

**Lancaster City Schools**

**Junior High School**

# **Program of Studies**



**2025-2026 School Year**

General Sherman Jr. High School  
1930 Election House Rd. NW  
Lancaster, Ohio 43130  
(740) 687-7344

Thomas Ewing Junior High School  
2024 Sheridan Dr.  
Lancaster, Ohio 43130  
(740) 687-7347

Mr. Nelson Karshner, Principal  
Mr. Clay Hartzler, Assistant Principal

Mr. Steve Poston, Principal  
Mr. Brian Lawson, Assistant Principal

Approved, February 25, 2025

# Welcome to Junior High School!

The focus of instruction for all the core academic subjects (science, social studies, language arts, and mathematics) will be the Common Core Standards. By emphasizing these Standards, all students will be prepared for Ohio's system of academic achievement tests in reading, writing, mathematics, social studies, and science.

These standards also build, year after year, to help all students prepare for success on the adopted test(s), required for graduation from high school.

## **Recommended Courses:**

- Language Arts 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- Mathematics 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- Science 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- Social Studies 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- Art 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade
- General Music 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade
- Health 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- Physical Education 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade

## **Elective Courses:**

- Art (Grade 8)
- Automation & Robotics I 981 (7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade - pending availability)
- Automation & Robotics 2 984 (8<sup>th</sup> grade - pending availability)
- Broadcasting 287 (8th grade) THOMAS EWING only
- Computer Science For Innovators & Makers 983 (7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade - pending availability)
- Design & Modeling 970 (7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade - pending availability)
- Career Exploration and Life Skills 985 (8th grade)
- Medical Detectives 982 (7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade - pending availability)
- Spanish I (8th grade)
- Woodworking (7th and 8th grade)
- World Languages 286 (8th grade)

## **Selective Courses:**

- Band for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- Choir for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- Reading Skills/Success 187
- Math Success
- PEERS
- Reading Foundations
- SMARTS
- AIM

## **Junior High School Counseling Services and Advising Program**

In order to meet the ODEW requirements and to enhance our students' life skills, we will incorporate various components of Financial Literacy training on both the 7th and 8th grade levels, and it will be addressed in the areas of mathematics, social studies, and guidance.

### **REQUIRED COURSES:**

#### **LANGUAGE ARTS 6**

##### **Language Arts Honors 160 (Selected)**

This course provides a challenging, accelerated curriculum which includes reading, composition, speaking and listening, technology, language conventions and rules, and research. Reading materials include short stories, novels, poetry, fiction and non-fiction, and drama. Writings include letters, poems, essays, and narratives. Selection is based on standardized achievement test.

##### **Language Arts 162**

This course includes reading, composition, speaking and listening, technology, language conventions and rules, and research skills that will prepare students for college preparatory, vocational, and average-level classes. Reading materials include short stories, novels, poetry, fiction and non-fiction, and drama. Writings include letters, essays, poems, and narratives.

##### **Language Arts 165 (Selected)**

This course includes literature, writing, reading, and speaking. Reading materials include short stories, novels, poetry, fiction and non-fiction, and drama. Writings include narratives, letters, and essays. This is a resource classroom based on individual student needs.

#### **MATHEMATICS 6**

##### **Mathematics Honors 360 (Selected)**

This class is an in-depth, fast-paced study designed to further develop mathematics concepts in all areas of the Common Core Standards: geometry, data analysis, algebra, number sense, mathematical processes, and measurement. These concepts will be used in application to problem-solving situations. Selection is based on standardized achievement test.

##### **Mathematics 362**

This class is designed to further develop mathematics concepts in all areas of the Common Core Standards: geometry, data analysis, algebra, number sense, mathematical processes, and measurement. These concepts will be used in application to problem-solving situations.

##### **Mathematics 365 (Selected)**

This class is designed to further develop mathematics concepts in all areas of the Common Core Standards: geometry, data analysis, algebra, number sense, mathematical processes, and measurement. These concepts will be used in application to problem-solving situations. This is a resource classroom based on individual student needs.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES 6**

### **Social Studies Honors 560 (Selected)**

This course is an in-depth, fast-paced study of World History from early man to 500 C.E. Students will examine a wide range of government, geography, and economic issues, utilizing a variety of media. Selection is based on standardized achievement test.

### **Social Studies 562**

This course is a study of World History from early man to 500 C.E. Students will examine a wide range of government, geography, and economic issues, utilizing a variety of media.

### **Social Studies 5785 (Selected)**

This course is a study of World History from early man to 500 C.E. Students will examine a wide range of government, geography, and economic issues, utilizing a variety of media. This is a resource classroom based on individual student needs.

## **SCIENCE 6**

### **Full Year - Fee**

### **Science Honors 460 (Selected)**

This course is based on Common Core Standards of life science, earth and space science, physical science and scientific inquiry, while incorporating available technology. The curriculum is expanded to make it complex and challenging. The students complete difficult laboratory experiments and mathematical calculations. Selection is based on standardized achievement test.

### **Science 462**

This course is based on Common Core Standards of life science, earth and space science, physical science and scientific inquiry, while incorporating available technology. The class allows students the opportunity to learn through hands-on activities, such as laboratory experiments and computer projects.

### **Science 4785 (Selected)**

This course is based on the grade-level indicators of physical science, earth science, life science, science and technology, scientific inquiry, and scientific ways of knowing. This is a resource classroom based on individual student needs.

## **LANGUAGE ARTS 7**

### **Language Arts Honors 170 (Selected)**

This course provides a challenging, accelerated curriculum, which includes reading, composition, speaking and listening, technology, language conventions and rules, and research. A summer reading list is part of the course requirements. Reading materials include short stories, novels, poetry, fiction and non-fiction, and drama. Writings include letters, poems, essays, and narratives. Selection is based on standardized achievement test.

**Language Arts 172**

This course includes reading, composition, speaking and listening, technology, language conventions and rules, and research skills that will prepare students for college preparatory, vocational, and average-level classes. Reading materials include short stories, novels, poetry, fiction and non-fiction, and drama. Writings include letters, essays, poems, and narratives.

**Language Arts 1785 (Selected)**

This course includes literature, writing, reading, and speaking. Reading materials include short stories, novels, poetry, fiction and non-fiction, and drama. Writings include narratives, letters, and essays. This is a resource classroom based on individual student needs.

**MATHEMATICS 7****Mathematics Honors 370 Pre-Algebra (Selected)**

This class is a pre-algebra course and also includes some introductory algebra concepts. Students should be able to organize data, work quickly, do estimation efficiently, apply algebraic concepts to work problems, and handle abstract concepts. This course is a prerequisite for algebra taught in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Selection is based on standardized achievement test.

**Mathematics 372**

This class is designed to further develop mathematics concepts in all areas of the Ohio standards: geometry, data analysis, algebra, number sense, mathematical processes, and measurement. These concepts will be used in application to problem-solving situations. Some pre-algebra will be introduced.

**Mathematics 3785 (Selected)**

This class will teach the same topics as in 7<sup>th</sup> grade math; however, the pace of instruction will be slower. This is a resource classroom based on individual student needs.

**SOCIAL STUDIES 7****World History Honors 570 (Selected)**

This course is an in-depth, fast-paced study of World History from 500 C.E. to 1799 C.E. Students will examine a wide range of government, geography, and economic issues, utilizing a variety of media. Selection is based on standardized achievement test.

**World History 572**

This course includes World History from 500 C.E. to 1799 C.E. Students will examine a wide range of history, government, geography and economic issues, utilizing a variety of media.

**World History 5785 (Selected)**

This course includes World History from 500 C.E. to 1799 C.E. Students will examine a wide range of history, government, geography and economic issues utilizing a variety of media. This is a resource classroom based on individual student needs.

## **SCIENCE 7**

**Full Year - Fee**

### **Science Honors 470 (Selected)**

This course is based on Common Core Standards of life science, earth and space science, physical science and scientific inquiry, while incorporating available technology. The curriculum is expanded to make it complex and challenging. The students complete difficult laboratory experiments and mathematical calculations. Selection is based on standardized achievement test.

### **Science 472**

This course is based on Common Core Standards of life science, earth and space science, physical science and scientific inquiry, while incorporating available technology. The class allows students the opportunity to learn through hands-on activities, such as laboratory experiments and computer projects.

### **Science 4785 (Selected)**

This course is based on the grade-level indicators of life, earth, technology, and scientific procedures. The class allows students the opportunity to learn through hands-on activities such as laboratory experiments and computer projects. This is a resource classroom based on individual student needs.

## **LANGUAGE ARTS 8**

### **Language Arts Honors 180 (Selected)**

This course provides a challenging, accelerated curriculum, which includes reading, composition, speaking and listening, technology, language conventions and rules, and research. Reading materials include short stories, novels, poems, fiction and non-fiction, and drama. Writings include letters, poems, essays and narratives. Selection is based on standardized achievement test.

### **Language Arts 182**

This course includes literature, writing, reading, and speaking skills. This class prepares students for college preparatory, vocational, and average level classes. Reading materials include short stories, novels, poetry, fiction and non-fiction, and drama. Writing includes letters, poetry, essays and narratives.

### **Language Arts 1785 (Selected)**

This course includes literature, writing, reading, and speaking skills. Reading materials include short stories, novels, poetry, fiction and non-fiction, and drama. Writing includes narratives, letters, and essays. This is a resource classroom based on individual student needs.

## **MATHEMATICS 8**

### **Mathematics Algebra Honors 380 (Selected)**

This class is an algebra class and students will receive high school credit for this class. Students should have mastered pre-algebra skills in order to be successful. Students should be able to organize data, work quickly, do estimation efficiently, apply algebraic concepts to word problems, and handle abstract ideas. Selection is based on standardized achievement test.

### **Mathematics 382 Pre-Algebra**

This class is a pre-algebra course and also includes some introductory algebra concepts. Students will learn to apply algebraic skills to solve word problems.

### **Mathematics 3785 Pre-Algebra (Selected)**

This class is a pre-algebra course and also includes some introductory algebra concepts. Students will learn to apply algebraic skills to word problems.

This is a resource classroom based on individual student needs.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES 8**

### **United States History Honors 580 (Selected)**

This course is an in-depth, fast-paced study of American history, from the settlement of North America to the period of Reconstruction at the end of the U.S. Civil War. Students will examine government, geography, and economic issues, using a variety of media. Selection is based on standardized achievement test.

### **United States History 582**

This course is a study of American history, from the settlement of North America to the period of Reconstruction at the end of the U.S. Civil War. Students will also study government, geography, and economic issues.

### **United States History 5785 (Selected)**

This course is a study of American history, from the settlement of North America to the period of Reconstruction at the end of the U.S. Civil War. Students will also study government, geography, and economic issues. This is a resource classroom based on individual student needs.

## **SCIENCE 8**

### **Full Year - Fee**

### **Science Honors 480 (Selected)**

This course is based on Common Core Standards of life science, earth and space science, physical science and scientific inquiry, while incorporating available technology. The curriculum is expanded to make it complex and challenging. The students complete difficult laboratory experiments and mathematical calculations. Selection is based on standardized achievement test.

## **Science 482**

This course is based on Common Core Standards of life science, earth and space science, physical science and scientific inquiry, while incorporating available technology. The class allows students the opportunity to learn through hands-on activities, such as laboratory experiments and computer projects.

## **Science 4785 (Selected)**

This course teaches the grade-level indicators in physical science, earth science, science and technology, scientific inquiry, and scientific ways of knowing. This is a resource classroom based on individual student needs.

## **ART**

### **Semester - Fee**

### **6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Art**

**All art classes are semester classes.**

The art courses acquaint students with concepts about the creative process in art, provide students with an overview of art history, and help students develop an awareness of the many ways art is related to daily life. Activities include ceramics, drawing, painting, and mixed media.

**8<sup>th</sup> grade art is a selected class, based on recommendations from the 7<sup>th</sup> grade art teacher.**

## **GENERAL MUSIC**

### **6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade General Music (Semester course)**

These courses expand students' knowledge through the study of the historical, cultural, and social contexts of music and music's application and relationship to other subjects and disciplines. Students will also learn to read and analyze music through visual and listening skills and will learn to appreciate music as an important art form.

## **HEALTH**

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Health 882 (Required)**

This is a semester course. The purpose of the health program is to provide students with skills for healthful-living attitudes, to promote positive lifestyles, and to provide information for improving the quality of life and longevity. Units cover all parts of health, including physical, mental, and social well-being.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

### **6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Physical Education**

**All physical education classes are semester classes.**

This class emphasizes daily activity with focus on oneself and lifetime sports/fitness. Individualized and group instruction is given. Active participation is required in several individual and team sports, including soccer, volleyball, softball, badminton, table tennis, flag football, floor hockey, basketball, and other appropriate activities. Proper dress is required.



## **ELECTIVE COURSES:**

**ART** for 8<sup>th</sup> grade only (see page 7)

### **AUTOMATION & ROBOTICS I (7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade - pending availability)**

#### **Semester - Fee**

Students learn about the impact of automation and robotics as they explore mechanisms, programming and problem solving. Students will create a range of builds such as pull toys, windmills, moving vehicles and more. Using the VEX Robotics® platform, students develop an understanding of gear ratios, mechanisms and programming through real-life problems.

### **AUTOMATION & ROBOTICS II (8<sup>th</sup> grade - pending availability)**

#### **Semester - Fee**

Building on foundational knowledge, students deepen their understanding of the impact of automation and robotics on our modern life while further exploring advanced concepts in mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students will create complex builds to complete elaborate tasks. Utilizing the VEX Robotics® platform, students refine their skills as they design and program more complex systems, including robotic arms, robotic vehicles, VEX competition robots, and more.

### **BROADCASTING (8th Grade) (THOMAS EWING ONLY)**

Students will learn how broadcasting works, how to use and care for basic equipment, the different positions/roles in broadcasting, how to interview and write scripts, and create video packages for a school broadcast.

### **COMPUTER SCIENCE FOR INNOVATORS & MAKERS (7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade - pending availability)**

#### **Semester – Fee**

Throughout the unit, students will learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development, allowing students to discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible, and shareable projects.

### **DESIGN & MODELING (7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade - pending availability)**

#### **Semester - Fee**

Students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned throughout the unit to design a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy.

## **CAREER EXPLORATION AND LIFE SKILLS (GRADE 8)**

### **Semester - Fee**

This course will provide students with an overview of Family and Consumer Sciences. Students will be introduced to career development, career exploration and family management concepts. It will also serve as an introduction to healthy living choices. Additionally, students will identify financial literacy and consumer economic principles. Students will understand the concepts of design for personal and home use. Throughout the course students will develop communication, leadership and career investigation skills.

## **MEDICAL DETECTIVES (7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade - pending availability)**

### **Semester - Fee**

Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, examine nervous system structure and function, investigate disease outbreaks, and explore how a breakdown within the human body can lead to dysfunction.

## **SPANISH I**

**231 – Spanish I – 1 credit Full Year - Recommend a “C” or better in last English Course – (8<sup>th</sup> grade ONLY)**

The study of Spanish I is expected to provide a solid base for the understanding (reading and listening) and usage (writing and speaking) of vocabulary in a variety of real-world settings. It is further expected that the study of basic grammar structures shall provide students with the means to produce and understand simple communications using multiple points of view. This course teaches cultural awareness and sensitivity through introducing students to Latin-Hispanic culture (especially that of the United States and Mexico), as it is closely linked to our own.

## **Woodworking**

**Woodworking (7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade) – Semester – Grading (Pass/Fail) - Fee**

Woodworking is an elective course that utilizes the Maplewoodshop curriculum. Woodworking is a project based, hands-on introductory woodshop course. Students will be using hand tools and following plans to construct projects. This course reinforces skills in math, reading and social-emotional learning. Throughout the course, students will also be exposed to various careers and employability skills important for future learning and college/career success.

## **WORLD LANGUAGES**

### **World Languages 286 (8<sup>th</sup> grade ONLY)**

World Languages is a course that will introduce students to the language, culture, and customs of people who speak French, Latin, and Spanish. These are the three foreign languages offered at Lancaster High School. This is a semester class open to eighth graders who have earned a final grade of B or higher in 7th grade language arts.

## **SELECTIVE COURSES:**

### **BAND**

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band 660**

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade band implements and further develops musical skills learned in fifth grade. Performances may occur throughout the year with a culminating concert scheduled each May.

#### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Band 670**

7<sup>th</sup> grade band is designed to implement and further develop instrumental skills introduced and mastered in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades. Students are tested and evaluated weekly on their skills at performing assigned music. There are three major required performances during the school year. The first is the fall Sherman/Ewing football game (a half-time performance). The second is the Holiday Concert in December. The third is the Spring Concert in May, which is the culmination of musical training and accomplishment for the year.

#### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band 680**

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade band builds on the skills developed in 7<sup>th</sup> grade band. Three years of instrumental experience are necessary to function successfully in this band. Students are tested and evaluated weekly on their skills at performing assigned music. There are three major required performances during the school year. The first is the fall Sherman/Ewing football game (a half-time performance). The second is the Holiday Concert in December. The third is the Spring Concert in May, which is the culmination of musical training and accomplishment for the year.

### **CHOIR**

#### **6th Grade Select Choir 600**

Students must audition for the choir director and be recommended by their 5<sup>th</sup> grade music teacher in order to be considered for choir. This is a semester- long course. Students begin to learn basic singing skills, such as correct singing posture, breath support, tone production, sight reading, and identification of markings in music. A variety of music will be performed.

### **7th Grade Select Choir 601**

Students must audition for the choir director and be recommended by their 6<sup>th</sup> grade music teacher in order to be considered for choir. This is a year- long course. Students begin to learn basic singing skills, such as correct singing posture, breath support, tone production, sight reading, and identification of markings in music. A variety of music will be performed.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Select Choir 602**

Membership is open to existing 7<sup>th</sup> grade choir members as well as those students who were not in 7<sup>th</sup> grade choir. Auditions are conducted by the choir director. In this year-long course, students will improve sight-reading skills, learn music markings, and continue to practice correct singing posture, support, and tone production. This year- long course includes concerts with required attendance.

## **READING SKILLS**

### **Reading Skills/Success 184 – Grades 6, 7 and 8**

This course is designed to improve reading processes, applications, and vocabulary. A variety of reading strategies will be used to encourage vocabulary development, improve fluency and increase understanding. This course will focus on the state reading indicators and content standards.

## **MATH SUCCESS**

### **384/374 – Grades 6, 7 and 8**

This course is designed to strengthen mathematical understanding, problem-solving skills, and application of key concepts. A variety of strategies will be used to build computational fluency, enhance logical reasoning, and improve mathematical thinking. This course will focus on state math indicators and content standards, ensuring students develop a strong foundation in essential math skills.

## **PEERS**

PEERS is a small-group course that focuses on communication skills needed in order for students to be successful in school and beyond

## **READING FOUNDATIONS**

Reading Foundations utilizes a structured literacy program that focuses on decoding, encoding, reading fluency, and phonemic awareness. This class uses a systematic approach to teach the structure of the English language to help students become more proficient readers.

## **SMARTS**

SMARTS helps students improve on their executive functioning skills such as goal setting, organizing, prioritizing, planning, and self-monitoring.

## **AIM**

AIM focuses on improving the social and emotional well-being of a student to positively affect change in behavior.

## **JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING SERVICES AND ADVISING PROGRAM:**

School counselors are available to talk with individuals or small groups about their academic, personal, social concerns and future planning. Other opportunities for the learning of important information to assist students may include classroom visits, where the following topics may be covered. School counseling services also include assistance to teachers and parents and coordination of school programs and events, all contributing to the learning environment.

- Study and Organizational Skills
- Communication Skills
- Problem-Solving, Decision-Making
- Stress Management/Test Anxiety
- Career and Educational Planning
- Conflict Resolution

College and Career advising and activities are incorporated in grade 6, 7 and 8. These include (but are not limited to):

- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade - Xello Career Exploration and Interest Inventories
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade - Career Tech Stations Day
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade - Career Exploration Escape Room Lesson, Career Tech Expo at Workforce Center, Career Tech Exploration in Family Consumer Science, High School planning and scheduling presentations.