

8

WELCOME TO EIGHTH GRADE

WHAT YOU AND YOUR CHILD CAN EXPECT IN EIGHTH GRADE

Hamburg School
30 Linwood Avenue
Hamburg, New Jersey 07419



Mission Statement

The mission of the Hamburg Public School District is to provide an education, which will enable students to acquire the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to become contributing members of society.

The educational program will enable each student to develop emotionally, socially, psychologically, and cognitively within his or her abilities and interests.

The mission of the Hamburg Public School District, therefore, is to develop an educational program that is under constant evaluation, allows all students to achieve the Common Core State Standards and the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards at all grade levels, and is dedicated to providing experiences relative to the demands of modern society in an effort to best prepare our students for success in college and career.

www.hamburgschool.com



GRADE 8 DEVELOPMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

GROWTH PATTERNS

<u>Physical</u>	<u>Social</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High energy continues• Generally a healthy age• Girls - full development nearly complete• Boys - growth spurt continues• Upper body strength begins to develop in boys	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More of their own adult personality evident• Often embarrassed to be seen with their parents• Loud• Know it all stage
<u>Language</u>	<u>Cognitive</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peer language patterns of paramount importance• Will engage more in group discussion• Interested in the meaning of words• Loud	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More willing to admit an error• Easily bored• Respond well to academic variety• Learn well in cooperative groups

IN THE CLASSROOM

<u>Motor Skills</u>	<u>Cognitive Growth</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Posture and ability to sit properly in furniture is often difficult• Normally loud• Need much physical release time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Function well in small groups• Like to improve work if given a chance• Interested in study of psychology - Who am I?
<u>Cognitive Growth (cont'd)</u>	<u>Social Behavior</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enjoy research and putting together research reports• Increased interest in math and science• Current events a popular subject• Interest in manual skills,	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complain about volume of homework• Often say work is too easy• Service projects, student government, class dances, sporting events play major significance

These excerpts from *Yardsticks: Children in the Classroom Ages 4-14 (A Resource for Parents and Teachers)* by Chip Wood



CURRICULUM

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

READING

- Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences and relevant connections from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
- Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
- Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.
- Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.
- Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.
- Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.
- Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.
- Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.
- Analyze and reflect on how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.
- Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently with scaffolding as needed.

WRITING

- Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
- Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
- Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.
- Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects, utilizing an inquiry-based research process, based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
- Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.
- Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
- Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

MATHEMATICS

The Number System:

- Know that there are numbers that are not rational, and approximate them by rational numbers

Expressions and Equations:

- Work with radicals and integer exponents
- Understand the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations
- Analyze and solve linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations

Functions:

- Define, evaluate, and compare functions
- Use functions to model relationships between quantities

Geometry:

- Understand congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software
- Understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem
- Solve real world and mathematical problems involving volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres

Statistics and Probability:

- Investigate patterns associated in bivariate data

SCIENCE

- Earth's Place in the Universe
- Earth's Systems
- Heredity
- Ecosystems
- Energy
- Wave Technology

TECHNOLOGY

- Text Formatting
- Basic Spreadsheets
- Digital Citizenship
- Digital Tools
- Designed systems
- Applications
- Resource citations

ART

- Creation of complex works of art
- Ceramics, painting, or drawing
- Varying artistic expressions / methods
- Process of critique
- Focus on art history

MUSIC

- Independent development of musical talents
- Band instruments
- Ensemble groups
- Concert performances
- School musical

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Self and peer evaluation of skills
- Physical fitness
- Safety concepts
- Game rules and strategies
- Dance

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Age of Inventions
- Holocaust
- Immigration
- Economics
- Political Implications



MEASURING YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING PROGRESS

NWEA MAP Assessment: Hamburg School utilizes the Measure of Academic Progress Assessment (MAP) for all students (Kindergarten - Grade 8) and will measure progress in the areas of reading and math. The assessments will be administered in the fall, winter, and spring and scores will be provided to parents following the assessment. The school uses this assessment as one data point to determine specific needs of our students.

Standardized Testing: New Jersey is currently using the Partnership Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), which assesses students in the areas of reading and math based on the Common Core curriculum beginning in third grade. Fourth and eighth grade students are also assessed in Science through the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJASK). These assessments are administered each spring.



COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

We welcome your partnership in helping your child achieve success in school. By working and talking together we can create a very positive learning environment. Each staff member has email and voice mail. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher(s) or the main office with any questions or concerns.

WAYS WE KEEP IN TOUCH

- District Website
- Back to School Night
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Report Cards
- Oncourse Parent Portal
- Parent/Teacher notes, phone calls, emails
- Digital School Newsletter
- School Facebook
- Honeywell Instant Alert
- School Calendar

WAYS FAMILIES CAN GET INVOLVED

- Join the PTA
- Monitor your child's homework
- Volunteer within the PTA
- Attend conferences
- Share information about your career or hobbies with your child's classroom
- Contact your child's teacher with questions or concerns
- Check the website often for new announcements