
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. Watch Friday AMS emails. Spencer Esslinger is the AMS Athletic Director (and a teacher there).
 - [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 (*electives such as Art, Music Studies, FCS, etc.*)
-

-
- [6th Grade Course Registration Information](#) '23/'24
 - [AMS Student Scheduling Guide](#) '23/'24
 - [6th Grade FLEX Classes Video](#)
-

Academic Classes

A common question asked is, “What is covered in the core classes at AMS?”

Here is an explanation from an AMS administrator:

“6th grade Science teachers teach from the [Iowa Core](#) and so cover 4 main areas that are listed in that link. They do prioritize standards, but students will have access to all of the 6th grade science standards. Science and social studies teachers also work on [reading standards for informational text](#), also found in the Iowa Core.

This is the same for [Literacy](#). Students will work on writing in 6th grade, typically at the paragraph level.”

AMS Schedule

- AMS has a 7-period day
- [Bell Schedule](#)
Varies by grade level around the lunch break.
- 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.
 - 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.
-

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](#)
-

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
-

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
-

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 – sometimes during WIN and sometimes during the regular band period.
 - 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
-

A/B Schedule is available on the [AMS website](#) for the entire year.

September						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
October						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
November						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
April						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
May						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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). The 24/25 assignments are:
 - 6th grade: *Jennifer Haglund*
 - 7th grade: *New Counselor*
 - 8th grade: *Emily Hackbarth*
-

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.
-

Juggling Act?

- How do families juggle/coordinate classes at AMS, HSAP, Threads, CC, or other classes?
 - Many HSAP teachers are 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 lot of group project work, it may not be a good fit for a student who can't attend it regularly. Ask the teacher of the class if you're unsure – they have a good feel for that.
-

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, Threads, an online class that meets at a specific time, and/or HSAP, you will likely feel torn across three or four worlds.
-

Arrival times

- What if my student arrives at AMS 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 preferences my student will have?
 - When AMS has the Student Scheduling Guide for the '24/'25 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. As of 5/7/24, the guidance counselors guessed it will be two more weeks before the scheduling guide is available.
-

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.
-

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.
-

Building Tour?

- Orientation for all 6th grade students and all new 7th and 8th grade students is August 23rd, 2024. The rest of the students begin school August 26th.
 - [2024/2025 District Calendar](#)
 - 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.
-

By when do I need to make decisions?

- September 15 is the official date that dual enrollment must be declared with the registrar.
 - However, 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 for our district registrar.
-

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.
-

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?
-

Reach out if you have any questions!

stephanie.haila@ames.k12.ia.us

- Stephanie Haila - HSAP Middle School Liaison
-