

HORIZON MIDDLE SCHOOL

COURSE DESCRIPTION BOOK



Grades 6 - 7 - 8

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INTRODUCTION

This book reflects the information and skills that are the basis for the curriculum of Horizon Middle School. The classes vary from the basic skills emphasized in the team core classes to the exploratory/elective experiences. The goal is to expose the middle level student to a wide range of topics in hopes of expanding their interests.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission: Creating an environment that fosters mutual respect, inspires the love of learning, and expects excellence from all.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT: READING AND WRITING GOALS

Our goal at Horizon Middle School is to focus on student learning. Presently we have school goals in the areas of reading and writing.

Our reading goal is for students to apply strategies to help anchor comprehension. Students are taught these strategies by all teachers throughout the year.

Our writing goal focuses students on the practice of good writing, which includes correct grammar, punctuation, complete sentences, accurate spelling, and content related vocabulary.

QUALITY TIME

Quality Time is the advisor/advisee program at Horizon Middle School in which a small group of students from the same grade level meet with the same advisor every day. Quality Time strives to develop a positive attitude in each student. The program emphasizes a feeling of dignity and worth of the student as an individual. A variety of units are taught in Quality Time to help the students deal with the many changes in their lives during these middle level years.

TEAMING

Students at Horizon Middle School are assigned to a team of four teachers. The benefits of teaming are constant communication between a student's teachers, increased awareness of each student's needs, and consistency and structure within the core. Teachers are able to actively seek experiences within their individual curriculum which, when combined with the other curriculum, results in a richer experience for students.

EXPLORATORY

Exploratories are an integral part of education. Students are exposed to and participate in exploratories that extend the curriculum, provide significant learning experiences for youth, and develop positive lifestyles.

The exploratory program will provide opportunities for students to organize and plan, to assume leadership roles, to gain recognition and identity, and to mature academically, physically, emotionally and socially.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION: A.E.

This program will assist students who need a more structured and more personalized educational environment. Students may be placed on a temporary or long-term basis for a variety of reasons when the team teachers, administration, and parents agree on their placement. The setting will provide each student with a learning opportunity through individualized instruction focusing on the student's academic, social, and emotional development. Alternative Education gives a student the chance to realize success, while enhancing their motivation and feelings of self-worth, which are essential in a student's healthy development.

CORRECTIVE READING

The Corrective Reading program is a supplemental program for students who are below grade level in reading. These students are given a placement test to identify the appropriate Corrective Reading level. This independent placement assures that the material students read is appropriate for their skill levels.

RESOURCE LEVEL II

Resource II is a class provided for any student with a verified condition as determined by a multidisciplinary team. Students receive assistance in their academic classes, work on goals that address their needs, and begin developing transition skills. Individual Education Plans are written yearly for each student. Students are re-tested every three years to comply with State regulations and are placed based on their needs.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES - LEARNING STRATEGIES

Services are available to verified students by Resource Specialists and the Speech Language Pathologist. A variety of techniques are used to help students be successful in the learning environment. A continuum of services ranges from individual instruction to full inclusion. Within this range, service delivery includes consultation, class within a class, small group instruction, and strategy counseling. Services are based on individual student needs.

ELL: English Language Learners

ELL Newcomer

This course is offered to students who recently arrived to the United States and are learning English as a second language. Students will build their English vocabulary while focusing on the four domains of language: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will also use this time to adjust to the culture of the United States and learn the expectations and procedures at Horizon Middle School.

ELL English

This course is offered to students learning English as a second language. Students will learn English curriculum in a way that is designed to fit their individual needs. The class will focus on the four domains of language: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will also take part in interventions targeted to improve their English skills.

ELL Reading

This course is offered to students learning English as a second language. Students will learn Reading skills and strategies in a way that is designed to fit their individual needs. The class will focus on the four domains of language: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will also take part in interventions targeted to improve their English skills.

ELL Math

This course is offered to students learning English as a second language. Students will learn math skills designed to meet their needs. Students will also focus on vocabulary and strategies in a way that incorporates language development within the math curriculum.

ELL Tutorial

This course is offered to students eligible for ELL services. Students will have time to complete assignments for their other classes. This class also focuses on preparing students for new concepts they will learn in core classes as well as reviewing concepts already learned.

SIXTH GRADE CURRICULUM

CORE CLASSES

ENGLISH

In 6th grade, students will demonstrate mastery in communicating effectively when writing, speaking, and listening. The course will teach several types of writing using the writing process and the Write Traits model. Parts of speech, punctuation, and capitalization will also be focused on during the course. Differentiated English instruction will be provided for students with high scores on the MAP test in reading and/or language. Students who demonstrate the motivation and work ethic to move at a faster pace will be challenged through differentiation. A word study component and advanced spelling curriculum will also be incorporated for these students.

MATH

In this class, the students will work on developing a deeper number sense, fluently computing fractions, decimals, and whole numbers as well as ordering and comparing rational numbers. They will solve real world problems involving non-negative rational numbers, ratios, rates, and percents. They will be introduced to writing and simplifying algebraic expressions, inequalities, solving simple equations, and building connections between tables, equations and graphs. In geometry, they will calculate perimeter, area in relationship to coordinate grids and decomposition of polygons, surface area with using nets, and volume. Students will compare, interpret data with mean, median, mode, and range and represent data with a variety of visual representations.

MATH 180

Students will be placed in this class based on test scores and teacher recommendations.

READING

Students will apply a variety of vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension strategies empowering them to become independent, strategic readers. This literature based class promotes the development of reading skills through the use of a balanced literacy approach. Emphasis is given to story elements, vocabulary development, and comprehension strategies. Students will be placed in classes according to their reading level.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

This class is a study of physical science with major emphasis on matter, heat, the three laws of motion, and light experimentation. This is a highly lab oriented class with emphasis on developing science process skills, the scientific method, and problem solving.

WORLD CULTURES

Sixth grade history students examine the development and characteristics of early world cultures. The approach is a chronological study of African, European, and Middle Eastern regions. Students become actively involved in learning scenarios intent on exploring the life, times, and influences of these early, regional cultures. Specific civilizations of study include: ancient Mesopotamia, ancient Egypt, ancient Greece, ancient Rome, and medieval Europe. The connecting of past phenomena and cultural influences to current world events is also an important aspect of the course.

ENRICHMENT CLASSES

ART

Sixth grade students will draw upon their base knowledge of art from elementary school in order to establish a broader foundation on which they can continue to build their abilities to explore the best options to create and express their ideas. They will compare and contrast artistic choices and understand how the visual arts connect us to the past and present. A critical part of this process is for the art student to consider their own style, and expressive responses as they evaluate their own personal aesthetic choices.

COMPUTER/KEYBOARDING APPLICATIONS & CAREER EXPLORATION

Students will be introduced to and refine touch method keyboarding skills. Basic word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation skills will be introduced and/or reviewed. Students will determine their interests and importance of taking ownership of their future. They will match their interests to the education, training and skills required in the occupations they explore. Student will acquire an awareness of the various choices in occupations

FACS / Health

Students are introduced to the field of Family and Consumer Sciences and Health Education. Discussions focus on relating the concepts of physical, mental and social health to their own lives, learning about their physical growth and development, and applying healthy eating components as they relate to their food choices.

INTRODUCTION TO INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

This course introduces students to the four areas of Industrial Technology: 1) Communication, 2) Construction, 3) Manufacturing and Energy, 4) Power and Transportation. Students will learn about the four areas of Industrial Technology using a variety of activities, which are mostly project based. In this introductory course, students will have the opportunity to work in teams and as individuals to learn how technology is used to solve problems. We will also do a final project in the shop. The only power tool students are able to use is the miter saw and only under close adult supervision with many safety precautions set in place. No student is required to use the saw if they don't feel comfortable doing so.

PASSPORTS: WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

This course allows students to have a brief introduction to languages and cultures from around the world. Students will learn a variety of simple expressions and basic vocabulary; mainly Spanish and French. The Passports course is designed to develop an appreciation of world languages and of the people who speak them.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is a required class that meets every other day. The class exposes students to a wide variety of activities that helps to provide the appropriate amount of vigorous physical activity that is vital for the maintenance of good health and fitness. Physical fitness testing, team sports, recreational games, rhythms, aerobics, cardiovascular training, strength enhancement, and other activities emphasize teamwork, social development, and a positive self-image. In order to participate safely, students are required to dress in appropriate P.E. attire (e.g. T-shirt, shorts, and athletic shoes). **Padlocks are furnished. A \$5.00 fee will be charged if the lock is not returned at the end of the school year.**

MUSIC

SIXTH GRADE CONCERT BAND

The band program at Horizon Middle School is designed to provide students a comprehensive music education as they participate in performance groups. The program consists of the following ensembles: 6th Grade Band, 7th Grade Band, 8th Grade Band, and Jazz Band. Involvement in these ensembles will enrich the development of fundamental musical skills and knowledge through higher level Horizon Bands, including dates and times for thinking, enhance the aesthetic values in music, and develop social skills (teamwork, self-discipline, and responsibility). The Horizon Bands will perform various musical styles and genres throughout the year. For more information about summer camps and upcoming concerts, please visit our homepage: <http://sites.kearneypublic.org/horizonbands>. For more information regarding summer band, please feel free to e-mail Mrs. Bean at stabean@kearneycats.com.

Students should provide their own instruments by renting or purchasing one at the local music store. The band method book, *Traditions of Excellence Book 1* (red cover), should also be provided by the student, along with a ½ inch three-ring binder to store music and handouts. School-owned instruments are available for students to rent on a limited basis. The rental fee is \$120 for the entire school year. Please contact the band director ASAP if you wish to pursue this option. Fee waivers are available to those who qualify. Percussionists are required to purchase or rent a bell kit with a snare drum or practice pad, along with SD1 General drum sticks, blue yarn mallets, and a stick bag. Percussionists must also pay a \$15 fee per year to cover the cost of using school equipment.

Students are highly encouraged to attend summer beginning band camp. This is usually held during the last week of July. Dates and times will be printed in the school newsletter and posted on the Horizon Bands homepage in the spring. For more information regarding summer band, please feel free to e-mail Mrs. Bean at stabean@kearneycats.com.

ORCHESTRA

Sixth grade orchestra students will continue developing technical and fundamental skills on their instruments. **Students must have previous string experience** and are encouraged to provide their own stringed instrument. Essential Elements for Strings Book 1 is used as a general reference. Students are required to complete weekly practice assignments in Google Classroom and will participate in three concerts throughout the year. In addition, students also have the option to participate in a trip to Omaha to see the Omaha Symphony. For more information, visit our website at www.kpsorchestra.org.

CHOIR

The sixth grade music class offers many diverse activities designed to stimulate higher level thinking skills. Students will have the opportunity to develop their singing voices, improve their music reading skills, play instruments, actively listen to a wide variety of music, study composers, and perform publicly. Students are expected to perform with their class in one concert per semester. Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances, if the teacher is notified. Music students will have the opportunity to audition for "Sing Around Nebraska," as well as Regional Children's Honor Choirs.

SEVENTH GRADE CURRICULUM

CORE CLASSES

ENGLISH

Seventh Grade English is a literature-based curriculum with required reading including short stories, non-fiction works, several novels, and independent reading using the Accelerated Reader. Sentence structures, parts of speech, and paragraph structure will be incorporated with the literature selections. The six traits of writing including ideas, organization, fluency, conventions, world choice and voice are also taught and practiced in different written forms. Differentiated English instruction will be provided for students with high scores on the MAP test in reading and/or language. Students who demonstrate the motivation and work ethic to move at a faster pace will be challenged through differentiation. These students will read an additional novel that supplies enrichment activities and a vocabulary study.

GEOGRAPHY

This class is the study of physical and human geography. Students will study the physical aspects of Earth and learn important map skills. Students will analyze the various cultural aspects of different regions on earth, including government systems and economy. The focus will be for students to have an increased global awareness.

MATH

Instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

PRE-ALGEBRA

Instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing an understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing an understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving a variety of real world situations involving percents; and (4) apply and use knowledge of probability to predict possible outcomes of real world examples.

READING

Seventh grade reading focuses on non-fiction and fiction taken from the Collections curriculum. Students will learn and practice the reading strategies for before reading, during reading, and after reading. They will learn some different literary terms such as point of view, author's purpose, and characterization.

LIFE SCIENCE

Students will study plant and animal cells, DNA, genetics, noninfectious and infectious diseases, several human body systems, classification, and ecology. Development of basic scientific skills, including observation, inference, comparison, and prediction, will be emphasized during labs.

ENRICHMENT CLASSES

ART

Seventh grade students will develop their abilities to create works of art that are an effective means of communicating. Students will explore how they, as artists, use their visual senses to interpret what they see and manipulate materials to express ideas, develop themes, express beliefs and opinions.

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS & CAREER EXPLORATION

This class is designed to improve keyboarding skills and introduce and refine computer application skills. Word processing, spreadsheets, presentation and internet search engines will be addressed. Student will match their career assessment results to 16 career clusters, explore occupations in the pathways of their interests, and match their assessment results to education and training required after high school. The student will be introduced to the Nebraska Career Readiness Standards

INTRODUCTION TO FRENCH

Students will be introduced to the countries and regions that speak the French language. Some of the topics students will cover are: francophone countries' greetings, numbers, days of the week, months, seasons, classroom objects, cultural aspects and holidays. Students will be involved in hands-on learning activities and will be introduced to the importance of French in our modern world.

INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH

Students will be introduced to the many countries and regions that speak the Spanish language. Some of the topics students will cover are: greetings, alphabet, numbers, weather, food, classroom objects, colors, cultural aspects, and holidays. Students will be involved in hands-on learning activities and will be introduced to the importance of Spanish in our world today.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

This course allows students to explore many different areas of Industrial Technology. Students will have a choice of modules that provide learning opportunities for the student in many areas. Modules are ten days in length and include text, video, and hands-on projects that encourage student responsibility. Areas of study include engineering, manufacturing, energy-power, and transportation.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES I (FACS I)

This course introduces students to the field of Family and Consumer Sciences while providing students with opportunities for creative thinking, involvement in problem solving, and responsibility for their own learning. Students participate in modules that apply basic living skills and information, along with new concepts, skills, and technology needed to solve real life problems. The modules encourage hands-on experience and student responsibility. Areas of focus are foods and nutrition, sewing and wardrobe planning, laundry, conflict resolution, self-esteem and stress, consumer awareness, and time and money management.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is a required class which meets every other day. The class exposes students to a wide variety of activities which helps to provide the appropriate amount of vigorous physical activity that is vital for the maintenance of good health and fitness. Physical fitness testing, team sports, recreational games, rhythms, aerobics, cardiovascular training, strength enhancement, and other activities emphasize teamwork, social development, and a positive self-image. In order to participate safely, students are required to dress in appropriate P.E. attire (e.g. T-shirt, shorts, and athletic shoes). **Padlocks are furnished. A \$5.00 fee will be charged if the lock is not returned at the end of the school year.**

MUSIC

SEVENTH GRADE BAND

Students in the 7th Grade Band work on further developing the instrumental music fundamentals learned in 6th grade, and expanding their musical knowledge and musicianship. The 7th Grade Band meets every other day, as rehearsal time is shared between full band rehearsal and small group lessons consisting of homogeneous instruments. The 7th Grade Band performs four concerts during the year, including a Veterans' Day program in November on odd years.

Students should provide their own instruments by renting or purchasing one at the local music store. The band method book, *Traditions of Excellence* book 2 (blue cover), should also be provided by the student, along with a ½ inch three-ring binder to store music and handouts. School-owned instruments are available for students to rent on a limited basis. The rental fee is \$120 for the entire school year. Please contact the band director ASAP if you wish to pursue this option. Fee waivers are available to those who qualify. Percussionists are required to purchase or rent a bell kit with a snare drum or practice pad, along with SD1 General drum sticks, blue yarn mallets, and a stick bag. Percussionist must also pay a \$15 fee per year to cover the cost of using school equipment.

Students are encouraged to attend summer band camp. This is usually held during the first week of August. Dates and times will be printed in the school newsletter and posted on the Horizon Bands homepage in the spring. For more information regarding summer band, please feel free to e-mail Mrs. Bean at stabean@kearneycats.com.

ORCHESTRA

Seventh grade orchestra students will continue developing technical and fundamental skills on their instruments through large group rehearsals and sectionals. **Students must have previous string experience** and are encouraged to provide their own stringed instrument. Essential Elements for Strings Book 2 is used as a general reference. Students are required to complete weekly practice assignments in Google Classroom and will participate in three concerts throughout the school year. For more information, visit our website at www.kpsorchestra.org.

CHOIR

The seventh grade music class offers many diverse activities designed to stimulate higher level thinking skills. Students will have the opportunity to develop their singing voices, improve their music reading skills, play instruments, study composers, and perform publicly. Students are expected to perform with their class in one concert per semester. Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances, if the teacher is notified. Auditioned honor choir opportunities for these students include "Singing Youth of Nebraska," Regional Middle Level Honor Choirs, and Henderson Honor Choir. Parents must give their authorization for Honor Choirs.

EIGHTH GRADE CURRICULUM

INDEPENDENT UNITS: IND & CAREER EXPLORATION

This class is an extension of the curriculum offered to students by the team teachers as additional opportunities. Curriculum topics will be related to the core classes. It includes a career component, as well.

CORE CLASSES

ENGLISH

In 8th grade, students will read a variety of novels, short stories, poems, non-fiction, and plays that focus on interpretation of text and identification of literary elements. Students will also review grammar and focus on developing expository writing skills. A companion piece to the literature program is an independent reading program in which students are required to read for a certain point goal based on their MAP test scores. Differentiated English instruction will be provided for students with high scores on the MAP test in reading and/or language. Students who demonstrate the motivation and work ethic to move at a faster pace will be challenged through differentiation.

AMERICAN HISTORY

Students will study American history from the Revolutionary War through the Reconstruction Era. Teaching methods will range from traditional to individualized study. Units include the Revolution, Constitution, Louisiana Purchase, Jacksonian Era, Westward Expansion and the Civil War and its aftermath.

PRE-ALGEBRA

Eighth grade Pre-Algebra instructional time will focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

ALGEBRA

The prerequisite for this class is acceptable pre-test scores and teacher recommendation. Content includes variables, formulas, real numbers, solving linear equations, polynomials, factoring polynomials, rational expressions, solving linear inequalities, graphs of linear equations and inequalities, linear systems in two variables, square roots and operations with radicals, quadratic equations, functions and graphs, and solving rational equations.

EARTH SCIENCE

Eighth grade science is the third level of the middle school science curriculum. All levels have a diverse array of high interest science topics discovered through “hands-on” laboratory experiences, scientific inquiry, and interactive group activities. Level three has a focus on earth science with an emphasis on process skills of science in chemistry, astronomy, geology, and meteorology.

ELECTIVES

ART

Eighth graders will explore the theme of “Identity & time” by examining and creating works of art that utilizes the student’s life as subject matter, while at the same time implementing a wide variety of media and techniques to express themselves.

COMPUTER / JAG NEWS

This class is designed to further develop skills in word processing, spreadsheets, presentation and Internet search engines, preparing the students for high school. In addition, students will develop skills in video capture and editing, and all aspects of producing videos for the Jag News video program. Students will create and edit graphics, sound, and special effects to be incorporated into video productions. Students will be required to work independently and in small teams to produce commercials, public service announcements, and short features. Students will create storyboards, write and rewrite shooting scripts, record and edit projects.

PERSONAL FINANCE & CAREERS

This class is designed to teach students the foundations of personal finance the first half of the class. Students will develop skills in saving and budgeting, credit and debit, education, careers, and entrepreneurship. They will also learn about investing, insurance, identity theft, global economics, marketing, and consumerism. The students will learn these foundations through Foundation in Personal Finance, Middle School Edition, a Dave Ramsey Curriculum.

Upon completion of finance, students will explore various fields of work in a career educational model. Students will develop educational and career goals which align with the students' desired future career goals. We will study the Nebraska Career Education Model, learning jobs from various clusters. Once we learn about the job, students will participate in an activity that relates to the job. This is designed to create a greater understanding of the jobs available in a cluster area and its various responsibilities.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES II (FACS II)

This course builds onto the 7th grade modules in the field of Family and Consumer Sciences. It provides students with opportunities for creative thinking, involvement in problem solving, and responsibility for their own learning. Students participate in modules that apply basic living skills and information, along with new concepts, skills, and technology needed to solve real life problems.

Students will have the opportunity to explore the following areas: foods and nutrition, sewing and fashion, interior design, laundry, child care, consumer awareness, time and money management, conflict resolution, self-esteem and stress, and sports, fitness and nutrition.

TEEN ISSUES

Teen Issues helps teenagers learn how to handle the challenges of our complex society by offering positive growth experiences. The class places a special emphasis on entering the teen years, building self-esteem, understanding their emotions, and verbal and non-verbal communication. Students will explore peer and family relations, dating, sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases, and consequences of teen parenting.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is a coed class that meets every day for a full semester. The class exposes students to a wide variety of activities which helps to provide the appropriate amount of vigorous physical activity that is vital for the maintenance of good health and fitness. Physical fitness challenges, team sports, recreational games, rhythms, aerobics, cardiovascular training, strength enhancement, and other activities emphasize teamwork, social development, and a positive self-image. In order to participate safely, students are required to dress in appropriate P.E. attire (e.g. T-shirt, shorts, and athletic shoes). **Padlocks are furnished. A \$5.00 fee will be charged if the lock is not returned at the end of the school year.**

SPANISH I

Students will learn basic knowledge of the language through listening, speaking, reading, and writing. An integrated, hands-on curriculum is used to introduce vocabulary and sentence structure necessary in building beginning conversational skills. The course also emphasizes the study of Hispanic countries, customs and cultures. Students must earn a grade of C or better to advance to Spanish II at the high school.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

This course allows students to explore many different areas of Industrial Technology. Students will have a choice of modules that provide learning opportunities for the student. Modules are ten days in length and include text, video, and hands-on projects that encourage student responsibility. **Power tools and saws will be used in this class.** There is parent permission sheet that will be sent home and must be signed before using any equipment. Areas of study include engineering, manufacturing, energy-power, and transportation. All students that participate in this course will be charged \$30 for the consumption of materials, as they complete module projects.

PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY

In this introductory woodworking class, students will learn basic woodworking skills including measurement, cutting, fasteners, gluing-clamping, plan reading, materials list, and finishing techniques. Students will also be introduced to many different hand and power tools during this course. Safety and responsibility are stressed at all times, as the students complete many different projects as they learn about woodworking. **There is parent permission sheet that will be sent home and must be signed before using any equipment.** Students will be required to pay for the materials and safety glasses used in this course. The course fee for the semester is \$30 per student.

BAND / MARCHING BAND / CONCERT BAND

The band program at Horizon Middle School is designed to provide students a comprehensive music education as they participate in performance groups. The program consists of the following ensembles: 6th Grade Band, 7th Grade Band, 8th Grade Band, Marching Band, and, Jazz Band. Involvement in these ensembles will enrich the development of fundamental musical skills, increase musical knowledge through higher level thinking, enhance the aesthetic values in music, and develop social skills (teamwork and self-discipline, and responsibility). The Horizon Bands will perform various musical styles and genres throughout the year. For more information about Horizon Bands, including dates and times for summer camps and upcoming concerts, please visit our homepage: <http://sites. Kearneypublic.org/horizonbands>. For more information regarding summer band, please feel free to e-mail Mrs. Bean at stabean@kearneycats.com.

The Band meets every day of the week. During the fall quarter, the Band will function primarily as a Marching Band. Basic marching fundamentals are emphasized. The Horizon 8th Grade Marching Band combines with the Sunrise 8th Grade Marching Band to perform at the UNK Band Day Parade. The combined Kearney 8th Grade Marching Band also performs at halftime for a select Kearney High School home football game each fall.

The 8th Grade Concert Band will enrich students' musicianship as they develop proficiency in advanced musical fundamentals, including: balance, blend, intonation, musical expression, tone production, and technique. The Concert Band performs throughout the year, including a festival and a tour to Kearney elementary schools in the spring.

Students should provide their own instruments by renting or purchasing one at the local music store. The band method book, *Traditions of Excellence Book 3* (green cover), should also be provided by the student, along with a ½ inch three-ring binder to store music and handouts. School-owned instruments are available for students to rent on a limited basis. The rental fee is \$120 for the entire school year. Please contact the band director ASAP if you wish to pursue this option. Fee waivers are available to those who qualify. Percussionists are required to purchase or rent a bell kit with a snare drum or practice pad, along with SD1 General drum sticks, blue yarn mallets, and a stick bag. Percussionists must also pay a \$15 fee per year to cover the cost of using school equipment.

Students are encouraged to attend summer band camp. This is usually held during the first week of August. Dates and times will be printed in the school newsletter and posted on the Horizon Bands homepage in the spring. For more information regarding summer band, please feel free to e-mail Mrs. Bean at stabean@kearneycats.com.

BEGINNING GUITAR

Beginning Guitar is an introductory music course offered to eighth graders. It is designed for people with no prior music experience, but welcomes anyone with a musical background! Like other music classes, students learn how to count rhythms, read notes on the staff, and basic music vocabulary. Students will be introduced to notes on the strings in first position, basic chords and tablature, picking, and strumming patterns. Guitars and method books are provided by the school, but cannot be taken home. No practice time is required outside of school, but all course material is available online for those students wanting to practice at home. Students work through the method book and learn the chords to one song as a class, but are also given time to learn a song of their choice throughout the semester. In partnership with Yanda's Music, students enrolled in this class can receive a small discount on a guitar of their own!

ORCHESTRA

Eighth grade orchestra students will begin refining their ensemble playing through daily rehearsals and will be introduced to more challenging music and additional opportunities to perform. **Students must have previous string experience** and are highly encouraged to provide their own instruments and accessories. Students are required to participate in three concerts throughout the school year, as well as the Strictly Strings Festival in Grand Island and the Spring Elementary School Tour. For more information, visit our website at www.kpsorchestra.org.

SWING CHOIR

Swing Choir is designed for students who enjoy singing and dancing. This class will cover a varied repertoire of music. Students will be using various types of movement and choreography to enhance their performances. Several performances will be planned during the year, including all-school choral concerts, performances for civic groups, and possibly attending a middle school music contest.

CHOIR

This class offers students the opportunity to develop their voices through a choral music experience. Part-singing and sight-reading skills are stressed and students will have the opportunity to continue learning the elements of music through guitar studies and lessons. Students taking this class will participate in the KPS Eighth Grade Choral Festival. They may also audition for "Singing Youth of Nebraska," Regional Honor Choirs, and Henderson Honor Choir. One or two concert performances per semester are required.

STUDENT FEE SCHEDULE

1. Field Trips: Students will be expected to pay for the meals that accompany a field trip.
2. Instrument Rental-band & orchestra: Students are responsible for renting or purchasing and maintaining orchestra/band instruments or attire for participation in optional orchestra/band courses. The district is not required to provide for the use of a particular type of instrument for a student. Rental fees range from \$55/year orchestra to \$120/year for band instruments.
3. Students have the responsibility to furnish or pay the reasonable cost of any materials required for course projects where, upon completion, the project becomes the property of the student or is consumed by the student. This applies to fees assessed for cooking projects consumed in class. Fees will vary depending on the cost of the project.
4. Students are responsible for paying tuition for summer school, night school, intersession classes or workshops ranging up to \$175 or greater depending on the length of the class and the costs associated with providing the class.
5. Students are to provide appropriate attire for Physical Education classes.
6. All Sports: All shoes, some practice attire, and uniforms are provided by the student. Students are required to clean school uniforms. All students are asked to provide their own personal articles of clothing, which include shoes, personal undergarments, gym shorts, T-shirts, socks, and/or mouth pieces. Such items may be used in either practice and/or game situations. See the Horizon Student Handbook for specific material required for each sport.
7. Activity Passes may be purchased by students for \$50. Spectator fees for admission to each event is \$5 per event maximum. District and Conference events hosted by the school will have the admission fee determined by NSAA and Activity Passes will not be honored.
8. Students are responsible for furnishing minor consumable items.

Fee Waiver Information

Students who qualify to receive free or reduced-priced meals under the U.S. Department of Agriculture Child Nutrition Program guidelines may be granted a fee waiver. Parents must apply to receive a fee waiver for each activity separately. Fee waiver applications may be obtained from the Building Principal.

*Rental Fees are subject to change. Information will be sent with students stating the cost of rentals, intersession classes and workshops.

ACTIVITIES

Each year Horizon Middle School offers a variety of activities for student participation. The current schedule is flexible and may change as dictated by student interest and sponsor availability. The following is a list of activities that may be available.

Builders Club	Grades 6, 7, 8
Chess Club	Grades 6, 7, 8
Homework Clinic	Grades 6, 7, 8
Jazz Band	Grades 6, 7, 8
Knowledge Masters	Grades 6, 7, 8
Math Counts	Grades 6, 7, 8
Quiz Bowl	Grades 7, 8
Science Olympiad	Grades 6, 7, 8
Spanish Club	Grades 7, 8
Student Council	Grades 6, 7, 8
Swing Choir	Grade 8
Weight Training	Grades 6, 7, 8

ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

Students are encouraged to participate in the athletic programs offered by Horizon Middle School, listed below.

Girls Basketball	Grade 8
Boys Basketball	Grade 8
Cross Country	Grade 7, 8
Football	Grade 8
Girls Track	Grade 8
Boys Track	Grade 8
Volleyball	Grade 8
Wrestling	Grades 7, 8



***Our Mission: To Inspire
& empower students to
impact the world.***



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