

Educational Philosophy for Grades 5-8

The purpose of a junior high school is to provide multi-faceted learning experiences for the early adolescent to promote positive growth in learning and an increased awareness of the responsibilities that go hand-in-hand with that growth. This process requires us to bring the early adolescent from the dependence of childhood and the elementary classroom to the maturity and independence necessary for young adults in the high school.

We believe the learning experiences during early adolescence should reflect the need of accepting responsibility for more mature choices in all areas of growth. Our goals for this growth include personal health, maximum effort in academic achievement, positive recreational and leisure time pursuits, and a deeper knowledge of, and commitment to the American way of life.



For the adolescent to fulfill these goals and form the desirable attitudes and habits necessary in order to meet these responsibilities, the Junior High program must provide a solid curriculum in Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. In addition, our program reflects the exploratory needs of the early adolescent by providing instruction in the areas of Art, Music, Computer Literacy, Physical Education, Health, Technology Education, Band, Chorus, and reading for pleasure. We are also pleased to introduce introductory on-line courses this fall along with a new STEAM education course entitled InnovatED.

The Junior High must seek a close relationship with the home and the local community in an effort to better nurture, guide and develop the good citizens needed for our future economic and social well-being. We are committed to the concept that early adolescent learning should be structured to the individual's needs and capabilities as far as our current technology makes this possible. We are also committed to extensive guidance and extracurricular programs in order to meet the social growth needs of early adolescents. These programs provide the opportunities to develop self-esteem, leadership skills, poise in stress situations, and a sense of belonging to activities that foster self-worth and emotional maturity.

It is our primary responsibility to develop, within each of our students, a strong sense of Purpose, Passion and Pride through academic accomplishment, self-esteem, and social awareness. The Hopewell Area School District is

fortunate to have the support of the Board of Education who provides the facilities, materials, and trained professional personnel to accomplish our goals as junior high educators. Working together, we can achieve the goals set forth herein, and provide our students with a solid foundation to connect the educational bridge from childhood to the status of young adulthood.