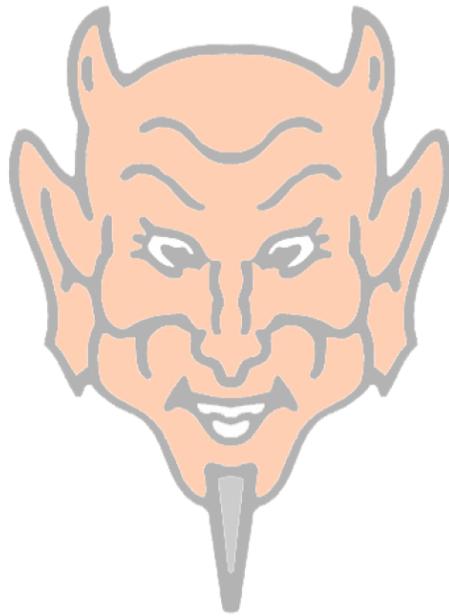


Karcher Middle School



8th 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.

As an 8th grader at KMS, student's Academic classes will be selected based on teacher recommendation and students will have the chance to choose their elective courses. In addition to that, students will have the opportunity to select Advanced Spanish if they have successfully completed a year of Spanish in 7th grade. This gives them the chance to accelerate their world language experience at the high school level if successful. 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

<p>ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS <i>(Required - year long course)</i></p> <p>The grade eight Language Arts program builds upon the seventh grade program and continues to focus on: writing, reading, speaking, and listening. Through these processes, students continue to develop and improve skills in composing with appropriate vocabulary, spelling, grammar, and usage, as well as evaluating classic and popular literature.</p>	<p>ESSENTIAL SKILLS</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Writing</i></u> Proficiency: Using craft and style, student composes complete, organized, and effective writing for a clear purpose--to narrate, inform, or argue.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Reading</i></u> Proficiency: Student reads using a variety of strategies to comprehend and analyze informational text and literature.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Speaking and Listening</i></u> Proficiency: Student engages effectively, as both a speaker and listener, in a range of collaborative discussions.</p>
<p>MATHEMATICS <i>(Year long course)</i></p> <p>The objective of eighth grade mathematics is to consolidate the arithmetic of previous grades and prepare students for Algebra and Geometry. Below are our four overarching Essential Skills based on the common core state standards:</p>	<p>ESSENTIAL SKILLS</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Uses and applies algebraic concepts to solve problems.</i></u> Proficiency: The student consistently solves and represents multi-step algebraic problems and can justify, explain, or prove that their answer is correct.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Uses and applies geometric concepts to solve problems.</i></u> Proficiency: Uses and applies geometric concepts to solve problems with any figure.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Uses and applies appropriate numbers (exponents, integers, & real numbers) to write and solve problems.</i></u> Proficiency: Consistently uses and applies appropriate numbers and operations to write and solve problems.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Uses and applies data analysis concepts to solve problems.</i></u> Proficiency: Uses and applies data analysis strategies to solve problems.</p>
<p>HIGH SCHOOL ALGEBRA (Can be taken for high school credit) <i>(Year long course)</i></p> <p>Algebra in eighth grade is a course for students who plan to take a fast-paced sequence of mathematics courses through Burlington High School. Basic arithmetic skills are consistently reinforced through application to algebraic concepts. A scientific calculator is required (we recommend the TI-30X II). Upon successful completion of this class, most students move onto Geometry their freshman year.</p>	<p>ESSENTIAL SKILLS</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Basic Operations and Applications</i></u> Proficiency: Consistently solves and represents 2/3 algebraic step problems that can include percents and proportions.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Probability Statistics and Data Analysis</i></u> Proficiency: Applies, uses and understands strategies to solve data analysis problems.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Numbers: Concepts, Properties, Expressions, Equations and Inequalities</i></u> Proficiency: Consistently applies algebraic concepts to solve for the unknown.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Graphical Representations</i></u> Proficiency: Applies and understands features of a graph, ordered pairs, slope, and y-intercepts.</p>
<p>SOCIAL STUDIES <i>(Required - year long course)</i></p> <p>Eighth grade social studies is a chronological study of major events in United States history. Students begin with an in depth study of the U.S. Constitution and finish with World War II. Students will analyze primary sources, compare opposing points of view and interpret political cartoons.</p>	<p>ESSENTIAL SKILLS</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Economics</i></u> Proficiency: Evaluate and analyze how different forces impact the economy.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: History</i></u> Proficiency: Analyze historic patterns and change over time to determine cause and effect.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Political Science</i></u> Proficiency: Understand the responsibilities of citizens and analyze the function of political institutions.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Inquiry</i></u> Proficiency: Conducting research to support a claim with evidence</p>

<p>SCIENCE <i>(Required - year long course)</i></p> <p>Physical science units are composed of Chemical Interactions, Waves, Gravity and Kinetic Energy, Planetary Science, and Heredity and Adaptations. In this program, students will learn about science while forming and answering questions, hypotheses, and conclusions while collecting data. Students will perform various activities, such as hands-on labs and projects that relate to real-life experiences.</p>	<p>ESSENTIAL SKILLS</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Developing and Using Models</i></u> Proficiency: Develop, revise, and uses a model to illustrate or explain using accurate science vocabulary and concepts in descriptions of the models.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Planning and Carrying Out Investigations</i></u> Proficiency: Asks scientific questions using appropriate science vocabulary and concepts with occasional minor errors. Plans a complex investigation and collects appropriate data that contain few errors</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Analyzing and Interpreting Data</i></u> Proficiency: Justification for data contains an occasional or minor error. Selects and uses mathematical operations with minor errors.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Constructing Explanations</i></u> Proficiency: Students can explain and use evidence to support scientific concepts.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information using Evidence</i></u> Proficiency: Evaluate a variety of scientific sources and use them to accurately communicate information about scientific systems</p>
<p>PHYSICAL EDUCATION <i>(Required - year long course)</i></p> <p>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</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Movement & Performance</i></u> Proficiency: Applies knowledge of concepts, principles, strategies and tactics related to movement and performance.</p> <p><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.</p> <p><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></p> <p>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, Nutrition and Human Growth & Development.</p>	<p>ESSENTIAL SKILLS</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Health Promotion & Disease Prevention</i></u> Proficiency: Comprehends concepts related to health promotion & disease prevention.</p> <p><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>CONTINUING SPANISH (<i>Semester Course</i>)</p> <p>Continuing Spanish is a one-semester course for eighth graders who successfully completed Introductory Spanish or who, by reason of some previous experience, qualify for the continuing course. A short review of the material that was covered in the Introductory Spanish course will precede a continuation of vocabulary development, grammar study, and spoken language acquisition. Students will be encouraged to use their previous experience with the language to help them comfortably speak, listen, read and write Spanish. Additional cultural topics related to the language will also be explored.</p>	<p>ESSENTIAL SKILLS</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Students will speak comprehensible Spanish.</i></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.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Students will interpret the Spanish language in its written and spoken forms.</i></u> Proficiency: Student uses learned concepts and limited support to successfully interpret the target language.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Students will write comprehensible Spanish.</i></u> Proficiency: Student relies on learned words and phrases to communicate written language with grammatical accuracy.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Students will recognize and demonstrate an awareness of different cultures and perspectives to be able to interact with cultural competence.</i></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>ADVANCED SPANISH (<i>Year long course</i>)</p> <p>Advanced Spanish is available to eighth graders who successfully completed the Introductory Spanish course as seventh graders. Material that was covered in the Introductory Spanish course will precede further vocabulary development, grammar study, and spoken language acquisition. Students will be encouraged to use their previous experience with the language to help them comfortably speak, listen, read and write Spanish. Additional cultural topics related to the language will also be explored. *Students who enroll in Advanced Spanish should have a strong desire to move forward in the Spanish language as the curriculum of this course is aligned with the Level 1 course of Spanish offered at BHS. A student who achieves a B or higher average in the Advanced Spanish course and receives teacher recommendation would then have the opportunity to be placed into Level 2 of Spanish at BHS.</p>	<p>ESSENTIAL SKILLS</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Students will speak comprehensible Spanish.</i></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.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Students will interpret the Spanish language in its written and spoken forms.</i></u> Proficiency: Student uses learned concepts and limited support to successfully interpret the target language.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Students will write comprehensible Spanish.</i></u> Proficiency: Student relies on learned words and phrases to communicate written language with grammatical accuracy.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Students will recognize and demonstrate an awareness of different cultures and perspectives to be able to interact with cultural competence.</i></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>)</p> <p>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</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Technical Knowledge:</i></u> Students will read and perform notes/rhythms appropriate for their grade level.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Proper Technique and Performance Skill:</i></u> Students can perform with the skills of professional musicians.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Convey Artistic Meaning:</i></u> Students will critically interpret intent and meaning in order to evaluate artistic work.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Technique and Skill:</i></u> Students will perform with proper technique</p>

<p>POP & ROCK (EXPLORING MUSIC) <i>(Semester Course)</i></p> <p>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</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Instrument Playing Skills and Knowledge</i></u> Proficiency: Demonstrates an ability to play rock band instruments at a beginning level with correct technique.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Music Literacy</i></u> Proficiency: Reads and understands standard music notation or guitar chord diagrams, rhythm, and terminology.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Connections and Response</i></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></p> <p>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</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Perform Vocal Music Skills</i></u> Proficiency: Sings with age appropriate tone and technique in large or small group settings.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Music Literacy</i></u> Proficiency: Reads and understands standard music notation, rhythm, and terminology.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Connections and Response</i></u> Proficiency: Analyzes and evaluates musical performances and demonstrates connections between music and world culture.</p>
<p>ORCHESTRA <i>(Year long course)</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Technical Knowledge:</i></u> Students will read and perform notes/rhythms appropriate for their grade level.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Proper Technique and Performance Skill:</i></u> Students can perform with the skills of professional musicians.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Convey Artistic Meaning:</i></u> Students will critically interpret intent and meaning in order to evaluate artistic work.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Technique and Skill:</i></u> Students will perform with proper technique</p>
<p>BAND/CHORUS SPLIT - Full year course alternating days</p> <p>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>)</p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>This class consists of projects related to engineering design process.</i></p> <p>Projects: (design & build)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Trebuchets ● Conveyor belt ● Roller coaster ● CO2 Rocket Cars 	<p>ESSENTIAL SKILLS</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Empowered Learner</i></u></p> <p>Proficiency: Students leverage technology to take an active role in choosing, achieving and demonstrating competency in their learning goals.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Digital Citizen</i></u></p> <p>Proficiency: Students recognize the rights, responsibilities and opportunities of living, learning and working in an interconnected digital world.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Knowledge Constructor</i></u></p> <p>Proficiency: Students critically select, evaluate, and synthesize digital resources into a collection that reflects my learning and builds my knowledge.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Innovative Designer</i></u></p> <p>Proficiency: Students use a variety of technologies within a design process to identify and solve problems by creating new, useful or imaginative solutions.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Creative Communicator</i></u></p> <p>Proficiency: Students communicate clearly and express themselves creatively for a variety of purposes using digital platforms.</p>
<p>STEM: Architecture & Design (<i>Semester Course</i>)</p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>The class consists of projects related to civil and architectural engineering, drafting, and 3D-printing.</i></p> <p>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</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Empowered Learner</i></u></p> <p>Proficiency: Students leverage technology to take an active role in choosing, achieving and demonstrating competency in their learning goals.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Digital Citizen</i></u></p> <p>Proficiency: Students recognize the rights, responsibilities and opportunities of living, learning and working in an interconnected digital world.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Knowledge Constructor</i></u></p> <p>Proficiency: Students critically select, evaluate, and synthesize digital resources into a collection that reflects my learning and builds my knowledge.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Innovative Designer</i></u></p> <p>Proficiency: Students use a variety of technologies within a design process to identify and solve problems by creating new, useful or imaginative solutions.</p> <p><u><i>Essential Skill: Creative Communicator</i></u></p> <p>Proficiency: Students communicate clearly and express themselves creatively for a variety of purposes using 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.