



Hamilton Township School District

William Davies Middle School

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Stephen P. Santilli

Lead Learner

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

The 8th Grade "Related Arts Talented Choice" program will again be offered during the 2015-2016 school year. Curriculum will be provided in our related arts cycle for students to increase their learning time in one of the following areas: Graphic Arts, Traditional Art, Band, Choir, Literacy and Media Technology, S.T.E.M. or World Language (Spanish). Financial Literacy will also be extended to 8th grade, but it will be implemented as a project-based independent study (see the related arts summary). Students will be afforded the opportunity to take three marking periods of one of the classes. All students will still need to take one marking period of World Language as required by State Law. Students who choose World Language will take four marking periods of this subject.

Related Arts teachers recently reviewed the program options within their classes. While all students will be given the opportunity to list their top 3 choices, it is recommended that each student consider building on the foundation that was developed in their current Related Arts course as they make their selections for 8th grade. Even though your child will still be asked to list their top 3 choices, they will be given precedence based on continuing with the same Related Arts course. However, if requesting a new course, it cannot be guaranteed due to program space and demand. Students are encouraged to make their choices carefully, and consider their interests and talents when choosing their Related Arts program. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's guidance counselor.

Respectfully,

Stephen P. Santilli

Stephen P. Santilli
Lead Learner (Principal)



All Children Can Learn! All Children Can Succeed!

RECIPIENT OF NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON AWARD, NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAR SCHOOL AND BEST PRACTICE AWARDS

Arts:

Graphic Arts

Students gain knowledge of concepts and techniques used in the field of graphic arts. The 7th grade course will serve as an introduction to graphic design, and the 8th grade course will focus on graphic arts as a career option. The content should include, but not be limited to effectively using the elements and principles of design, understanding of visual communication through the development of a product and developing proficiency in illustration techniques. Projects will use a combination of technology and traditional media.

Fine Arts

Students taking the Visual Arts 8th grade course will have art for three marking periods. Students taking this course will have completed the Visual Arts Intro course and should be interested in continued study. Students will continue to use the Elements (Line, Form, Color, Value, and Texture) and Principles of Design (Balance, Rhythm, Variety, Harmony, and Emphasis) to develop a higher proficiency of skills, which will build on previous knowledge. This course will allow for further exploration of various media in the student's interest, as well as exploration with new ones. There will also be an introduction to art careers.

Performing Arts:

Band

Band class is for students who are willing play a brass, woodwind, percussion, or string instrument. Along with playing a variety of concert band music, students will also learn music theory, music history, and have the opportunity to explore creative opportunities with music technology. All Band members will automatically be signed up for the weekly Instrumental Lesson Program. Students with exemplary playing ability will be offered the opportunity to audition for the Region III Honors Band and for Atlantic County Teen Arts. Students will also have the opportunity to audition for the annual Performing Arts Night held each March. Band and Choir members are offered numerous performance opportunities outside of the school as members of the music ensembles. All members are expected to attend after school rehearsals and perform in the annual Holiday and Spring Concerts. Band and Choir members are eligible for special achievement awards as part of the 8th Grade Honors Awards Ceremony. (Please note that students are required to utilize and maintain their own instruments or rent an instrument through the Davies' School Music Program when applicable.)

Show Choir

The Show Choir class is for students who demonstrate an accomplished singing ability. Along with singing a variety of choral music in Classical, Jazz, Broadway, and Contemporary styles, students will also learn music theory, music history, and have the opportunity to explore creative opportunities with music technology. Choir members learn correct vocal technique as well as ear training and sight-singing. Students with exemplary singing ability will have the opportunity to audition for the Region III Honors Choir and for Atlantic County Teen Arts. Students will also be offered the opportunity to audition for the annual Performing Arts Night held each March. Band and Choir members are offered numerous performance opportunities outside of the school as members of the music ensembles. All members are expected to attend after school rehearsals and perform in the annual Holiday and Spring Concerts. Band and Choir members are eligible for special achievement awards as part of the 8th Grade Honors Awards Ceremony.

Business/Mathematics:

Financial Literacy

Financial Literacy in 8th grade will be offered as an independent study with appropriate guidance offered by staff. The class will take place in the IMC. Students will complete independent and group work during the three marking periods. Assignments will be problem-based or project-based which are grounded in real world scenarios. During the course, students will cover topics such as opening your own business, investing, credit, saving for retirement and ways to pay for college. A variety of resources such as guest speakers, chromebooks/iPads, green screen/video editing, and real world data will be utilized throughout the course.

Technology:

S.T.E.M.

S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics) class will study the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Gateway to Technology curriculum for three marking periods. Students will get rigorous and relevant experiences through activity-, project-, and problem-based learning. They will use industry-leading technology to solve problems while gaining skills in communication, collaboration, critical-thinking, and creativity. In the Design & Modeling unit, the students will apply the design process to develop unique solutions including 3-D printing. In the Automation & Robotics unit, the students will use the VEX Robotics platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms. PLTW offers world-class curriculum, high-quality professional development, as well as an engaged network of educators and corporate partners, which will help students develop the 21st Century Life and Career skills needed to be successful.

Literacy and Media Technology

Literacy and Media Technology (LMT) is a project-based course that utilizes 21st Century Technology skills to create digital projects. Over the three marking periods, students will have the opportunity to create individual and group projects using different software and Web 2.0 Tools. Although 8th grade LMT builds on previous knowledge, participation in LMT for 7th grade is NOT a requirement. Students will continue to develop some of their basic technology skills such as, Website Creation, Coding and Programming, Digital Publishing and Storytelling, Online Research, Computer Aided Design, and Photo/ Video Editing. In addition, 8th grade LMT students will expand into other areas such as Safe Social Networking, Desktop Publishing (WDMS Yearbook), and producing the annual 'Lip Dub.' Students can expect to become familiar with Google Apps for Education, Scratch, Voki, Google SketchUp and Google Earth, MinecraftEDU, and several digital publishing tools.

Foreign Language:

World Language (Spanish)

The choice of World Language is a 4 marking period commitment. Students will build vocabulary thematically as well as improve skills in speaking and writing in Spanish. Basic question and answer conversations pertaining to real life scenarios will be the focus in seventh grade. These topics will be extended in eighth grade to include reflexive, preterite, and imperfect verb tenses. Most students will enter Spanish 2 in high school.