**Krueger Middle School**

**Academic Honors Course Descriptions**

**2018—2019**

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**7TH GRADE**

**7TH GRADE HUMANITIES** is an advanced writing course working with High Abilities (HA) Social Studies to study government, citizenship, environmental issues, and Native American groups of Indiana through individualized research projects.

**7TH GRADE HA SOCIAL STUDIES** is an in-depth study of the history, geography, government, economics, and culture of the Eastern World connected to the local community. Students focus on accelerated content, higher level thinking, and differentiated assessment.

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**8TH GRADE**

**8TH GRADE HUMANITIES** is an advanced writing course working with HA Social Studies to study the legislative process and participate in a Mock Congress. Other content includes the Industrial Revolution, pioneer days in Indiana, and the American dream assessed with differentiated individual research projects.

**8TH GRADE HA SOCIAL STUDIES** is an in-depth study of Early American history through with the Civil War. Students research, compare, and apply content in alignment with Indiana standards to modern day issues.

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**BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE IS A PROGRAM UTILIZING HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL STUDIES IN BOTH 7TH AND 8TH GRADES. IT IS PRESENTED TO LOCAL 4TH GRADE STUDENTS.**

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**7TH GRADE ADVANCED SCIENCE** is an accelerated science class for students who excelled in elementary science. This class is an accelerated class that squeezes 7th and 8th grade science into one year with a faster pace and by deleting all of the life science 7th and 8th grade standards. Students who do well in this class will be eligible to take Biology in 8th grade.

**7TH GRADE PRE-ALGEBRA** prepares students for Algebra I. The curriculum includes, but is not limited to, computation with rational numbers, solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities, Pythagorean Theorem, and problem solving.

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**BIOLOGY I** is high school Biology. (Students will receive high school credit if they earn a grade of C or above.) Using laboratory and field investigations, students focus on Biology I standards.

**ALGEBRA I** continues the study of algebraic concepts including operations with real numbers and polynomials, relations and functions, creation and application of linear functions and relations, and an introduction to nonlinear functions. Appropriate technology, from manipulative to computers, will be used regularly for instruction and assessment.

In order to receive high school credit, students must earn a grade of “C” or higher, receive their teacher’s recommendation, and earn either two (2) math credits or two (2) credits in physics during the student’s last two years in high school.
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE courses use the KMS campus as an outdoor classroom. The classes are one semester. If a student receives an A or B in both the 7th and 8th grade classes, they will receive high school credit.

7th Grade class is designed as two nine-week units and focuses on land-based activities that impact the local environment. **Pollution: What We Do Really Matter** is the first unit. Students analyze point-source pollution and investigate soil erosion and sedimentation principles by creating a soil erosion laboratory. Students also investigate global warming and the impacts of climate change. Students look at sustainable concepts that will reduce the effects of global warming and slow down climate change. **Life as a Fish: Can I Drink that Water** is the second unit. Students explore watershed concepts by examining local water resources, local fish species, and threats to the Trail Creek Watershed. Students perform water quality testing, using parameters such as dissolved oxygen, nitrogen, pH, and aquatic insects.

8th Grade class is designed as two nine-week units. Students analyze interactions between plant, animal, and human activity that determine the overall health of our local habitat. **Intro & Principles of Habitat Restoration** is the first unit. Students investigate habitat restoration principles, the life cycle of fish and frogs, and land-use planning principles. They evaluate best-management practices through the use of computer software analysis of ‘before’ and ‘after’ land-use conditions. **Dunes Habitat Restoration Stewardship Project** is the second unit. Students assess the KMS outdoor campus. They identify possible habitat restoration projects based on habitat restoration principles and green infrastructure techniques. Students implement their proposed projects and share their findings through formal written and oral reports.

**KRUEGER WELLNESS** combines physical education and health classes with an environmental emphasis. The focus is the enjoyment of the outdoors, as well as education and stewardship of our natural resources. The goal is to give students the knowledge and the skills to be active in their environment and to increase participation and sensitivity to management and preservation efforts. Orienteering, outdoor lawn games, fishing, archery, and personal safety/survival skills are units that have been added to the curriculum.

**ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY** is a hands-on, problem-based learning opportunity. Students develop, produce, use, and assess projects related to activities in the KMS Environmental Science courses. Students develop individual and teamwork skills. Students in this class are responsible for building and maintaining the trails and learning stations for the Bird Habitat Path, Savanna Prairie, and the Forest Management Area. Students explore the use of wind, solar and other types of alternative energy sources. Activities are aligned with the Environmental Science classes.

**PREPARING FOR COLLEGE & CAREER** addresses the knowledge, skills & behaviors students will need to be successful in college, career, and life. Topics include: 21st century life and career skills; higher order thinking skills, leadership; exploration of personal aptitudes, interests, values, goals; a review of career clusters; and creating a graduation plan. Earns high school credit.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ART** combines student experiences and prior knowledge of art to emphasize environmental awareness. Ecologically friendly and innovative projects result in creative and unique art works.