



**Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda  
Union Free School District**

Dear 7th Grade Parents and Guardians,

The Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District is committed to providing all of our students with innovative opportunities. By housing our Grade 8 students in our two high schools, we are now able to offer unique courses to them that would not have been available if they were housed in a middle school building. In the 2020-21 school year, our 8th grade students who are interested in taking a high school level class may have the opportunity to do so, if it can fit into their schedule next year.

Please note that this would be in **addition** to a student’s existing 8th grade schedule. It is understood that not all eighth graders will take one of these courses. Some students may not want to increase their course load or challenge a high school course while others may not be able to fit another course into their schedules.

<b>HS Elective &amp; 8th Grade Music Options</b>	
• Band, Orchestra, Chorus	Every day, all year, 1 unit of study (8th Grade)
• Studio Art	Every day, all year, 1 HS credit (Replaces 8th Gr. Art)
• Multimedia Studio Art	Every day, all year, 1 HS credit (Replaces 8th Gr. Art)
• DDP - Design, Drawing and Production	Every day, all year, 1 HS credit (Replaces 8th Gr. Technology)
• Foods 1, 2	Half Year, .5 HS credit each
• Computers and the Internet	Every day, all year, 1 HS credit

A copy of the course descriptions are found on the reverse side of this letter. ***Please have a discussion with your child to determine if they are interested in trying to add in one of these high school elective classes for next year.***

At the end of January, the middle school counselors will be visiting your child’s classroom and asking them to complete a survey that identifies no more than two elective courses they may be interested in pursuing, with the ability to select no courses if not interested. This information will be gathered and used for scheduling purposes.

***You will be notified of the high school elective courses that were added to your child’s schedule when you receive a copy of your child’s Grade 8 schedule. Typically, this information is sent to families in August.***

Sincerely,

Elaine Thomas  
Hoover Middle School Principal

Dean Johnson  
Kenmore West High School Principal

See reverse side for course descriptions.

*The Ken-Ton School Community will provide our students with the support, tools, and diverse opportunities needed to meet the challenges of an ever-changing world.*

## High School Elective Courses For Gr. 8 Students

### Studio in Art

This is a foundation course dealing with a thematic approach that is comprehensive and covers history, aesthetics, criticism and the production of art. A sampling of all media, 2- dimensional and 3-dimensional are offered. Students not only create work but also have the opportunity to reflect orally and in writing about the nature and content of their art. **Prerequisites:** Teacher Recommendation and Average of 90+ in 7th Grade Art 40 Weeks 1 unit **Exam:** Local

### Multimedia Studio in Art

Learn the basics of digital imaging, animation, filmmaking and interactive media! Studio Multimedia is an introductory art course that is focused on the use of the computer and digital media as an art form. The course can be used as the required art credit for graduation, as well as, the first course in the Media Arts Career Pathway. Students will develop a high level of skill with programs like: Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Flash, iMovie and Mudbox. Students who like computers and interactive media are ideal candidates for this course. **Prerequisites:** Teacher Recommendation and Average of 90+ in 7th Grade Art 40 Weeks 1 Unit **Exam:** Local

### Computers and the Internet

Expand your knowledge beyond Facebook and playing games on the Internet. Learn how to type faster so that you can type your papers and projects faster. Learn the new features of Microsoft Office 2010 and how they will benefit you both in high school, college, and the workplace. Explore the ever changing world of computer technology and various new technologies hitting the market. Acquire the knowledge necessary to be able to write your papers quickly and in proper format. Create documents in Microsoft Word, produce spreadsheets with formulas and graphs using Microsoft Excel. Develop databases using Microsoft Access and construct presentations using Microsoft PowerPoint. **Prerequisite:** Teacher Recommendation 40 Weeks 1 unit **Exam:** Local

### Design and Drawing for Production

This course follows the NYS-prescribed curriculum for Design & Drawing for Production while preparing students for further study in Engineering & Technology Education. Students have access to modern prototyping laboratories with equipment that ranges from traditional fabrication tools to 3D printers. Throughout the class, a wide variety of open-ended activities are experienced using modern 3D modeling software, modern prototyping equipment (such as 3D printers), and classroom machinery. This is in addition to traditional sketching, drawing, and presentation techniques. It is the first step to your pathway to a CTE diploma endorsement. **Prerequisites:** Recommendation of a middle school Engineering & Technology Education teacher. Strong aptitude in logical thinking, spatial analysis, science, and mathematics. Overall class Tech 7 & Math average above 85%. Student/Parent Commitment. 40 Weeks - 1 Unit Assessment: Project Lead the Way

### Foods I

Foods I is a hands-on experience including basic food preparation skills including: knife skills, cooking, baking, planning, presentation, and safety. Students learn various cooking techniques and participate in labs to develop understanding of fruits, vegetables, grains, dairy, and meat variety and preparation. **Prerequisites:** None 20 Weeks ½ Unit Examination: Local/Performance Assessment

### Foods II

Students build on preparation and techniques learned in Foods I by preparing dishes common in the 7 Food Regions of the United States. They study the history of food regions and the ingredients commonly used in these regions. The students examine what influences shaped the region and their cuisine. **Prerequisites:** None Foods I 20 Weeks ½ Unit Examination: Local/Performance Assessment

## 8th Grade Music Specials

### Chorus (8th grade)

Chorus is open to all students without an audition and offers everyone the opportunity to improve his/her musical ability, singing technique, confidence, and stage presence. All types of music from Bach to Broadway will be sung and performed in concert. Afterschool and evening rehearsals or performances are sometimes required. Course runs full year with everyday or every other day depending on class load.

**Prerequisite:** Interest Grade Levels: 8 40 Weeks/Every Day 1 Unit **Examination:** Local

### Orchestra (8th -9 th grade)

This ensemble is for students who play or would like to play stringed instruments: violin, viola, cello or bass. Students will participate in the string orchestra ensemble. There is also a select group available upon audition which concentrates on more challenging levels of music. This course is designed to improve technical, historical and cultural awareness of primarily Western European classical repertoire and its outgrowths. Students will participate in lesson labs that rotate through the school's daily schedule. Students are responsible for making up missed work. Course runs full year with everyday or every other day depending on class load. **Prerequisite:** Basic Performance Ability, Beginners are welcome Grade Levels: 8, 9 40 Weeks/Every Other Day - 1 Unit **Examination:** Local

### Concert Band

The organization is for students who play wind or percussion instruments in 8th or 9th grade or a beginner. Students will be taken from regularly scheduled classes on a rotating basis for lessons. After school, evening, or weekend rehearsals or performances are required. Students enrolled in Band may also join the school's Pep Band or Jazz Ensemble, both extracurricular activities. Course runs full year with everyday or every other day depending on class load. **Prerequisite:** Basic Performance Ability, Beginners are welcome Grade Levels: 8, 9 40 Weeks/Every Day - 1 Unit **Examination:** Local