

# *Chenango Forks Middle School Information*

## GRADING INFORMATION

**Marking Periods:** Report cards are distributed every ten weeks, approximately one week after the end of the marking period. Interim reports are sent home between reporting periods to indicate student progress.

5-weeks-October 9	10 weeks-November 13 (Q1)
15-weeks-December 18	20 weeks-January 29 (Q2)
25-weeks-March 5	30 weeks-April 16 (Q3)
35-weeks-May 21	40 weeks-June 25 (Q4)

**Honor Roll:** Status requires the following averages with no failures:

- Honor Roll- grades will be between 84.5 and 91.4.
- High Honor Roll- grades will be between 91.5 and 95.4.
- Highest Honor Roll- grades will be between 95.5 and 100.

Physical education, band and chorus are included in the computation of the pupil's average. If a class only meets every other day, it only has a weight of 0.5 in the overall average.

**Homework:** Students can expect homework which is necessary or supplementary to class studies as determined by the classroom teacher. Students have the responsibility to understand what is expected of them when an assignment is given, to seek the aid of the teacher if there is difficulty in completing the assignment and complete assignments satisfactorily and on time. When absent, it is the student's responsibility to make-up all missed assignments. All assignments should be recorded in your agenda. Please see the district homework policy for the middle school.

**Remedial (will not occur during the COVID-19 Health Emergency)** Remedial period is part of the regular school day from 2:30 to 3 p.m. Either the student or the teacher may request a remedial session. There will be no remedial classes or late buses on Fridays. Students may not use athletic practice, babysitting, jobs, etc. as an excuse for not attending remedial if requested. Students are required to remain in remedial for the entire period unless requested by another teacher. Students should not be hanging out in the hallways or exit school property during remedial. Bus passes for the remedial bus will be furnished at the end of the remedial period by the teacher. Students must have a completed bus pass and wait in the student activity area for their remedial bus, not in the high school or outside. Failure to follow remedial procedures could result in disciplinary action.

**Final Exams or Final Projects** will be given in each course. This information will come from the classroom teacher.

**Retention Procedure:** Students will be required to attend summer school if they fail two or more core courses (below 65 final average for the course). Foreign language is included as a core course in grades 7/8. Failure to attend summer school and be successful will mean that the student will face retention in grades 6-8. Additionally, to be eligible to attend summer school a student must be present at school for his or her course schedule for at least 75% of the academic school year.

## BUILDING INFORMATION

Even though it is attached to the Chenango Forks High School, the Middle School is a separate building for students in grades 6, 7, and 8. Student traffic is not permitted between the buildings except for scheduled classes. If a student has a class in the high school, they should enter via the connecting breezeway, they should not go outside to enter the high school.

**Procedure for entering Middle School (this will not be followed during the COVID-19 Health Emergency)**

7:00 a.m. is the earliest students can enter the buildings. They must enter through the Middle School/High School breezeway until 7:40 a.m. Students remain in the student activity area until homeroom dismissal.

- After 7:40 when the breezeway doors are locked students must enter through the visitor entrance in the HS.
- **Doors must remain closed and locked at all times. Students should not open doors for other students or adults trying to enter the building.**
- Parents/guardians needing to visit the Middle School for any purpose (student pick up, scheduled meetings, drop off supplies, etc.) must enter through the High School Visitors Entrance.

**Visitors:** Visitors to the Middle School must have clearance through the main office and enter through the visitor's entrance located in the High School. Visitors must present a picture ID, sign in and wear an identification badge during their visit. Casual visitors or drop-ins from other schools that have holidays or close early are not permitted. All visitors must check out at the main office when leaving the complex.

**Opening Exercises:** The flag of the United States of America will be on display in each classroom. Time will be set aside each morning for the "Pledge of Allegiance" and morning announcements. Students are to be attentive during this time.

**Lockers (will not be used during the COVID-19 Health Emergency)** Lockers are supplied and assigned to students by their homeroom teacher. At no time can lockers be switched without permission from the office. Lockers remain the property of CFMS and may be checked at any time. No tape is to be used on the lockers. Students are instructed not to share their locker combination with anyone.

**Communication Devices:** In the Middle School cell phones are to be put on silent between 7:38 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. Cell phones may be carried by the student or stored in his/her locker. Students should not use their cell phones in classrooms, unless directed by his/her teacher as outlined in the District Code of Conduct, "Use of Electronic Devices." Students should not use their cell phones while walking through the hallways. If a student needs to use his/her cell phone for personal reasons, they should ask their classroom teacher or stop in the main office for use. Students should not be taking photographs, recording audio or videos with their cell phones without the permission of a staff member or the main office. Students not following our cell phone expectations can lose their cell phone privileges.

The District is not responsible for stolen, lost or damaged personal electronic devices. The safety of the cell phone is the responsibility of the student.

We have an office phone specifically designated for student calls during school hours, as well as telephones in each classroom for student use. Students may use these phones at any time they are not in class. Parents/guardians may call the office at any time to leave a message for their son or daughter. We will ensure that the student receives the message.

**Earbuds/Headphones:** Students are not allowed to wear these items on their heads or necks, or in their ears, as they walk through the hallways. With staff permission, students can use these items in school. For safety reasons, they must have one ear uncovered (one in/one out) to be able to hear any announcements. They must ensure that the volume level is not disruptive to the educational process of others. The safety of earbuds/headphones are the responsibility of the student.

**Valuables:** The safety of valuables and money brought to school is the responsibility of the student.

**Lost and Found:** There is a designated area for lost and found articles in the student activity area.

**Passes (unscheduled travel in the building will be limited due to Covid-19 Health Emergency)** Permission is needed for all unscheduled travel in the building. Written passes are required. Those abusing this system will be restricted from going anywhere except to assigned class areas.

**Textbooks:** They are issued to you to be returned at the end of the school year. Textbooks must not be misused or defaced. It is suggested that textbooks should be covered. You are responsible for the loss of or damage done, to textbooks issued to you.

**Working Papers:** Working papers are available in the High School Health Office.

**Fire/Emergency Drills (drills will be modified following NYS guidance due to Covid-19 Health Emergency)** The New York State Education Law requires that every school conduct fire drills and emergency response procedure drills.

- During the drills, be quiet and listen to directions from your teacher.
- Move quickly, quietly, and orderly. Do not run.
- If building evacuation is needed, the first group out of the building should move far enough to allow room for those following. Keep clear of driveways, exits, entrances and hydrants. Remain with your class and teacher. If confused, always proceed to nearest exit and find an adult. Once outside, you should remain quiet and listen for directions.
- For fire drills "ALL CLEAR - RETURN TO BUILDING" will be announced over the P. A.

**Use of Internet:** Students have opportunities to access information on the Internet for instructional purposes. Some of the information on the network may not be appropriate for student use. The Chenango Forks District cannot be held

responsible for students' access to inappropriate materials. Please be aware of the fact that the use of the network may be revoked at any time for abusive conduct such as: placing unlawful information on the system, the use of profane language, sending messages which are likely to result in the loss of the recipient's work or system, sending "chain letters" or "broadcast messages" to lists of individuals, or any other types of use which would cause congestion on the networks or otherwise interfere with the work of others.

**School Issued Electronic Devices:** Chenango Forks Middle School will continue to focus on developing 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning skills with our students. Students in our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades will be issued 1:1 Chenango Forks Devices to use for educational purposes. Sixth grade students may access mobile learning carts and will not receive individual devices.

Parents/guardians are reminded that:

- They are financially responsible for any lost or damaged device.
- The Chenango Forks Middle School wireless network provides a "filtering" mechanism so that students may not access inappropriate content while at school. It is suggested that when students utilize their device within your residence, your wireless network should be configured to block inappropriate Internet content. Please monitor your student's use of the device if you do not have an Internet filtering mechanism.
- A device user agreement with more information will be provided to your child before they receive it.

### **BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS**

At CFMS we focus on respect, dedication and collaboration. Students need to be respectful to themselves and others in the building. They need to be dedicated to their work. Working positively as a team, will result in educational success. The following is a set of standards by which students will be expected to act.

**Student Dress Code:** Please refer to the District Code of Conduct included in this handbook.

**Backpack/String bags (will not be followed during the COVID-19 Health Emergency)** Backpacks/string bags are not allowed in classrooms or hallways after the start of the school day. Upon arrival to school all backpacks and string bags must be stored in student lockers until dismissal time.

**Unacceptable objects & Contraband:** Objects, along with any other personal property which may pose a distraction to the education process, encourage common thefts or present a potential danger to students will be banned from school. Gambling of any kind is strictly prohibited.

**Hallways:** While moving through the hallways, students should focus on walking at all times and keeping their hands and feet to themselves. Respect the rights of those in classes when traveling in the halls. Noisy halls are distracting to classroom activities. Students should not litter in the hallways, but should utilize the provided trash receptacles. Safety in the hallways is a top priority.

**Classrooms:** Students should be respectful of the educational process of the classroom. Disruptions of class will not be tolerated. Students should be on-time and prepared for the start of class. Students should observe the rules established for each class.

**Library:** Students should keep noise to a minimum when present in the library to not disrupt the educational process of others. Students should cooperate with others and **must have a signed pass** from a classroom teacher. Each student should sign his/her own full name and time of arrival on the sign in sheet. When leaving the library before the end of the class period, the student should also sign out. Students are not to leave the library without permission.

**Cafeteria (seating rules will be altered due to Covid-19 Health Emergency)** Your cooperation is appreciated to make lunch time an enjoyable part of the day for everyone. During lunch students should focus on being respectful to everyone in the Student Activity Area (SAA) at all times. Students are expected to recycle appropriate items and place garbage in the proper containers. They are responsible for ensuring that their table/chair and eating area is properly cleaned prior to leaving the SAA or being dismissed for recreation time. Students should not gather in the bathrooms or be wandering through the halls during lunch time. They should remain in the SAA. If needed, lunch monitors may assign specific seats to students.

**Remedial Sports Study Hall (will not occur during the COVID-19 Health Emergency)** The official start time is 2:30 – 3:00 p.m. Student athletes should come to sports study hall prepared with schoolwork, a book to read or independent work. Students on the failing list should be staying for the necessary classroom teacher and not in

remedial sports study hall. If needed, monitors may assign specific seats to students. Expectations for remedial sports study hall will be discussed at the start of the sports season.

**Assemblies:** We should continue to focus on being respectful during all assemblies and to our presenters. Students should stay with their class when traveling to/from the auditorium and sit in the assigned area. Dismissal will be by grade levels and it is important to be quiet while traveling through High School hallways.

**Bus Behavior:** Please refer to the District Code of Conduct included in this handbook.

**Detention Study Hall and In-School Suspension (ISS):** Detention will take place during lunch or after school (3 to 4 p.m.). Students need to bring their own work to do during detentions. Bus transportation will be provided, if needed, for after school detention. ISS is located in an assigned area in our school. Students will be monitored by school staff and students are expected to complete teacher assigned work.

**Teacher Disciplinary-Removal of Disruptive Students:** The SAVE legislation provides classroom teachers with a disciplinary tool for dealing with disruptive students – the ability to remove the disruptive student from the classroom for a specified period of time.

**Insubordination:** Insubordination is a refusal on your part to comply with a reasonable request or to respond to such a request in a manner as to mock or degrade the individual in authority or the request itself, or that causes disruption during the school day. An incident of insubordination will be treated appropriately, and in all cases your parent/guardian will be notified.

### ATTENDANCE

**Reporting a Student Absent:** The Chenango Forks School District has a policy that states: Parents/guardians should contact the attendance clerk every day a student is absent. If you need to call before the opening of the attendance office, you may leave a voice mail. Please state your child's full name, the reason for their absence and a phone number, should it be necessary to contact you. If you fail to call the attendance office, we will attempt to contact you with regards to your child's absence. The safety and welfare of our students is of utmost concern. The phone number to call is 648-7576.

**Daily Attendance (Covid-19 rules will need to be followed)** Parent/guardian cooperation is needed to maintain a positive attitude in their children to attend school each day. Students may be denied course credit if more than 10% of the school year is missed. Attendance letters will be sent home several times throughout the year for excessive absences.

- To ensure that all teachers know of any students leaving early, a note or phone call to the attendance office at the beginning of the school day is required. Please indicate the time of dismissal. **Parents/guardians must come to the visitor's entrance in the High School to pick up students for early dismissals.** Students are to remain in class until contacted by the office that the parent/guardian has arrived. Students must sign out in the MS Office.
- Any student coming to school late, or returning to school from an early dismissal, **must always** report to the attendance office immediately upon entering the building.
- All absences will be noted as Unexcused until a confirmation, either verbal or written, is received from a parent/guardian.
- Tardiness, whether the fault of the child or parent/guardian, may not be excused. A note explaining the cause of the tardiness is required.
- Please see the District Code of Conduct Comprehensive Student Attendance Policy for complete information regarding unexcused absences and/or tardiness. In the MS, students receive a verbal warning with 4 unexcused absences or 4 unexcused tardies. After 4 unexcused absences or tardies, consequences will occur as follows: 5 (lunch detention), 10 (lunch detention & 4 pm detention), 15 (2 days of lunch detention & 2 days of 4 pm detention).
- Students may be excluded from a field trip, at principal discretion, if returning on a day of a trip after an extended absence.

**Legal Absence vs Truancy:** Please refer to the District Code of Conduct included in this handbook.

**Homework When Absent (during this COVID-19 Health Emergency please check your teacher's schoology page)** Parents/guardians may request homework from the attendance office. Homework assignments will be available, when requested, to be picked up after 2:30 p.m. Requests should be made between 7 and 8 a.m. to assure all teachers

receive the request. It is essential requested homework be picked up. Failure to do so may cause failure to honor such a request in the future. Also, all requested homework must be returned prior to new requested assignments given.

**Home Instruction:** When a student is unable to attend school for an extended period of time due to illness or a medical procedure, teaching at home could be available through a parental/guardian request to the school principal along with a physician written request.

**Procedures for Short Absences (Family Vacation):** Family vacations should be planned to coincide with school vacations. If parents/guardians choose to take family vacations during instructional time, they should take note that such absences are unexcused according to New York State law. Please be sure to advise the attendance and main offices of the days the student will be absent. It is the student's responsibility to make up all missed assignments during this time.

**Change in Transportation (this will not be allowed during the Covid-19 Health Emergency without 5 school days' notice and it is a permanent change)** Students who ride a different bus on any given day need a written note from a parent/guardian. Students wishing to ride a bus to another student's residence – both students must present a parent/guardian signed request to the office prior to noon. Parent/guardian phone requests will not be honored. Please include the address and bus number the student will ride.

### **STUDENT HEALTH & WELLNESS**

**Health Office:** As of 7/1/18 all New York State Public school students must have a health exam when they enter school as a new entrant and in Pre-K or Kindergarten and grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11. Health Examination forms are available in the health office. An examination of any child may be required by the local school authorities at any time at their discretion to promote the educational interest of the child. Even though not required from each child, an annual health exam with your family physician and dentist is recommended. All students who play sports are required to have a sports physical. This can be done by the student's physician or by our school physician. If you do not wish your student to have a physical appraisal by the school physician, please notify the school nurse, otherwise, the students will be called to the health office when their name appears on our schedule. The data from the physical is good for one year.

**Becoming Ill While at School:** Any student who becomes ill while at school should report to the school nurse. The nurse will then determine whether the student should be sent home. Under no circumstances should the student call or text parents/guardians to request to be taken home. This will be done by the nurse only. Please positively collaborate with and support our nurse with this. Students need to report first to their regularly scheduled class to obtain a pass to the nurse (unless there is an absolute emergency).

**Physical Education:** If a student is medically excused from PE by a health care provider, they will also be unable to participate in athletic practice or competition until cleared by a health care provider. Students out of PE with a medical excuse, are also unable to participate in recess activities similar to physical education. Once cleared to return to PE, the student may resume athletic program activities as well as recess activities. School team sports clothing is not to be worn in physical education class. One day excuses from physical education should be given to the PE teacher, who will adapt the activity for that day. Long term excuses from a physician must be given to the school nurse and an adaptive program will be arranged with the child's physician and, if needed, with assistance from the school's doctor. The medical excuses will then be entered on the child's permanent record. An adaptive program sheet for your doctor may be received from the nurse. Absences may require make ups.

### **SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAM**

The purpose of the school counseling program in our school is to assist you in your educational, vocational, emotional and social adjustment within the school setting. Our school counselor may be reached at 648-7576.

#### **General Function**

- Counseling —A meeting with your counselor may be arranged at your request or the request of your teacher, parent/guardian and/or counselor. Reasons for referral and topics covered in counseling sessions are varied in number and scope. With your school counselor you can listen to and discuss different ways to improve your grades. You can learn to cope with personal responsibility by developing a positive attitude toward school, family, friends, and yourself.

- Testing — Group tests are given to students by the counselor and teachers. Some group tests are administered by the classroom teacher under the direction of the school counselor and principal.
- Access to Files — Access to a student's file is guaranteed to every student and that student's parent/guardian, subject only to reasonable regulations as to time, place and supervision. Psychological reports may be withheld from the student, although not parents, at the discretion of school authorities.
- Files shall not be disclosed to any person or agency outside the school, except with permission of the parent/guardian of a minor student or by the student when he/she has attained the age of 18.

**Teacher/Parent Conferences (due to the Covid-19 Health Emergency, teacher/parent conferences will be done remotely)** Both the school and the home must cooperate if pupils are to profit from their educational opportunities. Communication between parents/guardians and teachers is encouraged. Teachers may wish to meet parents/guardians and discuss with them the best method of achieving the satisfactory academic progress of each student. Appointments for conferences with teachers may be made through the school counseling office.

**Child Protective Services:** Consistent with the district's commitment to keep students safe from harm and the obligation of school officials to report to child protective services when they have reasonable cause to suspect that a student has been abused or maltreated, the district will cooperate with local child protective services workers who wish to conduct interviews of students on school property relating to allegations of suspected child abuse, and/or neglect, or custody investigations. Department of Social Services will notify the parent/guardian rather than the school.

**PINS Petitions:** The district may file a PINS (person in need of supervision) petition in Family Court on any student under the age of 18 who demonstrates that he or she requires supervision and treatment by:

- Habitually being truant and not attending school as required by part one of Article 65 of the Education Law.
- Engaging in an ongoing or continual course of conduct which makes the student ungovernable or habitually disobedient and beyond the lawful control of the school.
- Knowingly and unlawfully possess illegal substances in violation of Penal Law 221.05. A single violation of 221.05 will be a sufficient basis for filing a PINS petition.

### **EXTRACURRICULAR**

**Interscholastic Sports:** Interscholastic sports (modified level) are available to 7th and 8th grade students.

- FALL - Boys: Football, Soccer, Golf, Cross Country  
Girls: Soccer, Swimming/Diving, Golf, Tennis, Cross Country, Volleyball
- WINTER - Boys: Basketball, Wrestling, Swimming/Diving, Bowling, Indoor Track  
Girls: Basketball, Bowling, Indoor Track
- SPRING - Boys: Baseball, Lacrosse, Tennis, Track  
Girls: Softball, Lacrosse, Track

In addition, a few students who qualify, according to State guidelines, may participate in a varsity or junior varsity sport.

**Middle School Athletes (will not be followed during the COVID-19 Health Emergency)** All athletes must stay in the middle school during remedial unless they have permission to go elsewhere, granted by the main office. During remedial, student athletes should stay for a teacher or in remedial sports study hall. The directions of the personnel on duty must be followed at all times. Failure to follow any of these rules may result in the athlete being sent home and not being allowed to participate in practice or a game/match.

Game Days – Student athletes are allowed to go home prior to games or they must stay in remedial sports study hall until their coach arrives or their athletic bus departs. If a student chooses to go home prior to the game it is their responsibility to return for their sport on time. Students should not be wandering on school property or in the neighborhood.

**Dances (will not occur during the COVID-19 Health Emergency)**

- Middle School Dances are for CFMS students only.
- Students must be in school by 11 a.m. on the day of the dance in order to attend.
- Students who have been assigned to after school detention, alternate instruction or suspended since the previous dance may not be able to attend, unless permission is granted by the Principal.
- Students under the influence of drugs or alcohol will have their parents/guardians notified immediately to be sent home. They will be barred from attending future dances for the school year and will be disciplined according to our Code of Conduct.
- Dances will be held from 6:30 – 8 p.m. Times will be posted on the MS website.

- All students are expected to be picked up by 8:10 p.m., ten minutes after the dance is over.
- No student will be permitted entry into the dance 30 minutes after the start of the dance unless arrangements have been made prior to the dance and the student is escorted to the door by a parent/guardian.
- Students, once inside the building, will not be allowed to leave unless a parent/guardian (or designee) comes to get them.
- Snacks may be made available at dances for sale.
- Backpacks are not allowed during dances.
- Students should not be taking photographs, recording audio or videos with their cell phones without the permission of a staff member or the main office.

**Clubs and Organizations:** It is recognized that a great deal of learning also takes place outside the formal classroom. Students are offered many clubs and organizations in which they may participate, increasing their learning opportunities and enjoyment of school. The clubs and organizations available to all students are: Art Club, Student Council, Yearbook, Ski Club, Library Club, Health Club, Science Olympiad, French Club, Robotics Club, Technology Club, Drama Club, Intramurals and a Game Club. All eighth grade students may participate in the Spirit of '76 club.

**Student Council Officers and Representatives:** The Student Council and its activities are under the general supervision of the Board of Education and under the immediate supervision of the building principal and the Student Council's faculty advisor. The Council also functions under a constitution established by the Administration. Student Council is made up of 12 members, elections are held in the fall.

**(All class descriptions are subject to change during the Covid-19 Health Emergency)**

**INTRODUCTION TO COURSE OFFERINGS**

<b>Grade 6</b>	Written Expression Reading Math Science Social Studies	Art (daily 10 weeks) Family & Consumer Science (daily for 10 weeks) Career & Technical Education (daily for 10 weeks) Health (daily for 10 weeks) Physical Education (40 weeks-alternate days) Band, Chorus or General Music (40 weeks-alternate days)
<b>Grade 7</b>	English Math Science Social Studies Foreign Language (Spanish or French) Accelerated Course: Math 7A	Art (daily for 10 weeks) Family & Consumer Science (daily 10 weeks) Career & Technical Education (daily 10 weeks) Health (daily 10 weeks) Physical Education (40 weeks-alternate days) Band, Chorus or General Music (40 weeks-alternate days)
<b>Grade 8</b>	English Math Science Social Studies Foreign Language (Spanish or French) Accelerated Courses: Regents Earth Science Integrated Algebra	Art (daily 10 weeks) Family & Consumer Science (daily 10 weeks) Career & Technical Education/Robotics (daily 20 weeks) Physical Education (40 weeks-alternate days) Band, Chorus (40 weeks-alternate days) STEAM Elective Option: Music Instrument Design & Production

**Testing:** Outside of classroom exams, students will take various tests designated for certain grade levels. Students in grades 6-8 take the New York State English Language Arts (ELA) Test and the New York State Math Test. Students in grade 8 also take the New York State Intermediate Level Science Test.

**ENGLISH PROGRAM:** The English program in grades six, seven and eight seeks to develop the students' listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in an effort to make them better receivers, interpreters and communicators of information and ideas. Instruction emphasizes the connections between listening, speaking, reading and writing.

**GRADE 6:** The sixth grade English Language Arts curriculum includes objectives that support student development in the skills of reading, writing, listening and oral language. These skills are developed through direct instruction, modeling by teachers, and guided practice. Teachers plan a balance of learning experiences which include fiction, informational text, and use of language arts skills in other content areas for instruction. Learning outcomes are based on current NYS Common Core Standards. All students take two English Language Arts classes in sixth grade, a Reading class and a Written Expression class.

**GRADE 7:** In the seventh grade, students are introduced to some of the basic terms and skills used in the interpretation and analysis of literature. Students read and study works of fiction, as well as non-fiction. The study of literature provides the basis for class discussions, writing assignments, vocabulary development, and reading comprehension development. Composition instruction gives students the opportunity to write for a variety of purposes and audiences. Major emphasis is placed on expository, narrative/descriptive and persuasive writing. Instruction in spelling and grammar usage focuses on those elements that will enable students to communicate effectively and correctly. Learning outcomes are based on the NYS Next Generation ELA Learning Standards.

**GRADE 8:** The eighth grade English program further extends language skills covered in the seventh grade. The writing program concentrates on the students' ability to organize thoughts into a complete and cohesive piece of writing regardless of its length or content. The literature program spans many genres, including short stories, poetry, drama, and a novel, and has an emphasis on literary analysis. Independent reading is both required and encouraged. Vocabulary development is strongly emphasized. Grammar and usage are reviewed, and the needs of the students are assessed and dealt with accordingly. As in the seventh grade, there are also various strands to provide for the different strengths and weaknesses of the students.

### **MATHEMATICS PROGRAM:**

**GRADE 6:** This course expands the students' knowledge and understanding of mathematical skills and concepts. The syllabus covers the basic operations with whole numbers, fractions and decimals, geometry and measurement, ratio and percent, consumer mathematics, and probability and statistics. Students will also be introduced to positive and negative integers, ordered pairs, and the coordinate system.

**GRADE 7:** This course is designed to improve the problem-solving abilities of students, while continuing a natural development in areas such as mathematical skills and concepts. The syllabus covers an introduction to problem solving, number concepts, ratio, proportion and percent, probability and statistics, algebra and coordinate geometry, and geometry and measurement. Problem-solving situations are an integral part of each of these major strands.

**Math 7A:** An accelerated course, for those who qualify after sixth grade based on district set criteria, which combines elements of both math 7 and 8. Those who successfully meet the standards may take integrated algebra in grade eight.

**GRADE 8:** The curriculum for math 8 is from the Common Core State Standards. These standards were adopted by New York State through initiatives set forth by the Federal Government. Topics included in this course are: number systems, laws of exponents, Pythagorean Theorem, solving equations, simultaneous equations, coordinate geometry, angle geometry, transformations, statistics, and functions. A state exam will be given to all eighth grade students before the end of the school year.

**Algebra 1:** This is the first course in a three-year math sequence that is required for the advanced Regents diploma. Topics covered will be from the Common Core Algebra 1 curriculum and include: solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities, solving systems of linear equations and inequalities, factoring polynomials, various forms of a quadratic equation, sequences, functions and function transformations, and descriptive statistics. Students will take the New York State Common Core Algebra Regents in June upon the completion of the course and may earn one high school credit, upon successful completion.

### **SCIENCE PROGRAM:**

**GRADE 6:** The curriculum has been developed to provide students with the skills and knowledge in the areas of earth science. The following are some of the topics discussed throughout the academic year: earth's materials, earth's internal processes, surface of the earth, earth's air and water, and astronomy. The program's goal is to develop scientific literacy so that the students will be able to use the science content, skills and positive attitudes to identify and solve science-related problems.

**GRADE 7:** This course is devoted exclusively to the study of living things. Students will study the structure of the cell, microbes and diseases, characteristics of life, classification, sexual and asexual reproduction, ecology, human physiology and other topics related to the life functions of plants and animals.

**GRADE 8:** This Physical Science course deals primarily with the concepts of physics and chemistry. Students will learn about density, motion (speed, acceleration, velocity, momentum), forces, Newton's Laws, pressure, forces in fluids, simple machines, energy and sources of energy, heat, temperature, sound, atoms, elements, compounds, the Periodic Table, acids and bases, and several other related topics.

**Regents Earth Science (Accelerated Grade 8):** This course follows the New York State Regents syllabus. Topics explored are the Earth in the universe, the solar system, atmospheric variations, climate, weathering, rocks and minerals, the earth's crust, earthquakes and geologic history. Students are required to perform and successfully document a minimum number of laboratory experiments before being



permitted to sit for the Regents examination in June. One high school credit is granted upon successful completion. Students are selected after seventh grade, based on district set criteria.

**SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAM:** The goal of the social studies program is to help students develop into knowledgeable, thinking and involved American citizens. To this end, social studies courses are designed to enable students to gain an understanding of their cultural heritage and the political, economic, geographic, and social forces that have shaped the history and development of the American nation and other regions of the world.

The program emphasizes the development of map skills, as well as reading, writing, research and interpersonal skills. Opportunities are provided for students to engage in problem-solving and decision-making. An analysis of current events is an integral part of the curriculum.

**GRADE 6:** This program offers a study of the Middle East, Western Europe, and Eastern Europe from five perspectives: geographic, economic, historic, social, and political. An emphasis is placed on the analysis and interpretation of graphs, charts, maps, and readings. Students will be required to write arguments focused on discipline-specific content: informative, explanatory, as well as inquiry writing.

**GRADE 7:** This course is the first year of a two-year, chronologically organized history of the development of the United States with a focus on New York State at appropriate points. The course begins with the study of the exploration and settlement of the New World and ends with a study of the events occurring just prior to the Civil War. Canada and Mexico are also incorporated at points which are significant in the development of those nations. The establishment and structure of both state and federal government is included in the course. Students will be required to write inquiry-based essay tasks, as well as completing informative and explanatory writing prompts.

**GRADE 8:** The second part of a two-year, chronologically organized history of the development of the United States, this course focuses on the study of American history from the Civil War to the present day. As in grade seven, New York, Canada, and Mexico are infused at appropriate points, and social history is emphasized.

**SECOND LANGUAGE PROGRAM:** The ability to communicate in a second language provides a unique opportunity to make connections with other people and other cultures. Second language proficiency is an important component in the education of today's students as they prepare for a productive and rewarding life. At Chenango Forks Middle School, we offer instruction in French and Spanish. All students must have two years of second language instruction by the end of ninth grade. Exception to this state mandate can be made for qualified students by the Committee on Special Education.

**Seventh grade French and Spanish:** This full year course will introduce vocabulary and grammar appropriate for Checkpoint A of the NYS Curriculum for Modern Languages. Students who successfully complete this course will continue the Checkpoint A curriculum in eighth grade.

**Eighth grade French 1 and Spanish 1:** This full year course will continue vocabulary and grammar appropriate for Checkpoint A of the NYS Curriculum for Modern Languages. Students who successfully complete the course, having a combined passing average (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade), and pass a locally developed test aligned to the NYS Checkpoint A Learning Standards will satisfy the NYS graduation requirement of one high school LOTE credit. Most students will continue foreign language study in the high school through at least level three.

Checkpoint A is not intended to fully develop linguistic proficiency or grammatical accuracy. It is an introductory-level curriculum that lays the groundwork for future studies.

Checkpoint A:

- emphasizes simple, selected sentence structures, not necessarily limited to the present tense
- sets the stage for oral and written communication for the beginning language learner
- fosters cultural understandings
- includes age-appropriate communicative activities, strategies, and goals that address the particular needs and interests of middle school students
- encourages interdisciplinary connections and
- is the first step on the pathway to linguistic proficiency.

### **HEALTH EDUCATION:**

A comprehensive health education curriculum is taught to students in grades six and seven. The teacher provides instruction regarding self-esteem building, decision making, coping and communication skills, as well as instruction in content areas which include mental health, lifestyle diseases and prevention, healthy relationships, responsible decision making, growth and development, stress, physical activity and nutrition, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, consumer health, violence prevention, and a unit of study in human sexuality including HIV and AIDS instruction.

Students examine their own health behavior, identify alternative behavior, and evaluate the effects of continuing a particular behavior with respect to its benefits and consequences. The process of examining and evaluating behavior promotes quality living and health literacy.

By State Education Law, all schools must provide health education to its students and include appropriate instruction concerning Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). Such instruction is designed to be age appropriate and consistent with community values. Instruction provides accurate information to students concerning the nature of the disease, methods of transmission, and methods of prevention. According to State Education law, no student shall be required to receive instruction concerning the methods of prevention of AIDS if the parent or legal guardian of such student has filed with the principal of the school a written request that the student not participate in such instruction, with an assurance that the student will receive such instruction at home.

**ART PROGRAM:** The Chenango Forks art program is based on the belief that art education is essential to human growth as well as to individual growth. Each art course provides a wide range of differentiated instruction for students. Through hands-on project-based experiences, students learn skills in drawing, painting, sculpture, crafts and mixed media. Each course teaches specific media skills, design concepts and both critical thinking and 21st century learning skills through hands-on project-based learning. Students are encouraged to relax and have fun while learning how to make artwork and reflect on themselves. The art program is designed to address the individual needs, interests and abilities of all students. We believe that every student is an artist no matter what they feel their artistic ability is.

**CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE):** The purpose of CTE is to prepare students for the world of work. By the time students complete the eighth grade, they will be exposed to a program in “Family & Consumer Science” and “Introduction to Technology Education.” The “Family & Consumer Science” and “Technology Education” courses of instruction are required for all sixth, seventh, and eighth graders and are designed to develop students’ academic and technical skills, knowledge and training necessary to succeed in future careers and to become lifelong learners. It will prepare students to meet their responsibilities and understand their roles as family members, consumers and wage earners, with an ongoing self-development toward their futures.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM:** The physical education department believes that each student is entitled to an equal opportunity to participate in physical activities that will benefit the needs, interests and values of each individual student. It is taught every other day for one period throughout the entire academic year.

Physical education encompasses a wide variety of activities requiring the use of one’s physical skills. All activities are oriented toward the development of physical fitness, cardio-vascular conditioning, small and large muscle development, eye-hand and eye-foot coordination, and body movement and management. It is not expected that most individuals will be able to demonstrate superior skills in all the activities offered. In an effort to be fair, individuals who lack superior skills but who participate fully will not be penalized. During assigned swim classes, students must come prepared with appropriate swimwear. Missed classes may require make up classes.

**ADAPTIVE PHYSICAL EDUCATION:** This course is offered to students who the Committee on Special Education has identified as being in need of a special physical education program.

**MUSIC PROGRAM:** In addition to enhancing one’s musical ability, the purpose of all music courses is to develop an attitude of enthusiasm for music and to encourage high standards in performance. Many students in the middle school elect to participate in instrumental and choral groups, which typically perform in concert a minimum of twice a year.

Three bands are scheduled in the middle school, one for each grade level. Each band meets for rehearsal every other day. Each band will rehearse a wide variety of music to perform for various occasions including concerts, school and community events, and music festivals. Individual instrumental lessons take place once every six days on a rotating basis.

Three choruses are also scheduled in the middle school. A variety of choral music is rehearsed and performed with an emphasis on singing skills, musicianship skills and performance skills.

General Music is offered to 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students and meets every other day. Students will study basic concepts such as rhythm, tempo, melody, harmony, and music notation. The course will focus primarily on learning how to play the drums and ukulele.

#### **MS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective: STEAM- Musical Instrument Design and Production**

This project-based course will provide students with the opportunity to develop, design, and create musical instrument parts and accessories. Using several different manufacturing processes, students will incorporate additive manufacturing (3D printing technology) and subtractive manufacturing (traditional machining) into their assignments. A strong desire to problem-solve and the ability to perform hands-on work will ensure student success.

**LIBRARY:** The library is open during the school day for students to pursue personal and academic interests and is available for use at additional times by prior arrangement with the school library. Students are allowed up to four books to be taken out of the library at any given time for 2 1/2 weeks from the date that the books are checked out. Books that are lost or damaged, are expected to be replaced by the patron at the cost listed. Students must have library books scanned by the library clerk in order to check books out of the library. Magazines and reference materials may circulate with special permission and have a 24-hour circulation period.

**RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION SERVICE (RtI):** RtI services are determined for individual student behavioral or academic needs, based on student data and each child’s progress. The Response to Intervention service model follows a team approach with the teachers, building principal, school counselor, and school psychologist; meeting after each reporting period to review academic progress and student data. Services are based upon analyzing this information. RtI is provided as part of our general education requirements.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES:** Requests for CSE Referrals are monitored by the School Psychologist. Students found eligible receive services determined by the Committee on Special Education.

**SPECIAL REFERRAL SERVICES:** The school district has a number of in-school specialists to whom pupils may be referred by the professional staff. These include: speech therapist, school counselor, nurse and school psychologist.