An Introduction to...

CHARLES A. HUSTON
MIDDLE SCHOOL

1020 Puckety Church Rd.,
Lower Burrell, PA 15068
burrell.k12.pa.us
This handbook is an overview of material and information that may be helpful to a new student entering the building. If you have any questions or need more information on any aspect of this brochure, please call the Huston Middle School at 724-334-1443.

**Principal:**
Mr. Brian Ferra

**Assistant Principal:**
Mrs. Autumn Turk

**Guidance Counselors:**
Students A-L: Mrs. Kristy McCurdy
Students M-Z: Mrs. Kelly Innocent

**Certified School Nurse:**
Mrs. Angela Dastolfo

**Health Office Nurse LPN:**
Mrs. Lori Cooper

**Secretaries:**
Ms. Shelly Hartge
Mrs. Amy Mitchell
Burrell School District

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Burrell School District is to empower students to learn, create, lead and succeed.

Connecting Curriculum to Careers and Interests

Over the next several years, students will be exploring various career fields, choosing ones that interest them, and then narrow it to occupations. Students will then determine an academic program that gives them a solid foundation to pursue this path. The HMS School Counselors and teachers will be working with students over the next three years on helping narrow down what pathways they may want to pursue in the future. Our goal is to get students thinking for high school and beyond.

What are Career Pathways?

Each pathway is a broad grouping of careers that share similar characteristics and whose employment requirements call for many common interests, strengths and competencies. A chosen pathway focuses a student’s elective courses toward preparing for a specific goal area.

The 5 Pathway Options

ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS (AC)

Designed to cultivate student’s awareness, interpretation, application and production of visual, verbal and written work.

Focus areas:
- Visual Arts (VA)
- Performing Arts (PA)
- Publishing Arts (PU)

BUSINESS, FINANCE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (BFIN)

Designed to prepare students for careers in the world of business, finance and information services.

Focus areas:
- Business Management (BM)
- Finance (F)
- Marketing, Sales, and Service (MS)
- Information Technology (IT)
ENGINEERING AND INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY (EIT)
Designed to cultivate students’ interests, awareness and application to areas related to technologies necessary to design, develop, install or maintain physical systems.

Focus Areas:
- Construction and Robotics
- Manufacturing
- Engineering and Engineering Technology
- Transportation, Research and Design

HUMAN SERVICES (HS)
Designed to cultivate students’ interests, skills and experience for employment in careers related to family and human needs.

Focus areas:
- Education (E)
- Counseling, Family and Consumer Service (CFC)
- Law, Public Safety and Government (LPG)
- Hospitality and Tourism (HT)

SCIENCE AND HEALTH (SH)
Designed to cultivate students’ interests in the life, physical and behavioral sciences. In addition, the planning, managing and providing of therapeutic services, diagnostic services, health information and biochemistry research development.

Focus areas:
- Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFN)
- Health Science (HS)
- Science, Technology and Math (STM)

SKYWARD INFORMATION/BURRELL EMAIL
Every student has been given access to a Burrell email and Skyward account. Their username and password information are below. Parents also have their own log in to Skyward. Students and parents are able to view all items posted to the calendar and grades in present time. The majority of communication from the school will be done via Skyward. If you are unable to access Skyward, please contact our office.

Burrell Email:
Username: firstname.lastname
Password: ______________

Skyward Login:
Username: firstname.lastname
Password: ______________
Students have the opportunity to participate in many activities at HMS. These activities take place both in and out of school and offer students a great opportunity to enhance skills in areas of interest.

Athletic organizations include:
- Basketball (Boys and Girls)
- Football (Boys)
- Softball (Girls)
- Volleyball (Girls)
- Wrestling (Boys)
- Soccer (Boys and Girls)
- Track

Musical organizations include:
- Band
- Choir
- Jazz Band
- Marching Band

Other activities include:
- Student Council
- WBUC
- Yearbook
- Art Club
- Tri-M Music Honor Society
- Science Olympiad
- Model Rocketry Team
- Reading Team
- Drama Club
- TSA (Technology Student Association)
We operate on a 6-day rotation schedule.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Gr. 6</th>
<th>Gr. 7</th>
<th>Gr. 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Period 0</strong></td>
<td>8:15-8:30 Homeroom/Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30-9:19 SEL, Explore, Band, and Choir</td>
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<td>10:35-11:45 Art &amp; Humanities</td>
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<td>1:01-1:31 Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Period 6</strong></td>
<td>2:47-3:18 Enrichment/Remediation</td>
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# Grading Scale

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<tr>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>AP/PreAP Honors GPA</th>
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<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<td>5.0</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>94</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>79</td>
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<td>61</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<tr>
<td>78</td>
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# Program of Study 2019-2020

## Course Offerings - 6th Grade

**Core Classes**
- ELA 6 or Challenge ELA 6
- Science 6
- Geography 6
- Math 6 or Pre-Algebra

**Arts & Humanities**
- Gym/Health
- Art
- BCIT I
- Design 6
- Music 6
- Research & Design
- Wellness

Students may also participate in Band and/or Choir as an elective class.

## Course Offerings - 7th Grade

**Core Classes**
- ELA 7 or Challenge ELA 7
- Science 7
- Ancient Civilizations 7
- Pre-Algebra A, Pre-Algebra, or Algebra I

**Arts & Humanities**
- Gym/Health
- Design 7A
- Design 7B
- BCIT II
- Music Technology
- Art
- Home Ec.

Students may also participate in Band and/or Choir as an elective class.

## Course Offerings - 8th Grade

**Core Classes**
- ELA 8 or Pre-AP ELA
- Pre-Algebra B, Algebra I, or Geometry
- Science 8
- American History 8 or Pre-AP American History 8

**Arts & Humanities**
- Gym/Health
- IDEA A
- IDEA B
- Multimedia Arts
- BCIT III
- Art
- Nutrition

Students may also participate in Band and/or Choir as an elective class.
~ ARTS AND HUMANITIES ~

ART 6-8
Middle school art classes at HMS stress creative problem-solving skills and developing the ability to use one’s mind as a translator of ideas: analyzing, synthesizing and expressing them in a visual form. Students explore art history of many cultures, art criticism, and aesthetics. Each project is designed to help students take ownership over a concept and learn tactile production skills in the form of drawing, painting, mixed media, sculpture, printmaking, graphic design, photography and ceramics.

HOME ECONOMICS
Seventh grade Family and Consumer Science is a continuation of the learning processes needed to be independent and responsible adults. Instruction an introduction to the sewing machine, construction of a sewing project, exploration of clothing care, application of nutrition and meal planning principles and the development of food preparation techniques.

WELLNESS
Sixth grade introduction to microwave cooking and nutritious eating. Students will study the food plate, the importance of eating a healthy breakfast, and how food choices impact developing bodies and brains. Students will learn how to safely operate a microwave and a stove.

NUTRITION
Students will develop a deeper understanding of how healthy eating behaviors, rest, exercise, and hydration can lead to lifestyles that are essential to student’s overall health, well-being, and educational success.

MUSIC 6
Students will explore the topics of musical theater, instruments of the orchestra, and current events in the Arts. Students will also learn basic playing skills on the piano and ukulele, and will perform various multicultural percussion pieces.
**Music Technology (7th Grade)**

Students will explore the foundations of copyright to assist in preparation of various media projects. Topics discussed will include music technology history and future, looping, basic audio recording and production, digital notation, and podcasting. Students will create several projects, along with the creation of an audio podcast show.

**Multimedia Arts (8th Grade)**

Students will explore the foundations of video project planning and production. Topics will include project planning and structure, storyboarding, basic video and photo editing, and exploring instant video/photo apps. There will be a variety of projects, including a commercial, movie trailer, and others.

**Band 6-8**

Students in band will develop and advance their instrumental skills abilities and will perform music of various eras, styles, and composers. Performing groups include daily concert band rehearsal, as well as jazz band and marching band, which meet after school. Students will be able to audition for solos and apply to participate in honors bands festivals. The bands perform two main concerts during the school year, along with the annual B.A.M. Night event. The bands also perform assemblies for the school, occasional performances in the community, and at annual state performance judging. The band also takes 1-2 annual field trips. Band students will also receive enrichment each cycle during individual or small-group lessons.

**Choir 6-8**

Students in choir will have the opportunity to develop and advance their vocal abilities. They will perform music representative of various eras, styles, and composers. Students will be able to audition for solos and select ensembles, and may apply to participate in honors choir festivals. The choir performs two main concerts during the school year, along with the annual B.A.M. Night event, as well as for assemblies at Huston Middle School and other schools in our school district. There are also opportunities for community performances.
**Physical Education 6-8**

This course provides the students with physical activities that promote health, fitness, teamwork, and socialization skills in the following ways:

- Introduces skills needed to participate in individual and team sports
- Incorporates rules that encourage fair and safe competitions in various activities
- Introduces students to sports and activities that can be enjoyed for a lifetime

**Health 6**

This course provides the students with health literacy in the following ways:

- Provides students with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their health
- Provides students with opportunities to learn and practice life skills and consumer skills for positive health behaviors
- Encourages the use of thinking skills in order to solve problems and think critically
- Students will also be able to complete the last section of the DARE program.

**Health 7**

After investigation of the components of Wellness, the students will be introduced to the systems of the body. The systems include: skeletal, muscular, digestive, circulatory, respiratory, immune, nervous, endocrine, reproductive, excretory, and skin.

**Health 8**

This course introduces the students to the dangers and consequences that drugs have on the developing brain and body.

**BCIT 6-8 (Business, Computers & Information Technology)**

Students who are entering our middle school have a range of computer skills. The ultimate goal of BCIT courses are to reinforce what has already been learned as well as provide advanced computing skills using a variety of new computer and web based applications such as Microsoft Office, Google Apps, Production and Presentation Tools, Coding, and more. Emphasis is placed on each student becoming a responsible digital citizen, capable of making the social, economic, and technical decisions that will benefit their personal and professional lives.
**Design 6**
An introductory course dealing with robotics programming. Students will learn programming language in order to make a LEGO robotic vehicle move through specific obstacles while using specific robot sensors.

**Design 7A**
An introductory course to familiarize students with woodworking processes using hand and machine tools. A mantel clock is produced by each student to achieve this goal.

**Design 7B**
This course provides an exploration into sheet metal manufacturing technologies. Emphasis is placed on the essential elements of technology, tools, materials, and processes used to convert raw materials into finished products.

**IDEA A & B**
This is a project based learning class that stresses problem solving skills. Students will be presented with different problems and have to use the Engineering Process in order to research, design, build, and test their project. Students will also develop collaboration skills and shop safety skills.

**Research & Design 6**
Research and Design 6 is a class focused on Industry 4.0 standards. Industry 4.0 is a name for the current trend of automation and data exchange in manufacturing technologies. It includes cyber-physical systems, the Internet of things, cloud computing and cognitive computing. Industry 4.0 is commonly referred to as the fourth industrial revolution. Students will work through the design process through the lens of industry 4.0 to solve a problem or design a new product.
**ELA 6**
The sixth grade English program is designed to instill in students a lifelong love of words through independent and class reading and writing. Through literary explorations and grammar studies, each student will be encouraged to admire the English language and develop a passion for learning. This class provides study in the fundamentals of grammar, usage, and mechanics. An understanding of literary and story elements is developed as the students read fiction and nonfiction literature both in class and independently.

**Challenge ELA 6**
The sixth grade Challenge program is designed with an emphasis on higher level comprehensive literature and writing. The students will be encouraged to read novels and passages for advancing through literature with a solid understanding of literary and story elements. This class will provide a concentration on written expression. This course consists of literature, in addition to independent student reading, taught at a more rigorous level and an accelerated pace.

**ELA 7**
This course is a comprehensive study of literature with an emphasis on writing. Literature selections will be subjected to close reading throughout the year in order to connect the elements of writing and reading.

**Challenge ELA 7**
This course is a comprehensive study of literature with an emphasis on writing. Literature selections will be subjected to close reading throughout the year in order to connect the elements of writing and reading. Challenge ELA 7 incorporates materials above 7th grade reading level and advances the student through literature concepts at an enhanced level.

**ELA 8**
This course is an integrated reading and writing course based on accepted standards. Students will develop literary interpretation and analysis skills while responding to the various texts, both orally and in writing. Relevant and grade appropriate texts in classic and contemporary literature are used with a mix of fiction and non-fiction works. Conventions and grammar skills will continue to develop and strengthen through various writing prompts.
Pre-AP ELA 8
This course is an integrated reading and writing course based on accepted standards. Students will develop literary interpretation and analysis skills while responding to various texts, both orally and in writing. Relevant and grade appropriate texts in classic and contemporary literature are used with a mix of fiction and non-fiction works. Conventions and grammar skills will continue to develop and strengthen through various writing prompts. This course is highly discussion based allowing students to explore and appreciate different perspectives. This course comprises materials above the 8th grade level and includes rigorous prompts that require deep critical thinking and analysis of literature.
Math 6
The Math 6 curriculum follows the PA mathematics standards. The students will be covering a variety of topics, including: numerical expressions, factors, fractions, decimals, algebraic expressions, properties, areas of polygons, surface area, volume, ratios, rates, integers, the coordinate plane, statistical measures, data displays, equations, and inequalities.

Pre-Algebra A
Pre-Algebra A focuses on the seventh grade PA mathematics standards. Pre-Algebra A students will learn the following topics: Integers, Rational Numbers, Writing and Solving One-step and Two-step Equations and Inequalities, Ratios and Rates, Proportions and Proportional Relationships, Construction Models, Percents, Angles, Triangles and Quadrilaterals, Surface Area and Volume of Solids, and Statistics and Probability.

Pre-Algebra B
Pre-Algebra B is a continuation of Pre-Algebra A and focuses on the eighth grade PA mathematics standards. Pre-Algebra B students will learn the following topics: Solving Equations, Graphing Linear Equations and Linear Systems, Writing Linear Equations and Linear Systems, Functions, The Real Number System, Square Roots and the Pythagorean Theorem, Data Analysis and Displays, Volumes of Solids, Transformations, and Exponent Rules and Scientific Notation.

Pre-Algebra
This course covers the contents of Pre-Algebra A and Pre-Algebra B in one year.

Algebra I
This is a beginning course in Algebra which is a prerequisite to Geometry. Algebra 1 is designed to give students a foundation for all future mathematics courses. The fundamentals of algebraic problem-solving are explained. Students will explore: foundations of Algebra, solving equations, solving inequalities, an introduction to functions, linear functions, systems of equations and inequalities, exponents and exponential functions, polynomials and factoring, radical expressions and equations, and data analysis and probability. Throughout the course, Common Core standards are taught and reinforced as the student learns how to apply the concepts in real-life
situations. Students are prepared for both the PA Keystone Exam as well as grade level PSSA exams.

**Geometry**
Geometry students must have taken Algebra 1 and have successfully passed the Keystone Exam prior to enrolling in this course. This course is designed to emphasize the study of the properties and applications of common geometric figures in two and three dimensions. It includes the study of transformations and right triangle trigonometry. Inductive and deductive thinking skills are used in problem solving situations, and applications to the real world are stressed. It also emphasizes writing proofs to solve (prove) properties of geometric figures.

**Basic Math Progression**

```
Math 6
   ↙   ↙
  Pre-Algebra  Pre-Algebra
    ↓
  Pre-Algebra B
    ↓
  Algebra I
  (Keystone Exam given)
    ↘
  Geometry or Honors Geometry
    ↓
  Algebra II or Honors Algebra II
    ↓
  Pre-Calculus or Pre-Calculus Honors
    ↓
  Calculus or AP Calculus
```

**Geography (6th)**
Students will experience a global study of places and people. Geography and World Cultures is designed for students to acquire knowledge about the Elements of Culture (Food, Language, Arts and Entertainment, Traditions, Values, and Clothing) and the Themes of Geography (Location, Region, Movement, Place, and Human-Environment Interaction). Studying these key items around the world will allow students to understand our globally diverse culture. Throughout the course, students will problem solve real world, real life issues challenging world cultures. Students will use the content in our curriculum to build skills such as research, organization, perseverance, cultural analysis, critical thinking, and creativity.

**Ancient Civilization (7th)**
Ancient civilization students will acquire a knowledge of the origins of civilization, early societies, and the historical roots of the Middle Ages with a focus on the geographical influences of region, development of political institutions, and cultural relations. Focus on contributions, change over time, and elements of civilizations for each unit of study. Emphasis of study on Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome. Students will use the content in our curriculum to build skills such as time management, organization, research and note-taking, historical analysis, critical thinking, and creativity.

**American History 8**
To acquire a comprehensive understanding of United States History from the time period 1787 (the U.S. Constitution) to 1865 (end of the Civil War). This course is designed to foster student independence in preparation for high school by providing students with a classroom environment that promotes student choice. Students will use the content in our curriculum to build skills such as time management, organization, note-taking, historical analysis, critical thinking, and creativity.

**Pre-AP American History 8**
This course is the first part of a two-year course that culminates in 9th grade. The 8th-9th grade Pre-AP American History classes are designed to give students the necessary background for taking AP US History in 11th grade. In the 8th grade course, students will be challenged to take control of their own learning from the first day and be presented with content material, as well as AP skills and themes that universally correlate with all Social Studies classes. Students will gain a understanding of the time
period from 1492 (Columbus) to 1877 (Reconstruction); however, the majority of the class time will focus on 1787 (the U.S. Constitution) to 1865 (end of the Civil War).
Science 6
Science 6 will be a semester course where students study and investigate steps of the scientific method, proper laboratory safety, proper usage of scientific equipment, and proper metric measurements and conversions.

Through student centered, “hands on” activities and case studies, students will investigate concepts related to our restless Earth including minerals, rocks, and fossils, as well as plate tectonics, earthquakes, and volcanoes.

In the second half of the semester, students will classify the Kingdoms of living things and examine how living things interact with one another and respond to their environment.

Science 7
Students will explore the basis to life (cells). They will be able to describe the parts of the cell and their functions. Students will describe cell processes and reproduction. This will lead into heredity and a brief overview of genetic applications.

Students will explore various aspects of chemistry. This will include the composition of matter, the atomic theory, the periodic table of elements, bonding, and the interactions of matter.
Students will be introduced to the concepts and process of meteorology and oceanography. Earth is a water planet and we will investigate the importance of water and its relationship to earth cycles in the study of meteorology and oceanography concepts. We will also investigate concepts pertaining to fresh water.

Science 8
Science 8 is broken up into 3 separate topics. Each topic will be explored with as many hands on and student centered activities as possible. The course begins with a study of waves, and a focus on sound and light. The second topic is an introduction to forces, motion, and energy. This second section will include using mathematics to help students better understand the world around them. The final topic is ecology and the environment. This section will also include an introduction to various forms of green energy.