well as focusing math instruction to make math relevant, rigorous, and possible for every student.**



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**\*READING 7:** Students will study literary elements found in both classic and contemporary selections, develop vocabulary, and practice reading comprehension skills such as inferring main ideas, interpreting cause-effect relationships, and drawing conclusions. Writing skills are enhanced through journal exercises and multiple writing reflections. Articulation with social studies, science, and writing teachers gives a strong interdisciplinary nature to this course.

**\*SCIENCE 7(Life Science):** The seventh grade Life Science curriculum focuses on an understanding of environmental issues, change, cycles, patterns, and relationships in the living world. Students will build on these basic principles by exploring the cellular organization and classification of organisms; relationships among organisms within the environment and change as a result of genetic information. Experimental inquiry, math, content specific reading, writing, and technology skills are integrated into the curriculum. Students are challenged to think like scientists and to reinforce skills/ expand student abilities through the independent application of scientific concepts using experimental design. Our goal in science is to prepare students for the rapidly changing future while mastering the Standards of Learning.

**\*SOCIAL STUDIES 7 (Civics/Government/Constitution):** Students will examine the roles that citizens play in the political, governmental, and economic systems in the United States. They will examine the Constitution of the United States; identify the rights, duties, and responsibilities of citizens, and describe the structure and operation of government at the local, state, and national levels. Students will investigate the process by which decisions are made in the American market economy and explain the government's role in it. They will identify personal character traits, such as patriotism, respect for the law, and a sense of civic duty, that facilitate thoughtful and effective participation in the civic life of an increasingly diverse democratic society.

**\*WRITING 7:** Students' skills are developed through various styles of writing, such as observation and description, informative writing, persuasion and cause and effect (explaining how). Students practice oral and written exercises that stress grammar and punctuation and the use of figurative language. Vocabulary is an important component of this program. The students will fine tune their grammar and spelling skills during the writing process. Students will develop critical-thinking skills while utilizing rubrics for evaluation.



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## GRADE 8 COURSES (Listed Alphabetically)

*\*Indicates that the course has an HONORS section*

**\*ALGEBRA I (Honors):** This course teaches students to develop fluency in working with linear equations as well as extending their experiences with tables, graphs, and equations to solve linear equations and inequalities and systems of linear equations and inequalities. The curriculum of Algebra 1 ensures that students use technology and models to investigate and explore mathematical ideas and relationships and develop multiple strategies for analyzing complex situations. Students will analyze situations verbally, numerically, graphically, and symbolically.

**\*LANGUAGE ARTS 8:** Students plan, draft, revise and edit writing with emphasis on personal and expressive writing, narrative and literary writing, informative writing, and persuasive writing. The writing process offers additional opportunities to practice advanced composition and grammar skills. In literature, students develop the skills necessary to analyze works of literature in various forms. The primary focus is the understanding of structure and story. Students are instructed in the various elements of plot and character development and are given numerous opportunities to analyze how and why stories and other literary forms unfold. Students develop skills to recognize subtleties planted by an author and understand why events are taking place in a literary piece. Students learn to extrapolate meaning from symbolic references and utilize higher level thinking skills to draw conclusions about meaning, moral, and theme.

**\*MATH 8:** Students will focus on the symbols and rules of algebra and how they are used to represent relationships. Topics include concepts typically covered in first semester algebra, such as translating words into mathematical expressions, solving equations using multiple operations, applications of linear equations and systems, solving systems of linear equations and inequalities, examining perpendicular and parallel lines, and solving absolute value equations. Students master skills and concepts through practice problems and interactions within every lesson. Topics in geometry are investigated, with the employment of inquiry-based learning and include data analysis, graphics, probability, geometry, and measurement. Test taking skills and logical reasoning are an important part of this curriculum.

\*Each student will have 2 periods of math instruction in their schedule to ensure that mastery of standards is attained. The double period of math allows for in depth instruction of topics, remediation of skills (when needed), as well as focusing math instruction to make math relevant, rigorous, and possible for every student. (\*The Honors section will focus on several Algebra 1 Units.)



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**\*SCIENCE 8 (Physical Science):** In this course, introductory concepts of nature and the structure of matter are studied, along with the characteristics of energy. Considerable emphasis is placed on technological application and laboratory investigation of physical science principles. This course stresses an in-depth understanding of the nature and structure of matter and the characteristics of energy. Students are given responsibility to plan and to conduct research through classroom experimentation. Students are challenged to use scientific techniques and procedures to reinforce skills and to apply physical science concepts by conducting appropriate experiments. Physical Science students will be challenged to learn, to research, utilizing both classroom experimentation and literature reviews from written and electronic resources. The course includes units on properties and structures of matter, the periodic table of elements, chemical reactions, electromagnetism, sound and light, Newton's Laws, and simple machines.

**\*SOCIAL STUDIES 8 (US History):** In this course, students will begin learning about the expansion of political rights and how Andrew Jackson's election indicated the increased power of the American people. Students will then learn about the expansion of the United States as settlers braved difficult trails to reach Oregon and California. This course also includes an in-depth look at the Industrial Revolution and its impact on both the North and South. Students will learn how the United States developed through a wave of immigration and also how in the mid-1800s tensions between the North and South heightened over slavery. These tensions were increased by political divisions that culminated in 1860 with the election of Abraham Lincoln. As a result, several Southern states seceded from the Union. Students will study the Civil War and complete the year with learning about the challenges of Reconstruction Era. The United States faced two major challenges; to reunite the country and to define the rights of African Americans. In 1865, the 13th Amendment ended slavery in America.



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## ***GRADE 6-8 ELECTIVE COURSES (Listed Alphabetically)***

**ART Grades 6-8:** Students will be given the opportunity to create various projects that they can be proud of, while at the same time learning valuable aspects of creativity and art. The course will focus on the basic elements of design including; line, value, space, shape, and texture. Students will also obtain foundation knowledge of a series of different artistic mediums. Course work will include symmetrical design, pattern and shape drawings, as well as watercolor paintings. Both two dimensional and three dimensional works will be explored, and students will be asked to complete a number of projects that follow detailed steps, familiarizing them with techniques that will be used in higher level art classes. The students in this class will explore different art mediums, progress their artistic ability, and have a firm understanding of what art class has to offer them. This program can help students see the world with an aesthetic frame of reference; building on the concepts of form, color, shape and light in their surroundings. Students will have the opportunity to recognize that there are multiple solutions to problems, and that they can express their own individuality in their work in a way that many other subjects do not provide.

**DANCE Grades 6-8:** The dance curriculum provides activities that foster creative expression, communication through artistic endeavor, appreciation of culture and heritage, and evaluative and critical thinking using the art of dance. Activities may include those that enable students to develop their technique, learn different styles of dance, appreciate the culture and history of dance forms, and strengthen the ability to discern and critique.

**RESEARCH SEMINAR Grades 6-8:** We use digital media every day, from texting, streaming TV shows, and gaming all the way to using voice assistants or ordering our food online. For today's kids, it's a lot more than just "screen time." So how can we help students balance their online and offline lives? It starts with recognizing just how much media we use. During this elective, students will explore Research Seminar through the lenses of media balance and well-being, relationships and communication, cyberbullying, digital drama, and hate speech, and news and media literacy. The goal of this work is to provide students with the tools necessary to become educated in using technology and media in a safe and effective way. This will also assist students in the next phase of the course incorporating research and a culminating project involving media. For the research project, students will acquire the skills needed to be active, informed citizens who value diversity and promote cultural understanding by working collaboratively to address the challenges that are inherent in living in an interconnected world. Through research, students will develop projects that show an in-depth understanding of a global topic.



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**HEALTH/FAMILY LIFE Grades 6-8:** The Health Curriculum is designed to teach students the information and skills they need to maintain and improve health, prevent disease, and reduce health-related risk behaviors. Students will develop critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills. In addition, the students will demonstrate good character and behaviors that promote a healthy individual, family, community, and nation. Upon completion, students will ascertain knowledge and skills in the following health related areas: mental, emotional, family, and social health; growth and nutrition; personal health and safety, drugs and disease prevention; community and environmental health. Seventh grade topics studied include personal and social development; nutrition and eating behaviors, mental health and stress management; violence prevention; health services and careers; and safety. Within each topic, activities are provided for students to develop an understanding of fundamental health concepts and to promote health-enhancing behaviors. Areas of emphasis are in nutrition, safety awareness, suicide prevention, endocrine and reproductive health, as well as understanding the individual and societal effect of tobacco. Students also study topics such as physiology of the human body, individual responsibility to self, family, friends, and community and drug education. In the eighth grade year, the curriculum was constructed to provide students with the resources to make safe, conscientious choices in the areas of sexuality and drug abuse prevention. The importance of remaining drug free and the dangers of use, misuse, and abuse of substances is emphasized. Additional units in personality, personal relationships and safe dating, as well as an examination of lifestyle diseases, basic first aid and suicide prevention are presented to eighth graders preparing for high school.

**INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC/BAND Grades 6-8:** By means of hands-on experience, students learn the basics of playing a musical instrument. Instruments for student selection include flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, or trombone. In addition to weekly instrumental music instruction, students will have an additional pull-out period during the week to enhance their musical abilities. The students also learn instrument assembly and care, as well as posture, tone-production and technique. The elements of music, including all elements of notation as well as pitch, rhythm, dynamics, and articulation are taught.

**MUSIC APPRECIATION Grades 6-8:** Students will be introduced to the different genres of music, composers, and artists throughout time. Students will have the opportunity to trace the history of music and learn the various aspects from basic functional theory to performance and compositions of music. Issues of music in world cultures and society will also be a component of the course. Music appreciation will explore the creative process, the historical and cultural nature of music, performance, and aesthetic responses and critique methodologies.



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**PERSONAL FINANCE Grades 6-8:** In this course, students will learn the skills they need to truly be adaptable, reflective, and proactive in life and careers. Students will understand the important fiscal knowledge, habits, and skills that must be mastered in order to make informed decisions about personal finance. Financial literacy is an integral component of a student's college and career readiness, enabling students to achieve fulfilling, financially-secure, and successful careers. The curriculum will focus on aspects of financial literacy including income and careers; money management; credit and debt management; planning, saving and investing; becoming a critical consumer; civic financial responsibility; and insuring and protecting ones' finances.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION Grades 6-8:** The program for grade 6 introduces students to a variety of games and activities that develop physical and social skills that can be continued in later years. Emphasis in this course is placed on maximum participation by each student. Opportunities for leadership and decision-making are provided to the students. Emphasis is given to Fitness using The Presidential Physical Fitness test which is given twice a year. This course represents an orientation period in which students are exposed to a wide variety of physical education activities. Skills are taught through various games and sports where large numbers of students may participate. In Physical Education 8, skills and knowledge of rules are stressed with competitive learning strategies in football, basketball, volleyball, soccer, softball, and overall fitness.



**S.T.E.A.M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Music):** In conjunction with the South Bergen Jointure Commission, this course will provide an educational approach to learning that utilizes Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking. The principles of technology and the forces and laws of nature will be studied, with an emphasis on their application to modern technology. Equilibrium, motion, momentum, energy conversion, electromagnetism, and optical phenomena are presented in the context of current, real-world applications. Demonstrations, math labs, and applied laboratory experiments are an integral part of the Principles of Technology curriculum.

**WORLD LANGUAGE: Grades 6-8:** In grade 6, this course provides an introductory experience into world language. As students move from grade 6 to grade 8 they move from introductory language acquisition to conversational with emphasis placed on grammar. Key words and expressions are emphasized and activities involve the spoken and written language. Highlights of the cultures of countries in which these languages are spoken are also a part of the students' learning experience.



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## GRADE 6-8 ADDITIONAL SUPPORT COURSES

**ESL Grades 6-8:** The fundamentals of speaking, reading, writing, and understanding English will be stressed within this course. It is taken by students who do not meet established criteria on the Access for ELLs Assessment or from those whose native language is one other than English. Student placement and continuation within this program is based on an annual screening.

**BASIC SKILLS Grades 6-8:** Our basic skills instruction responds to a need to strengthen reading, writing, and mathematical skills of students who are struggling to meet grade level expectations. Students receive additional instruction to learn skills and strategies within the General Education program to help them achieve success. This supplemental program recognizes individual learning differences and strives to build students' competence and confidence.

