

KEENE MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES



KEENE MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of Keene Middle School to provide a productive and healthy environment with a flexible learning program which meets the intellectual, emotional, social and physical needs of our students.

2018-2019

FORWARD

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM AT KEENE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Students at Keene Middle School are assigned to a "team" of teachers for English, math, science, social studies, and reading. This group of students is termed a "cluster" and the team of teachers have the students for assigned blocks of time during the day. In addition, students are exposed to a range of related programs in physical education, world language, art, industrial technology education, health, food preparation & nutrition, and computer applications provided by the allied arts team.

This booklet has been prepared to help students and parents better understand the program of studies at Keene Middle School. It contains descriptions of formal curricular programs for course selection. It does not include information about athletics or clubs which is included in student and/or parent handbooks. Further information may be obtained by contacting your child's guidance counselor.

For more information about KMS and our courses and programs please visit our website at:
<http://kms.keeneschoolsnh.org/>

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TERMS AND DEFINITIONS FREQUENTLY USED WITH A MIDDLE SCHOOL

CLUSTER	A group of students who share the same teachers for the "core" subjects.
ADVISORY	A program that assigns students to one adult every day for ten minutes after homeroom. Transition issues, getting to know each other, sensitive issues, community service, anti-bullying, conflict resolution, and other topics are included. Facets of Developmental Designs will be implemented, which is the Middle School version of Responsive Classroom.
MIRROR IMAGE	Simply a phrase we've used to suggest that the clusters in each grade are as similar in overall abilities as we can make them. Still, there are some differences.
FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE	Periods can be lengthened or shortened, added or deleted. Each team determines the need for these periodic adjustments.
CLUSTER MEETINGS	Meetings when teachers and students can deal with issues important to all students or all teachers in that cluster.
INTEGRATED	Topics that can best be covered by more than one teacher in related, but complementary ways.
ALLIED ARTS also "UNIFIED ARTS"	Subjects at KMS that include physical education, art, music, band, chorus, world language, health, family and consumer studies, technology education and computers.
HEALTH	Subject content includes dealing with peer pressure, values, understanding issues related to drugs and tobacco, socially transmitted diseases, and general cleanliness and related topics. This course is required by state and local policies in grades 6, 7 and 8.
ABILITY GROUPING	The concept of combining students of like needs or abilities for instruction. Although it is used in math, grade seven and eight, its drawbacks outweigh its strengths in other subjects and for the majority of the school day.
TEAM APPROACH	The entire concept that the combined talents, experiences and common planning of a group of four or five teachers for the same group of students is better for students, teachers and parents. This arrangement represents the preferred middle grade approach.
COMMUNITY SERVICE	Some form of this effort is required of every middle school student in each of their two or three years. Students can meet this expectation through advisory, cluster or whole grade activities.
FOCUSED STUDY GROUP	Teachers may use this time to provide support, remediation, or enrichment.
EXTENSIONS	The KMS Extensions Program provides extended learning opportunities for students that incorporate their academic, emotional, and social needs through authentic, in-depth, real-world experiences. Programming takes place during FSG, in class and after school.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH

English courses are grouped heterogeneously (not leveled). The newly adopted Common Core State Standards have been closely integrated into our program. Writing skills are developed through the use of the writer's workshop model, the Key 3 Comprehension Routine and the Keys to Open Response Routine. All grades use a literature text and a grammar text.

ENGLISH GRADE 6

COURSE 160

This course is designed to further apply the writing skills gained from the exploratory model into more polished argumentative, expository, narrative and imaginative pieces. Attention is given to sentence construction and the development of more detailed paragraphs. Revising and editing skills continue to be reinforced. A strong emphasis is placed on the concept of audience.

Practicing the writing process includes brainstorming topics, composing a first draft, revising, conducting writing conferences, proofreading and writing a clean final copy. Final copies are expected to be done using neat legible penmanship or a word processor.

Students learn construction of meaningful sentences as they write the correct forms of subjects and verbs, punctuate sentences, and capitalize and spell words accurately. Close attention is brought to pronouns (intensive) and their proper case.

Students will determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases. Common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots are used as clues to the meaning of a word. Students also consult reference materials, both print and digital, to determine or clarify a word's precise meaning or part of speech.

ENGLISH GRADE 7

COURSE 170

7th grade English includes a heavy focus on writing. Styles taught include personal essays and memoirs, descriptive writing, fiction writing, poetry, persuasive essays and informational writing. Units are developed around the style of writing being taught and balance student choice with prescribed topics. Considerable time is spent generating ideas, drafting, polishing and completing final drafts.

Throughout the year, many readings are shared with a focus on reading as a writer, connecting to and experiencing literature and to demonstrate writing techniques.

There is emphasis on traditional grammar with an eye and ear towards how knowledge of the rules of writing can assist in creatively conveying a message. Lessons are aimed at improving the craft of writing. Students focus on how choice of phrases, clauses and sentence types can help or hinder their ideas.

7th grade English also features vocabulary and word studies, including a study of Greek and Latin roots and prefixes.

The overarching goal of 7th grade English is to help students hone their skills as writers and critical

thinkers.

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ENGLISH GRADE 8

COURSE 181

8th Grade English focuses on writing development and mastery of particular writing skills. Using the Common Core Curriculum to guide the course, students experience many opportunities to hone their skills on expository, narrative, and argumentative writing. Along with those specific modes of writing, attention is paid to the development of domain-specific vocabulary within student writing and a rich descriptive process. Often, eighth graders will experience writing across the curriculum as they write pieces connecting to topics covered in their other content classes (e.g. science, social studies, and math).

As for mechanics, the Common Core Curriculum is also used as a foundation, wherein students consider multiple forms of the verb. Close attention is brought to verbals (e.g. gerunds, participles, and infinitives), active and passive voice, verb mood (e.g. indicative, imperative, conditional, etc.), and correcting inappropriate shifts in tense. To achieve clarity in writing, students study particular elements of punctuation, including the semicolon, ellipsis, and dash, used to indicate pauses or breaks, as well as the proper use of the comma. Sentence structure and clauses are reviewed to help support the skill of varying sentence lengths and beginnings.

Students in the 8th grade can also expect a strong focus on revising multiple copies of the same work, completing small research-based projects, developing an understanding of poetic composition, reading like a writer to develop analytical skills and focusing on writer's craft, and working with multimedia presentations of their writing.

READING

READING GRADE 6, 7, 8

COURSE 151, 175, 185

The reading program strives to produce strategic, independent readers who value reading as a lifelong pursuit. Readers develop effective strategies for monitoring and repairing comprehension through a variety of classroom texts as well as through independent choice. Reading at Keene Middle School includes the following essential components of a middle level reading program: **Vocabulary development, fluency, study skills, reading strategy instruction, phonics, comprehension, independent reading, fiction and genre studies, nonfiction and informational text, assessment.** Study skills as related to reading comprehension are developed through the integration of topics and texts in content areas.

Reading is a required core class for all students. This year-long reading course is a developmental program, which takes place every day and is heterogeneously mixed. Teachers work closely with the English teachers to scaffold their instruction to jointly address the Common Core. Special education support for basic reading skills will be determined at IEP/transition meetings. Students with reading comprehension deficits will be supported in the regular reading program, but also will receive small group instruction as needed.

MATHEMATICS

All math courses at Keene Middle School implement the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. Skills are introduced at the appropriate grade level and then applied and further developed in each successive grade. Courses utilize a variety of strategies, including cooperative learning, differentiated instruction, projects, and hands-on activities to best achieve fluency and ability to apply math concepts in real-world situations.

MATH GRADE 6**COURSE 261**

The topics covered in sixth grade include problem-solving strategies; understanding and operating with integers, fractions, decimals, and percents; ratio and proportional relationships; interpreting statistics and graphs; introducing expressions, equations, and inequalities; and geometry and measurement. A variety of teaching and learning techniques are employed with an emphasis on inquiry based activities.

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MATH GRADE 7 ACCELERATED**COURSE 270**

Students are placed in this level by their sixth grade teacher. Recommendations are based on the an “A” average in grade six math and a strong work ethic. Students in this course have demonstrated a strong interest in math, have strong study skills, and are self-motivated towards accelerating their learning in math. The course will combine topics taught in seventh and eighth grade math courses. The pace of this class will be rapid and require more than the usual amount of time and effort for assigned work. Students are expected to maintain an “A” average to continue in this course and those who successfully complete it are expected to take Topics in Algebra in grade eight.

MATH GRADE 7**COURSE 271**

This course is for the majority of seventh grade students. Computational skills will be stressed, especially in problem solving situations. Major topics explored include working with rational numbers, equations and inequalities, ratios, proportions and percents, geometry, statistics, and probability.

MATH GRADE 8 TOPICS IN ALGEBRA**COURSE 280**

This course is for students who successfully complete grade 7 accelerated math. Recommendations are based on teacher recommendation, an “A” average in grade seven accelerated math, and a strong work ethic. Students will explore several topics in Algebra, which include functions, linear equations, solving systems of equations and inequalities, exponential functions, quadratics and rational algebraic expressions. The pace of this class will be rapid and require more than the usual amount of time and effort for assigned work. Many students taking this course will take Algebra I Honors at Keene High School.

MATH GRADE 8**COURSE 281**

This course is for the majority of eighth grade students. Cooperative learning and hands-on activities will be used to help students discover mathematical concepts. Students will explore several topics including algebra, statistics, and geometry, such as linear functions and equations, solving systems of equations, irrational numbers, Pythagorean Theorem, volume, exponents and scientific notation, and analyzing bivariate data.

SCIENCE**INTEGRATED SCIENCE GRADE 6****COURSE 360**

The KMS Grade Six science curriculum is predominantly hands-on and inquiry based. The curriculum is part of the S.A.U. continuum of studies, and/or the Next Generation Science Standards. The school year begins with a crayfish/ecology unit in which basic scientific skills such as observation record keeping, measurement, scientific method and problem solving are taught interwoven with ecology concepts. These skills will be reinforced throughout the year. Besides crayfish, we will also cover: Scientific Skills- Observation, Measurement, Scientific Models, Experimental Design. Life Sciences- Body Systems, Ecology: food webs, water cycle, ecosystems etc.

Earth/Space Science- Earth, Sun, and Moon, Shaping Earth, Earth Systems, Weathering, Erosion.
Physical Science- Properties of Matter, Intro to Force, Intro to Energy Types.

INTEGRATED SCIENCE GRADE 7

COURSE 370

The KMS Grade Seven science curriculum is predominantly hands-on and inquiry based. The curriculum is part of the S.A.U. continuum of studies, and/or the Next Generation Science Standards. The seventh grade curriculum is designed to introduce science concepts and the following skills: implementing and analyzing scientific investigations in the classroom, and connecting these to processes and issues of our everyday lives.

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Science Skills- Observation, Measurement, Scientific Models, Scientific Inquiry and Analysis.
Life Science- Change over Time, Natural Selection, Cells, Tissues, Organs and Systems, Characteristics of Living Things and Classification, Intro to Heredity.
Earth/Space Science- Planets and Universe, Evidence of Geologic Time, Rocks, Plate Tectonics, Seismic Waves.
Physical Science- Exploration of: Composition and Properties of Matter.

INTEGRATED SCIENCE GRADE 8

COURSE 380

The KMS Grade Eight science curriculum is predominantly hands-on and inquiry based. The curriculum is part of the S.A.U. continuum of studies, and/or the Next Generation Science Standards. The eighth grade curriculum is designed to introduce or reinforce science concepts and the following skills: designing, implementing and reporting scientific investigations in the classroom laboratory, and connecting these to processes and issues of our everyday lives.
Science Skills- Observation, Measurement, Scientific Models, Scientific Inquiry and Analysis.
Life Science- Cell Processes, Genetics, Plant Kingdom, Fungi Kingdom, Human Development.
Earth/Space Science- Orbits, Galaxies, and Atmospheric Weather.
Physical Science- Application of Properties of Matter, Interactions Between Types of Matter, Energy, Application of Heat Transfer, Application of Forces and Motion.

SOCIAL STUDIES

All Social Studies classes Grades 6 - 8 are grouped heterogeneously. This procedure allows classes to include students who have different social backgrounds, skill levels, and physical capabilities which mirror the real world on encountering, accepting, appreciating, and celebrating differences. All Social Studies Curriculums will integrate the strands of civics and government, economics, geography and history, in order to mirror the goals outlined in the K - 12 Social Studies Curriculum Framework and Core Standards created by the New Hampshire Department of Education. Social Studies at Keene Middle School supports work that is done in other subject areas. Current issues will continue to be an important component of the Social Studies Curriculum.

SOCIAL STUDIES GRADE 6

COURSE 460

History: Students will study the following historical topics: Prehistory, the advent of agriculture, Mesopotamia, and Greece and Rome. Through the study of these topics, students will make use of primary and secondary source materials to analyze events, examine varied perspectives, make inferences, and evaluate for bias. Additionally, students will demonstrate knowledge of chronology of the periods under examination, and assess the causes and effects of significant historical turning points.

Geography: Students will seek to answer the following questions: Where is something located? Why is it there? What is the significance of its location? How is it related to other people,

places and environments? Students will utilize geographic tools and themes to help answer these questions as they study the geography of the Mediterranean Region. The study of these geographic regions will be integrated with the historical topics in 6th grade.

Civics and Government: Students will examine the government systems of the historical period under study and how governments address problems and needs of their people. This will include a focus on the classical origins of democracy and its relationship to modern American system of government.

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SOCIAL STUDIES GRADE 7, 8

COURSE 470 & 480

In 7th grade, students will begin a two year study of American History that will continue in 8th grade. This two year course of study is designed to help every student develop a firm understanding of the social and political history of the United States. Throughout 7th and 8th grade students will...

- use primary sources to make historical interpretations, analyze events, examine varied perspectives, make inferences, and evaluate for bias.
- develop the ability to think critically about historical events and movements.
- analyze historical motives and catalysts and determine their effects.
- develop the ability to critically analyze historical materials to make reasoned judgments.
- gain understanding, perspective, and appreciation of American history and its applications in contemporary situations.
- express understanding and interpretations through various forms of writing and research projects.

In 7th grade students will study topics including: Pre-Columbian Native American Societies, European Exploration of the Western Hemisphere, Colonization of the Americas, Colonial Societies, The Era of the American Revolution, the Early Republic, the Constitutional Convention and the Federal Era.

In 8th grade students will continue with the study of American History. Topics will include: The formation of the first American political parties & the election of 1800, early Industrial Revolution, the Age of Jackson, Manifest Destiny, Antebellum society and reform movements, the early Industrial Revolution, slavery, Sectionalism and the causes of Secession, the Civil War, Reconstruction, westward expansion and Native Americans, the Industrialization and Urbanization of the United States, Immigration, labor movements, the Women's Suffrage Movement and the Progressive Era to 1920.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

GRADE 6, 7, 8

COURSE 560, 570, 580

Students will learn skills necessary to perform a variety of physical activities and sports. They will work to improve their personal fitness and learn about the implications of and the benefits from involvement in movement, games and sports.

HEALTH EDUCATION

GRADE 6, 7, 8

COURSE 562, 572, 582

Health education is a requirement for all students in grades 6-8. The programs are designed to motivate and assist students in maintaining and improving their health, as well as, preventing disease and helping to reduce health related risk behaviors.

The content areas covered may include: consumer, community, mental, social and environmental health, growth and development, exercise and fitness, nutrition, diseases and disease prevention, substance abuse prevention, and safety.

The National Health education standards are linked to the content and assessment at each grade level.

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ART

GRADE 6, 7, 8

COURSE 660, 670, 680

Art is taken for one marking quarter in grade 6, 7, and 8 at Keene Middle School and takes place in a studio environment. Lessons include a variety of media and focus on artists in a variety of ways while encouraging creativity, analysis, reflection, and individualism in each students' artwork.

GRADE 6

Lessons include: Portfolio Design, Clay masks, One point perspective/drawing unit, Color Wheel theory, discussion and lecture, exercises, quiz or word wall game, Mixed media: layering color to create depth and space, proportion and drawing from observation.

GRADE 7

Lessons include: Color Mixing Portfolio Design, Clay including glazing, Drawing hand from observation and Zentangle, Printmaking, Metal Repousse, 2-point Perspective, Color Wheel theory, discussion and lecture, exercises, quiz or word wall game, Art analysis, readings and reflections.

GRADE 8

Lessons include: Portfolio Design, Clay including glazing, Pop art self-portraits, Drawing exercises including: stippling, crosshatching, value shading, and still life, Written art analysis, reading and reflections, Color Wheel theory, discussion and lecture, exercises, culminating in a quiz.

Art Club is offered weekly for students who would like to spend more independent time creating.

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

GRADE 6, 7, 8

COURSE 760, 770, 780

Computer Applications is a required course taken for one quarter each year at Keene Middle School. Each level of the course introduces keyboarding skills, digital citizenship, basic productivity tools, and graphic design using standard business software applications (Microsoft Office and Google Apps). The courses begin with exploratory concepts that transition to more challenging skill building activities and projects from year to year.

Grade 6 students begin with an introduction to Touch-Typing and continue to practice this skill. Word, Excel, and PowerPoint are introduced using simple projects that keep their interest and help them develop basic skills they'll need throughout middle school.

Grade 7 students continue with Touch-Typing and are tested for the development of their speed and accuracy. Word processing, spreadsheets, publishing and multi-media presentations are also included. Students will practice: bullets and numbering, using images, borders, copying, cutting, pasting, drawing tools and more.

Grade 8 students will practice Touch-Typing to help them reach the high school's entry-level requirement of 35 words-per-minute. In addition to the skills from above students will create letters, tables, spreadsheets, presentations, Infographics and other desktop publishing projects.

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INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION & FAMILY CONSUMER SCIENCE

Intro to Industrial Technology Education (Tech. Ed.) Grade 6

COURSE 761

This introductory course is taken for 22 consecutive days within one quarter during the 6th grade. The other 22 days of the marking quarter are spent in Family Consumer Science. Students will take another half marking quarter again in grade 7 and in grade 8. Tech. Ed. is an exploratory class that focuses on a STEM approach to help students learn basic engineering skills while increasing their awareness of industrial technology topics. The curriculum includes many hands-on activities that introduce technology, its systems and processes, and its impact on society. There are large group, small group, and individual assignments. Emphasis is placed on problem-solving, quality of work, and overall effort, while reinforcing and applying skills learned in the core subject areas. Units include:

- * What is Technology?
- * Linear Measurement - Reading a Ruler (by 1/16ths)
- * Safety in the Lab
- * Introduction to raw materials (wood & plastic)
- * Woodworking project - small cutting board
- * Plastics - making putty and slime
- * Reflective Writing - manufacturing with wood
- * Argument Writing - pros/cons of plastics technology

Intro to Family and Consumer Science (FACS) Grade 6

COURSE 761

This introductory course is the first time in a FACS classroom for most students. They will have this class in all three grade levels for approximately 22 consecutive days. The objective of this class is to give students the skills needed to prepare healthy foods, encourage good eating habits by making wise consumer choices. The students will also practice leadership and teamwork while working in small groups. Reading, math skills and science are integrated into the curriculum. Topics included are as

- * Hand sewing project
- * Safety in the kitchen

- * Proper measuring techniques
- * Identifying common cooking utensils and terms
- * Reading and following the directions in a recipe
- * Focus on healthy snacks and breakfast foods

Industrial Technology Education (Tech. Ed.) Grade 7

COURSE 771

This course is taken for half of one marking quarter while in grade 7 (approximately 22 days). Its focus is to build upon the grade 6 curriculum and further explore the technological world in which we live. Students are first introduced to industrial safety as it applies to work around machinery. Hands-on projects incorporate engineering and problem-solving activities with assignments that explore the concepts of construction, manufacturing, transportation, and communication while applying skills learned in the core subject areas. Activities involve large and small group learning and cooperation, developing workplace skills, and demonstrated competency while using tools and machinery. Units

- * Safety Awareness (test score requires 90% or better, retakes allowed)
- * Fundamentals of Drafting
- * CO2 Dragster Design, Manufacture & Test
- * Truss-design Bridge Building & Testing
- * Reflective and Analysis Writing

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Family And Consumer Science (FACS) Grade 7

COURSE 771

This course, taken for the other half of one marking quarter in grade 7 (approximately 22 days), also builds upon the grade 6 curriculum as they further explore consumerism and prepare healthy foods. The objective of this class is to give students the skills needed to prepare healthy foods and encourage good eating habits by making wise consumer choices. The students will also practice leadership and teamwork while working in small groups. Reading, math skills and science are integrated into the curriculum. Topics included are as follows:

- * Safety in the kitchen
- * Proper measuring techniques
- * Cooking utensils and terms
- * Reading and following directions for a recipe
- * Focus on baking

Industrial Technology Education (Tech. Ed.) Grade 8

COURSE 781

This course is taken for half of one marking quarter while in grade 8 (approximately 22 days). Its focus is to further explore the technological world in which we live and the career skills needed to be successful. Students complete a review of industrial safety, and then choose 3 out of 5 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math) units. Each unit requires students to apply workplace skills, engineering concepts, and problem-solving techniques while exploring that unit's main topic and the technology used in real-life careers. Student learning opportunities include a balance of instructor demonstrations, hands-on project work, multimedia presentations, and Internet interactive activities. Students may choose the modular units to explore and include topics such as:

Grade 8 STEM unit titles are:

1. Biotechnology (focus on Forensics)
2. Power and Energy (focus on electronics & lasers)
3. Manufacturing & Construction (woodworking, plastics, & customization)

4. Transportation & Aerodynamics (physics of flight)
5. Video Game Development (focus on computer programming).

Family And Consumer Science (FACS) Grade 8

COURSE 781

This course, taken for the other half of one marking quarter in grade 8 (approximately 22 days), also builds upon the grade 6 and 7 curriculum as they further explore consumerism, self-sufficiency, and healthy foods. The objective of this class is to give students the skills needed to prepare healthy foods, encourage good eating habits, learn machine sewing techniques, and making wise consumer choices. The students will also practice leadership and teamwork while working in small groups. Reading, math skills and science are integrated into the curriculum. Topics included are as follows:

- * Machine Sewing project
- * Kitchen Safety Review
- * Review of proper measuring techniques and utensil use
- * Reading and following a set of directions (recipes and sewing)
- * Teamwork skills focusing on general planning and organization
- * Economics: Calculating meal costs
- * Focus on healthy snacks and entrees

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WORLD LANGUAGES

INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH GRADE 6

COURSE 862

This course is an introduction to the Spanish language and cultures. Most students are entering sixth grade with little or no exposure to world languages. Students will work on their listening and speaking skills in another language. There is an emphasis on learning the geography and customs of the many areas of the world where Spanish is spoken. There is minimal homework. There are quizzes, tests and projects to help assess student progress. This course meets every other day, all year.

SPANISH GRADE 7

COURSE 870

This is a formal course of instruction where classes meet every other day, all year. Conversational skills are emphasized and writing skills are developed. Students begin a study of grammatical concepts and participate in many target language-oriented activities, such as listening activities, oral presentations, and skits. The cultural emphasis is on the customs, geography, music and art of Spain and Puerto Rico. Homework is assigned as needed to reinforce concepts that need regular practice. There are quizzes and tests to help assess student progress and determine placement for the Spanish program in grade eight.

SPANISH GRADE 8

COURSE 880

Eighth grade Spanish is designed to build upon those concepts that have been developed in 6th and 7th grade. The goal is for students to enter Keene High School prepared to take Spanish II. Basic conversational skills are emphasized, real-world skills are practiced and students are actively engaged in discovering the global relevance of being bilingual. The cultural emphasis is on the customs, geography, music and art of Costa Rica and Chile. This course meets every other day, all year.

ADVANCED SPANISH GRADE 8**COURSE 882**

This course is designed for students who have demonstrated a passion for learning Spanish. Students who take this course need to have shown mastery on the grade 7 content and have the motivation to immerse themselves in a world language. The goal is for students to enter Keene High School prepared to take Spanish II. This is designed to be a rigorous course where the student is immersed in listening, speaking, reading and writing in the world language. The cultural emphasis is on the customs, geography, music and art of Costa Rica and Chile. A textbook is used as an in-class reference only. This course meets every other day, all year. A grade of 80% on the placement test and recommendation by the seventh grade teacher is required.

MUSIC**STRING ORCHESTRA GRADE 6, 7, 8****COURSE 936, 937, 938**

Keene Middle School has a long-standing tradition of quality performance programs. Grade level orchestral ensembles are open to all sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students who play Violin, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass. Students who do not currently play a String instrument may possibly join the String program with permission of the instructor. There is also an opportunity for a serious piano student currently enrolled in private lessons to audition for this ensemble. Please contact the instructor, Carrie Young, for more information at cjyoung@sau29.org. The string orchestra performs several times throughout the year. These performances include; three or four evening concerts and at least one daytime school assembly. Students are required to participate in all of these activities, as well as practice their instruments at home.

BAND GRADE 6, 7, 8**COURSE 906, 907, 908**

Keene Middle School has a long-standing tradition of quality performance programs. Grade level bands are open to all sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students who play a Band instrument. The following instruments are played in the KMS band programs: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Bass Guitar (not 6-string guitar), and Percussion/Bells (not drum set). Students who do not currently play a band instrument may possibly join the band with permission of the instructor. Please contact the instructor, Susan Hahs at shahs@sau29.org, for more information. The bands perform many times throughout the year. These performances include; three or four evening concerts, at least one daytime school assembly, and the Memorial Day parade. Students are required to participate in all of these activities, as well as practice their instruments at home.

CHORUS GRADE 6, 7, 8**COURSE 916, 917, 918**

Keene Middle School has a long-standing tradition of quality performance programs. Grade level choruses are offered to those students who want to be part of a performing vocal ensemble. Students will concentrate on learning to read music and developing proper singing techniques. There will be three evening concerts a year and at least one daytime assembly. All chorus students are required to attend these performances.

GENERAL MUSIC GRADE 6, 7, 8**COURSE 926, 927, 928**

General music is required for all students who do not elect to perform in chorus, band or strings. Students are offered a variety of experiences that develop their thinking, listening skills, performing, and creative abilities. Areas of study include music reading and composition, guitar, keyboarding skills, fundamentals of sound, music history, world music, and music technology. These topics vary from year to year.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Keene Middle School operates on the belief that students learn best in a supportive, inclusionary environment. Special education services are provided in the regular education setting as much as possible. When necessary, teachers are available to work individually or with small groups of students in an alternative setting.

As students move through the middle school, they work with their special educators to understand their learning styles and become advocates for their educational needs. It is a common goal for all students, upon eighth grade graduation, to be aware of their learning style and to be able to advocate for their educational needs.

KMS has two sixth, seventh, and eighth grade level clusters. Within these clusters, there are special educators who are part of the teaching team, as well as support staff who are closely supervised by the team. Our program teachers and counselors work with students who have special needs that go beyond the supports and services in the general special education setting. These teachers/case managers teach small group classes, communicate with parents, and provide the intense services in our building that can often be found in an alternative setting outside of KMS.

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The general special education teacher's day typically consists of teaching small group classes to children with identified disabilities who are performing significantly below grade level or general education students who may need more prescribed instruction to target specific skills through an RTI model. They also facilitate an Academic Support class for homework support, organization, and study skill development. Progress monitoring is implemented for students who are receiving remediative programming. They also assist with implementing the Master Notebook System adopted by Landmark College, co-teaching/co-planning with classroom teachers, supporting Assistive Technology options, communicating and coordinating with parents, teachers and/or specialists, and supporting all children in the regular education classes to promote social and academic inclusion. Collecting and using data (NWEA, NECAP, Aims Web, MAZE, etc.) to drive instruction is also a part of their role. They are all trained in the Language!, Trans Math, and the Collins Writing Program.

KMS has three collaborative programs, Bridges, Horizons and Vistas. The Bridges Program at Keene Middle School has been established to meet the social, emotional and academic needs of students who have been primarily identified with Emotional Disabilities and/or have been unsuccessful in regular academic classrooms. The name Bridges suggests that this program is designed to provide students with special instruction to help reconnect them to instruction in regular classrooms and/or support them fully while they are enrolled in the program. The Horizons program is a program which focuses on daily living skills, social skills, and integrating students into inclusionary settings when appropriate. Students in this program may be working alternative achievement standards. Students in the Vistas Program are primarily children who have Autism Spectrum diagnoses including autism, Asperger's Syndrome, executive functioning deficits, or children with some form of language/communication disorders. The Vistas Program supports children who exhibit weaknesses in social skills, transitions and routines, and life skills. Social skills and social coaching are taught directly and incidentally throughout the school day.

Related special education services such as, occupational therapy, speech and language services, and

modified physical education are also available at Keene Middle School. The need for these services is identified in Individual Educational Plans and services are provided in varied physical settings throughout the school.

Each educationally handicapped child is assigned a professional case manager who manages the implementation of the I.E.P. and serves as the first and most knowledgeable contact for each parent. In addition, Mrs. Megan Battaglia, the K.M.S. coordinator for special services, is available during the school year and during some vacation periods to further coordinate plans for the delivery of instructional services for these students. We invite parents to call Mrs. Battaglia with any questions at 357-9020 x5017 or through email at mbattaglia@sau29.org