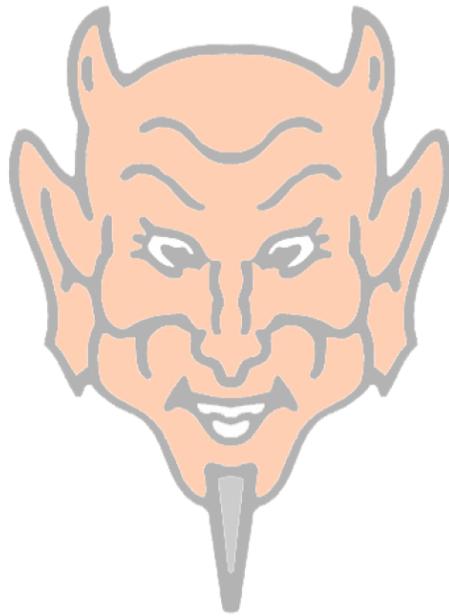


Karcher Middle School



7th Grade Course Selection Booklet 2020-2021

Dear Karcher Parents, Guardians, and Students:

It is the intention of the staff at Karcher Middle School to expose students to a broad based curriculum that will give them a variety of experience in the areas of English, Mathematics, Reading, Social Studies, Science, Spanish, Art, Music, Technology Education, Fitness Education, Health, and STEM. The broad range of experiences is part of a concerted effort to meet them where they are developmentally and to help them work towards becoming college and/or career ready. In order to do that we focus on ensuring universal access, providing clearly articulated learning goals (Essential Skills) and best instructional practices.

Some exciting things students look forward to at Karcher are switching classes every hour, having a variety of students in their classes, and continuing to be a part of a house system. Academic classes will be selected based on teacher recommendation and students will have the chance to choose their elective courses. Students have the opportunity to get involved in numerous extra curricular activities with a variety of clubs and sports.

In addition, we have numerous services available for all students who attend Karcher Middle School. Please reference the guide below.

COUNSELORS - Your school counselor can be a very helpful person to work with in planning your educational needs at Karcher and while planning for high school. Counselors are trained to facilitate personal development and work with students in planning their school program, for decision-making, educational and career planning, and personal/social concerns. They do this through individual, small group, and/or large group counseling.

TEACHERS - During the course of their years at Karcher Middle School, students will have an opportunity to take many different courses in a number of areas. The teachers of Karcher are experts in their areas of instruction. Oftentimes teachers are called upon to make recommendations in regard to course sequence and ability placement. Should students have questions involving course content or placement in a particular area of skill, any teacher would be able to help them or, at the very least, direct them to the instructor who can provide more expertise.

ADMINISTRATION - Administrators can aid the student in a variety of ways, should the student or parent/guardian so desire. The administration works directly with the registration and scheduling process. If there are questions or concerns that cannot be answered by the administration, they will direct them to the professionals who can. An administrator is also able to work with students on a variety of concerns should other avenues be unavailable.

Respectfully,

Dr. Jill Oelslager, Principal
Ann Phillips, Dean of Students

Core Academic Courses

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

(Required - year long course)

In seventh grade, students explore all areas of language arts: writing, reading, speaking, and listening. Through these processes, students continue to develop and improve skills in composing with appropriate vocabulary, spelling, grammar, and usage.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Essential Skill: Writing

Proficiency (N): The writer develops real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

Proficiency (I): The writer gathers information about a subject and develops and organizes subtopics to explain a central idea.

Proficiency (A): The writer states a claim, acknowledges opposing viewpoints, and builds an argument to a logical conclusion with reasons and evidence.

Essential Skill: Reading

Proficiency (N): Student uses a variety of strategies to comprehend literature

Proficiency (I): Student uses a variety of strategies to comprehend nonfiction text

Proficiency (A): Acquires and uses accurately grade-appropriate academic and domain-specific words and phrases.

Essential Skill: Speaking & Listening

Proficiency: Student exchanges ideas effectively in a variety of contexts and tasks.

MATHEMATICS *(Required - year long course)*

Middle-grade students should see mathematics as an exciting, useful, and creative field of study. In the Math 7 classroom, students regularly engage in thoughtful activity tied to their emerging capabilities of finding and imposing structure, conjecturing and verifying, thinking hypothetically, comprehending cause and effect, and abstracting and generalizing. Ambitious expectations identified in algebra and geometry stretch the middle-graders' thinking beyond a preoccupation with number.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Essential Skill: Expressions & Equations

Proficiency: Consistently solves and represents multi-step algebraic problems.

Essential Skill: Geometry

Proficiency: Consistently uses and applies geometric concepts to solve problems with any figure.

Essential Skill: Number System

Proficiency: Consistently uses and applies appropriate numbers and operations to write and solve problems.

Essential Skill: Statistics & Probability

Proficiency: Consistently uses and applies statistics and probability concepts to solve complex, real-world problems.

Essential Skill: Ratios & Proportions

Proficiency: Consistently solves and represents multi-step ratio & proportional problems.

SOCIAL STUDIES *(Required - year long course)*

Seventh Grade Social Studies is an integrated approach to the study of the Eastern Hemisphere. This course contains elements of history, anthropology, sociology, government and economics, with an emphasis on physical and human geography.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Essential Skill: Behavioral Sciences

Proficiency: Analyze the influence of culture and technology on behavior and social development

Essential Skill: Economics

Proficiency: Assess the impact of economic systems on individuals and regions.

Essential Skill: Geography

Proficiency: Examine global interconnections, and the relationship between humans and the environment

Essential Skill: History

Proficiency: Investigate historic patterns and change over time to determine cause and effect, and predict current implications

Essential Skill: Political Science

Proficiency: Analyze political institutions, and processes to employ civic literacy

Essential Skill: Inquiry

Proficiency: Use disciplinary tools and concepts to develop questions, evaluate sources, supporting evidence, and communicate conclusions

<p>SCIENCE <i>(Required - year long course)</i> In seventh grade science, students will experience hands-on learning through inquiry warm-ups, labs, interactivities, discussions, dissections, and investigations, related to one branch of natural science, LIFE SCIENCE. Everyday students will pose questions, investigate, communicate, and collaborate about related scientific concepts.</p> <p>Topic 1: Living Things in the Biosphere Topic 2: Cell Systems Topic 3: Human Body Systems Topic 4: Reproduction and Growth Topic 5: Ecosystems</p>	<p>ESSENTIAL SKILLS <u><i>Essential Skill: Developing and Using Models</i></u> Proficiency: Develops, revises, and uses a model to illustrate, explain, and/or predict using accurate science vocabulary and concepts in descriptions of the models. <u><i>Essential Skill: Planning and Carrying Out Investigations</i></u> Proficiency: Asks scientific questions using appropriate science vocabulary and concepts. Plans a complex investigation and collects appropriate data. <u><i>Essential Skill: Analyzing and Interpreting Data</i></u> Proficiency: Analyzes and interprets data; Includes justification for data. Selects and uses mathematical operations. <u><i>Essential Skill: Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions</i></u> Proficiency: Constructs explanations based on sufficient evidence. Refines explanations with appropriate reasoning and describes improvements. <u><i>Essential Skill: Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information using Evidence</i></u> Proficiency: Claim is stated accurately with sufficient evidence provided. Reasoning adequately supports the claim.</p>
<p>PHYSICAL EDUCATION <i>(Required - year long course)</i> Physical Education provides students with a planned, sequential program of curricula and instruction designed to develop motor skills, knowledge and behaviors for active living, physical fitness, sportsmanship, self-efficacy and emotional intelligence.</p>	<p>ESSENTIAL SKILLS <u><i>Essential Skill: Movement & Performance</i></u> Proficiency: Applies knowledge of concepts, principles, strategies and tactics related to movement and performance. <u><i>Essential Skill: Health-Enhancing Exercise</i></u> Proficiency: Demonstrates the knowledge and skills to achieve and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical activity and fitness. <u><i>Essential Skill: Personal & Social Behavior</i></u> Proficiency: Exhibits responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others.</p>
<p>HEALTH EDUCATION <i>(Required - takes place in Physical Education class)</i> Health Education curricula and instruction is designed to advocate for and enhance healthy behaviors. Topics and skills that are covered include Goal-Setting, Decisions-Making, CPR & First Aid, Fitness, and Substance Awareness.</p>	<p>ESSENTIAL SKILLS <u><i>Essential Skill: Health Promotion & Disease Prevention</i></u> Proficiency: Comprehends concepts related to health promotion & disease prevention. <u><i>Essential Skill: Decision-making & Goal Setting Skills</i></u> Proficiency: Demonstrates the ability to use decision-making and goal-setting skills</p>

Elective Courses

<p>ART STUDIO (<i>Semester Course</i>) Students learn to explore and apply Elements of Art & Principles of Design in a variety of materials & concepts. Art Studio students will have the opportunity to develop skills in critical thinking, problem solving, design & intent.</p>	<p>ESSENTIAL SKILLS <u>Essential Skill: Demonstrate & apply</u> Proficiency: Student applies many visual art materials, tools, techniques and technology to create ORIGINAL artwork. <u>Essential Skill: Creative process</u> Proficiency: Student uses the Creative Process to create an ORIGINAL artwork. <u>Essential Skill: Critique & Evaluate</u> Proficiency: Student can cite evidence to critique and evaluate artwork. <u>Essential Skill: Communication</u> Proficiency: Student can analyze Historical, Cultural & Visual Context in Images, Themes, Concept and/or Characteristics of Art.</p>
<p>ART DESIGN (<i>Semester Course</i>) Students learn to explore and apply Elements of Art & Principles of Design in a variety of materials & concepts. Art Studio students will have the opportunity to develop skills in critical thinking, problem solving, design & intent.</p>	<p>ESSENTIAL SKILLS <u>Essential Skill: Demonstrate & apply</u> Proficiency: Student applies many visual art materials, tools, techniques and technology to create ORIGINAL artwork. <u>Essential Skill: Creative process</u> Proficiency: Student uses the Creative Process to create an ORIGINAL artwork. <u>Essential Skill: Critique & Evaluate</u> Proficiency: Student can cite evidence to critique and evaluate artwork. <u>Essential Skill: Communication</u> Proficiency: Student can analyze Historical, Cultural & Visual Context in Images, Themes, Concept and/or Characteristics of Art.</p>
<p>INTRODUCTORY SPANISH (<i>Semester Course</i>) In this course, students will learn the basics of listening, speaking, reading and writing Spanish. Communication in the second language will be practiced and exhibited through a variety of projects and activities. The course will address some of the most useful conversational aspects of a second language such as how to ask and answer questions and speak about oneself. Vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, and limited grammar structures will be presented and explained. Students will analyze cultural similarities and differences such as customs, celebrations, and non-verbal communication.</p>	<p>ESSENTIAL SKILLS <u>Essential Skill: Students will speak comprehensible Spanish.</u> Proficiency: Student uses learned grammar, vocabulary, and appropriate communication techniques to convey a spoken message in the target language that can be comprehended without difficulty. <u>Essential Skill: Students will interpret the Spanish language in its written and spoken forms.</u> Proficiency: Student uses learned concepts and limited support to successfully interpret the target language. <u>Essential Skill: Students will write comprehensible Spanish.</u> Proficiency: Student relies on learned words and phrases to communicate written language with grammatical accuracy. <u>Essential Skill: Students will recognize and demonstrate an awareness of different cultures and perspectives to be able to interact with cultural competence.</u> Proficiency: Student investigates and explains products and practices related to everyday life in the target culture to be able to interact with cultural competence.</p>

<p>BAND <i>(Year long course)</i> Band meets five times a week as a regularly scheduled class. In addition to the band rehearsals, students are given a small group lesson once a week. Students will progress in their musical understanding and performance through lesson materials, graded music literature, and performance experiences. Participation in music festivals and clinics are part of the course. Students are constantly evaluated on their musical growth, a variety of different music and improvement in technical ability. All students are welcome to join! (Please note: Since Orchestra and Band both meet during Chorus, students <u>MAY</u> select both Orchestra and Chorus or Band and Chorus, and attend on alternating days).</p>	<p>ESSENTIAL SKILLS <u>Essential Skill: Technical Knowledge:</u> Students will read and perform notes/rhythms appropriate for their grade level. <u>Essential Skill: Proper Technique and Performance Essential Skill:</u> Students can perform with the skills of professional musicians. <u>Essential Skill: Convey Artistic Meaning:</u> Students will critically interpret intent and meaning in order to evaluate artistic work. <u>Essential Skill: Technique and Skill:</u> Students will perform with proper technique</p>
<p>POP & ROCK (EXPLORING MUSIC) <i>(Semester Course)</i> This fun, hands-on, interactive class is open to all students interested in learning more about musical topics. No previous experience playing an instrument or performing is needed in order to take this class.</p> <p>The class is divided into two general topics: 1) The history and development of Rock and Pop music and 2) Learning how to play Rock and Pop music in small rock bands using electric guitars, keyboards, bass, and drums. This is a general music course, therefore, there are no public performances required for this class.</p>	<p>ESSENTIAL SKILLS <u>Essential Skill: Instrument Playing Skills and Knowledge</u> Proficiency: Demonstrates an ability to play rock band instruments at a beginning level with correct technique. <u>Essential Skill: Music Literacy</u> Proficiency: Reads and understands standard music notation or guitar chord diagrams, rhythm, and terminology. <u>Essential Skill: Connections and Response</u> Proficiency: Analyzes and evaluates pop/rock musical performances and demonstrates connections between music and world culture.</p>
<p>CHORUS <i>(Year long course)</i> Chorus (also called Choir) teaches students proper singing technique in a large group setting through varied repertoire from folk and classical to pop/rock and jazz. Students also learn an appreciation for various types of music as well as how music is composed and performed.</p> <p>Chorus is a full year course that may also be taken on a semester basis; however, a full year is highly recommended as the skills and curriculum are taught sequentially throughout the year. (Please note: Since Orchestra and Band both meet during Chorus, students <u>MAY</u> select both Orchestra and Chorus or Band and Chorus, and attend on alternating days). Participation in three concerts per year is part of the course.</p>	<p>ESSENTIAL SKILLS <u>Essential Skill: Perform Vocal Music Skills</u> Proficiency: Sings with age appropriate tone and technique in large or small group settings. <u>Essential Skill: Music Literacy</u> Proficiency: Reads and understands standard music notation, rhythm, and terminology. <u>Essential Skill: Connections and Response</u> Proficiency: Analyzes and evaluates musical performances and demonstrates connections between music and world culture.</p>
<p>ORCHESTRA <i>(Year long course)</i> Orchestra meets five times a week as a regularly scheduled class. In addition to the orchestra rehearsals, students are given a small group lesson once a week. Students will progress in their musical understanding and performance through lesson materials, graded music literature, and performance experiences. Participation in music festivals and clinics are part of the course. Students are constantly evaluated on their musical growth, a variety of different music and improvement in technical ability. All students are welcome to join! (Please note: Since Orchestra and Band both meet during Chorus, students <u>MAY</u> select both Orchestra and Chorus or Band and Chorus, and attend on alternating days).</p>	<p>ESSENTIAL SKILLS <u>Essential Skill: Technical Knowledge:</u> Students will read and perform notes/rhythms appropriate for their grade level. <u>Essential Skill: Proper Technique and Performance Essential Skill:</u> Students can perform with the skills of professional musicians. <u>Essential Skill: Convey Artistic Meaning:</u> Students will critically interpret intent and meaning in order to evaluate artistic work. <u>Essential Skill: Technique and Skill:</u> Students will perform with proper technique</p>

<p>BAND/CHORUS SPLIT - Full year course alternating days ORCHESTRA/CHORUS SPLIT - Full year course on alternating days.</p>	<p>ESSENTIAL SKILLS: <i>See Band, Orchestra, or Chorus Essential Skills.</i></p>
<p>STEM: Engineering (<i>Semester Course</i>) Students learn to apply their science, technology, engineering, and math knowledge through hands-on projects. Students will have the opportunity to develop skills such as: collaboration, critical thinking, innovation, and problem solving. <i>This class consists of projects related to engineering design process.</i> Projects: (design & build)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Trebuchets ● Conveyor belts ● Towers ● Bridges ● Roller coaster ● CO2 Rocket Cars 	<p>ESSENTIAL SKILLS <u><i>Essential Skill: Empowered Learner</i></u> Proficiency: Students leverage technology to take an active role in choosing, achieving and demonstrating competency in their learning goals. <u><i>Essential Skill: Digital Citizen</i></u> Proficiency: Students recognize the rights, responsibilities and opportunities of living, learning and working in an interconnected digital world. <u><i>Essential Skill: Knowledge Constructor</i></u> Proficiency: Students critically select, evaluate, and synthesize digital resources into a collection that reflects my learning and builds my knowledge. <u><i>Essential Skill: Innovative Designer</i></u> Proficiency: Students use a variety of technologies within a design process to identify and solve problems by creating new, useful or imaginative solutions. <u><i>Essential Skill: Creative Communicator</i></u> Proficiency: Students communicate clearly and express themselves creatively for a variety of purposes using the digital platforms</p>
<p>STEM: Architecture & Design (<i>Semester Course</i>) Students learn to apply their science, technology, engineering, and math knowledge through hands-on projects. Students will have the opportunity to develop skills such as: collaboration, critical thinking, innovation, and problem solving. <i>The class consists of projects related to civil and architectural engineering, drafting, and 3D-printing.</i> Architecture & Civil Engineering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Learning Simple hand-tool purpose & usage ● Simple woodworking projects ● Learning CAD ● Interpreting and drafting simple floor plans ● Building a scale model “tiny home” ● Future City Project <p>Design - 3D Printing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● TinkerCAD Program ● 3D Printing Basics ● Assistive Design Project ● Household Design Project 	<p>ESSENTIAL SKILLS <u><i>Essential Skill: Empowered Learner</i></u> Proficiency: Students leverage technology to take an active role in choosing, achieving and demonstrating competency in their learning goals. <u><i>Essential Skill: Digital Citizen</i></u> Proficiency: Students recognize the rights, responsibilities and opportunities of living, learning and working in an interconnected digital world. <u><i>Essential Skill: Knowledge Constructor</i></u> Proficiency: Students critically select, evaluate, and synthesize digital resources into a collection that reflects my learning and builds my knowledge. <u><i>Essential Skill: Innovative Designer</i></u> Proficiency: Students use a variety of technologies within a design process to identify and solve problems by creating new, useful or imaginative solutions. <u><i>Essential Skill: Creative Communicator</i></u> Proficiency: Students communicate clearly and express themselves creatively for a variety of purposes using the digital platforms</p>

Non-Discrimination Statement

The Burlington Area School District, in accordance with Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and other Federal and State regulations, hereby declares that it is committed to the principle of equal education and employment opportunity and, accordingly, does not discriminate as to sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability. Any inquiries or complaints alleging non-compliance with Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 or other Federal and State civil rights or nondiscrimination regulations shall be referred to the Title IX Coordinator of the Burlington Area School District.