

**Introduction:**

Welcome to junior high! The year will be filled with exciting opportunities. Student Success Planning is an important component of the years in which students transition to high school. Students begin to choose various paths based on their interests and abilities. Through activities and lessons, teachers facilitate the setting of goals related to academic and career options, and social/emotional/physical growth. Students continue to update and build their success plans as they prepare for high school.

**Materials Required:**

- Four 1" three-ring binders, each with 5-tab dividers
- lined paper to fit binders
- four 2-pocket folders
- blue or black pens
- colored pencils
- highlighters
- composition notebook for Spanish

**Field Trip (subject to change):**

WINGS  
Theater experience  
An interdisciplinary field trip that includes visits to several sites.

**Contact Information:**

Mrs. Donna Backhaus  
Math  
dbackhaus@ashfordct.org  
860-429-6419 x333

Mrs. Kathleen Bryce  
Social Studies  
kbryce@ashfordct.org  
860-429-6419 x335

Ms. Dory Manfre  
Science  
dmanfre@ashfordct.org  
860-429-6419 x325

Mrs. Jennifer Lindsay  
Language Arts  
jlindsay@ashfordct.org  
860-429-6419 x336



Welcome  
to  
Eighth Grade



### **Curriculum (Science)**

- Structure and Properties of Matter
- Chemical Reactions
- Forces and Interactions
- Energy
- Waves and Electromagnetic Radiation
- Structure, Function, and Information Processing
- Growth, Development, and Reproduction of Organisms
- Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems
- Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems
- Natural Selection and Adaptations
- Space Systems
- History of Earth
- Earth's Systems
- Weather and Climate
- Human Impacts
- Engineering

### **Curriculum (LA)**

- By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 6-8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.
- By the end of the year, read and comprehend literary nonfiction in the grades 6-8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.
- Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.
- Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.
- Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

### **Curriculum (Math)**

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
- Model with mathematics.
- Use appropriate tools strategically.
- Attend to precision.
- Look for and make use of structure.
- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

### **Curriculum (Social Studies)**

With American History as the focus, the eighth grade year begins with a unit on the Constitution. Students learn about our system of government and what it means to be a citizen of the United States. There is an emphasis on events, economics, and movements of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and their impact today. Topics include the Civil War and Reconstruction, the Second Industrial Revolution and the Emergence of Modern America, the Great Depression, and World War II and the Postwar Period. Students make connections to local history through the extensive use of primary source materials. Geography activities and current events are integrated throughout the year.