PROJECT-BASED COURSES

STEAM 8: Innovate, Design, Explore

STEAM 8 is a dynamic, hands-on course that empowers students to explore the intersection of **Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math** through engaging, real-world applications. Students will dive into **Coding** to build problem-solving and logical thinking skills, tackle creative **STEM Challenges** that foster collaboration and innovation, and use **GPS technology** to explore geospatial data and navigation.

Throughout the course, students will develop critical **Applied Digital Skills** such as digital communication, collaboration, and productivity. They'll get an exciting **Introduction to Robotics**, learning how robots sense, think, and act. Students will also explore **CAD (Computer-Aided Design)** software to design projects for **3D printers and the Glowforge laser cutter**, bringing their ideas to life in physical form.

With an emphasis on **Digital Safety**, students will learn how to navigate the online world responsibly and ethically. This course also integrates key concepts from the **Science 8 curriculum**, reinforcing scientific thinking and inquiry through tech-infused labs and projects.

By the end of STEAM 8, students will be equipped with future-ready skills and a strong foundation in digital creativity, engineering thinking, and scientific exploration. **This course is yearlong and blocked every other day for 82**

PROJECT-BASED COURSES

7th Grade Projected Exploratory Courses

These project-based courses are designed to develop and strengthen the language, writing, critical thinking, and problem solving skills .

Art & Literature: Art history and the exposure to a range of artists and their use of certain mediums will be a starting point for the hands-on projects. Students will produce writing, conduct research, and create multimedia presentations in the areas of literature, music, and possible maker space projects.

Finance Skills & AgriScience: The course will focus on process skills such as: communication, leadership, thinking, and money/financial management. Students will use critical thinking skills and apply them to mathematics and science and begin to answer scientific questions. By focusing on five areas of agriculture: Animal Science, Plant Science, Environmental Science, Agricultural Mechanics, and Leadership, students will discover how careers in math and science are growing and will continue to evolve in the 21st century.

Each course is planned for 1 semester and blocked every other day for 82 minutes.

SOUTHERN CAYUGA JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL

2026-27 JR HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

JR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FOLLOW A MODIFIED BLOCK SCHEDULE THAT SUPPORTS PROJECT-BASED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

SOUTHERN CAYUGA JR HIGH PROGRAM

PROJECT-BASED LEARNING

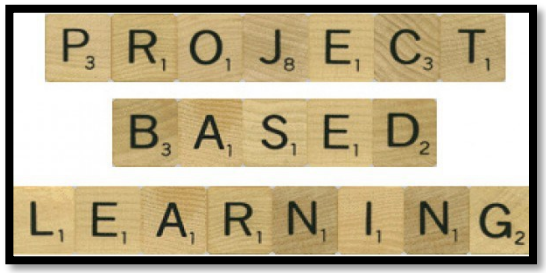
What is project-based learning?

Project-based learning is an instructional model that involves students in investigations of real-life' problems that culminate in authentic products. Projects that make for stronger classroom learning opportunities can vary widely in subject matter and scope, and can be delivered at a wide range of grade levels. A few defining features of project based learning:

- Projects grow out of challenging questions
- Projects put students in an active role such as: problem solver, decision maker, and investigator
- Projects serve specific, significant educational goals
- Projects can bring community businesses in as a partner to the school

For example: Enterprise America is an exciting hands-on program where our students apply the financial and civic literacy skills they have learned to run a city's different businesses and City Hall, becoming business entrepreneurs, employees, consumers, and citizens.

**Course descriptions can be found on the reverse side of the pamphlet*



SAMPLE JR HIGH SCHEDULES

7th Grade Schedule			
Advisory	**7:40-7:53**		**Days**
Block #1	**7:55-9:19**	English 7 Soc Studies 7	AC BD
Block #2	**9:22-10:49**	Science 7 Math 7	AC BD
Lunch	**10:49-11:19**		ABCD
Block #3	**11:22-12:45**	Explorations 7	ABCD
Period 7	**12:48-1:29**	Band/Chorus/SH	AC BD
Period 8	**1:32-2:13**	PE/Reteach or SH	ABCD

8th Grade Schedule			
Advisory	**7:40-7:53**		**Days**
Block #1	**7:55-9:19**	Spanish 1 Math 8	AC BD
Block #2	**9:22-10:49**	Soc Studies 8 English 8	AC BD
Lunch	**10:49-11:19**		ABCD
Block #3	**11:22-12:45**	Science 8 STEM 8	AC BD
Period 7	**12:48-1:29**	SH/ReTeach/PE Band/Chorus	AC BD
Period 8	**1:32-2:13**	ReTeach /PE/ Studio Art/SH	AC BD

OUR 7TH AND 8TH GRADE SCHEDULE

In an effort to better personalize and enhance student learning at the Jr High School (grades 7 & 8) level, we follow a modified block schedule. This schedule primarily allows us to offer most of the core area classes (Math, Sci, SS & ELA) during the morning hours.

Each day, students will begin with an advisory period from 7:40-7:53am. Our block schedule will contain many courses held for 82 minute periods, reducing the number of classes/transitions students have in a day and allowing more time for student project work.

- Students in need of extra assistance in Math & ELA will be enrolled in a re-teach class.
- Jr HS students will experience a rotation of project-based courses, known as specials in the Elementary School.