
Dual Enrollment at AMS

...from the homeschool perspective



TRANSLATE ▾

☰ MENU



Ames Middle School

ADDRESS

3915 Mortensen Rd
Ames, Iowa 50014

PHONE

515-268-2400

PRINCIPAL

Yonas Michael

HOURS

M-F: 8:40 am - 3:45 pm



What does AMS offer?

Dual enrollment must be declared for each desired category.

- [Extracurricular activities](#) including sports & clubs which meet before and after school
 - Sign up for sports & find calendars at that link. For clubs, watch Friday AMS emails.
 - [Academic classes](#) which meet during school hours.
 - CORE - math, literacy, science, & social studies
 - WIN - supplemental instruction, extensions of learning, band & orchestra lessons
 - FLEX - 2 per student per day (*think "electives"*)
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- [6th Grade Course Registration Information](#) '23/'24
 - [AMS Student Scheduling Guide](#) '22/'23 *(will be updated for '23/'24 when available)*
 - [6th Grade FLEX Classes Video](#)
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AMS Schedule

- AMS has a 7-period day
- [Bell Schedule](#)
Varies by grade level.
- Sample 7th-grade schedule of full time student:

7th Grade Schedule Examples

Example 1		Example 2	
Period	Course	Period	Course
1	Literacy	1	Algebra
2	7th Grade WIN	2	7th Grade WIN
3	Flex: Sem 1--PE (A)/Art (B) Sem 2--PE (A)/Art (B)	3	Social Studies
4	Math	4	Literacy
5	Social Studies	5	Flex: Sem 1--PE (A)/Art 1 (B) Sem 2--PE (A)/Music Studies (B)
6	Science	6	FLEX: Band(A)/Chorus (B)
7	FLEX: Sem 1--FCS 1(A)/IEP Read Int. (B) Sem 2--Music Studies(A)/ALP Math Int. (B)	7	Science

How many classes?

- Dual enrolled (DE) students can take classes for a maximum of 5 periods (if including WIN, 4.5 if not including WIN).
 - Classes that meet every-other-day count as 0.5.
 - DE students can attend a maximum of 75% of the school day.
 - DE students must homeschool 25% of their schooling.
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CORE Classes

- Meet every day at the same time
 - Literacy
 - Science
 - Social Studies
 - Math
 - Only CORE class that allows for acceleration.
 - Must have 2 qualifying scores: ISASP and/or MAP tests
 - More specific info about acceleration [HERE](#)
 - AMS core classes follow the [Iowa Academic Standards](#)
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WIN

WIN Period is scheduled by grade level.

- 6th Grade - 3rd Period - (11:26-12:14)
 - 7th Grade - 2nd Period - (9:58-10:46)
 - 8th Grade - 1st Period - (9:05-9:53)

 - WIN is for supplemental instruction, extensions of learning, and band & orchestra lessons.
 - Lessons during WIN will meet on **one consistent day** each week, which will be determined after the start of the school year. Students should be available at least 4 mornings a week for scheduling lessons to provide scheduling flexibility for directors.
 - Students taking band or orchestra at AMS *must* take school lessons
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FLEX

- FLEX Periods meet throughout the day just as core courses do and follow an A/B schedule
 - PE and Health (*required for full-time students but not dual-enrolled sts.*)
 - Music Studies, Art, Technology, Family & Consumer Sciences
 - Band, Chorus, and Orchestra - (*Can only choose 2 of 3 music ensembles*)

 - Flex Period offerings will be filled by full-time students prior to scheduling dual-enrolled students.
 - Students can choose a maximum of 2 periods' worth of FLEX courses
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Band / Orchestra / Chorus

- Meet on an A/B schedule, meeting every other day (MWF one week and T/Th the next)
 - Additional combined band rehearsals occur in the week leading up to a concert.
 - Students need to attend 4-5 rehearsals during a 2-week span (preferably 5).

 - 6th grade - 7th period (2:58 - 3:45) + band/orchestra lesson 3rd period 1 day/wk
 - 7th grade - 5th period (1:12 - 2:00) + band/orchestra lesson 2nd period 1 day/wk
 - 8th grade - 6th period (2:05 - 2:53) + band/orchestra lesson 1st period 1 day/wk
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School Date Range	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
April 3-7	B	A	B	A	B
April 10-14	no school	A	B	A	B
April 17-21	A	B	A	B	A
April 24-28	B	A	B	A	B

For example, if my student is in A band, she would have band T/Th week 1, T/Th week 2, MWF week 3, and T/Th week 4 this April.

School Date Range	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
May 1-5	A	B	A	B	A
May 8-12	no school	B	A	B	A
May 15-19	B	A	B	A	B
May 22-26	A	B	A	B	A
May 29-31	no school	B	A		

Here is the same student's band schedule for May.

When are schedules released?

- Student schedules are available in Infinite Campus between one and two weeks before classes start in August.
 - If you need to fine-tune your student's schedule, contact their grade level guidance counselor (students have the same counselor all three years)
 - 6th grade: *will be named when known for next year*
 - 7th grade: *will be named when known for next year*
 - 8th grade: *will be named when known for next year*
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Other schedule things to know about?

- Friday AMS emails are your friend. Read them.
 - If you struggle to stay up on emails, find a friend who will text you important info in exchange for coffee or muffins.
 - These emails give schedule updates & notifications about extracurricular activities
 - Standardized testing at AMS often has an alternate bell schedule, so watch for that.
 - Special celebrations lead to an alternate bell schedule.
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Juggling Act?

- How do families juggle/coordinate classes at AMS, HSAP, Threads, CC, or other classes?
 - HSAP teachers are typically very flexible and fine with students arriving late, leaving early, or missing HSAP classes for AMS classes.
 - However, if your student is in a class with a waitlist and will miss a substantial amount of class or it involves a lot of group project work, consider dropping the HSAP class out of courtesy of a student who will use it to a higher extent. Ask the teacher of the class if you're unsure – they have a good feel for that.
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Juggling Act?

- Minimum attendance requirements for band, orchestra, and chorus (BOC) are attending 4 out of 5 rehearsals in every two-week cycle (though 5 out of 5 is much preferred), as well additional rehearsals leading up to concerts.
 - If your student will be in two music ensembles, consider carefully how many other regularly scheduled classes your student will attend. If your student will be in 1 music ensemble and Threads and/or HSAP, you will likely feel torn across three worlds.
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Arrival times

- What if my student arrives at the building early for class? How early is the right amount of early? Where should they wait?
 - Passing periods are 5 minutes. If students arrive earlier than that, they should wait in the office until the bell rings.

Class Sign Up?

- How do I sign up for classes and let AMS know about scheduling conflicts my student will have?
 - When AMS has the Student Scheduling Guide for the '23/'24 school year, I will email it out to the parents of all current 5th - 7th grade families and post it on the ameshsap.org website under "Parent Resources."
 - I will also email and post a form on which parents can indicate what classes they would like to sign up their student as well as any scheduling considerations they would like to request.
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Standardized Tests?

- HSAP students are NOT required to take standardized tests regardless of their dual enrollment status, but are welcome to do so.
 - Dual enrolled students are encouraged to take assessments in the content areas they attend AMS to provide those teachers with useful data.
 - If a student wishes to accelerate in math, they must have qualifying scores on 2 of the following 3 tests: MAP winter, ISASP, or MAP spring.
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Technology?

- Students dual enrolled for academics at AMS are eligible for a Chromebook. In the fall, I will arrange a time with Media Center staff for students to come in and get their Chromebooks.
 - Last year this was in conjunction with a building tour, so I will try to repeat that again this fall.
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Building Tour?

- Orientation for all 6th grade students and all new 7th and 8th grade students is August 23rd, 2023. The rest of the students begin school August 24th
 - If your student will attend AMS for several periods, regular orientation could be a great choice to attend. If your student is only at AMS for a couple of periods, it will likely be easier for them to attend one of two building tour times I will announce around the time schedules are released the first couple of week of August.
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By when do I need to make decisions?

- September 15 is the official date that dual enrollment must be declared with the registrar.
 - Waiting until September 15 creates challenges for getting the schedule you hope for and can cause you to miss out on communication.
 - Please keep your supervising teacher informed of changes you make to your student's schedule - classes added or dropped so she can keep accurate records.
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Fees?

- Students' accounts will initially be charged full time student fees. Please don't pay these fees until they've been adjusted!
 - After "final count" at the district office October 1st, dual enrolled students' fees are adjusted by AMS staff based on their number of classes.
 - I will notify you a week or two into October letting you know when those fees are ready to be paid.
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Connecting w/ Others

Interested in possibly carpooling?

- Email me your name, address, and contact information and I'll share it out with everyone who is interested in having that info shared.

Looking to connect students?

- Do you / your students have interest in more HSAP social opportunities with full time homeschoolers and/or dual enrolled homeschoolers? Are you willing to help choose days, times, and activities?
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Reach out if you have any questions!

stephanie.haila@ames.k12.ia.us

- Stephanie Haila - homeschooling mom of 13+ years and HSAP Middle School Liaison
 - I've personally utilized dual enrollment over the last seven years (and counting) based on my children's and my family's various needs.
 - By serving as liaison for dual enrolled students at AMS, I've worked to bring clarity and consistency for procedures to ensure our homeschooled students have appropriate access to services at AMS.
 - I also work to streamline & strengthen communication between AMS staff and the homeschooled community and vice-a-versa.
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