THE NATIONAL INVENTORS HALL OF FAME® SCHOOL...
CENTER FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS LEARNING

199 S. Broadway
Akron, Ohio 44308
330.761.3195
330.761.5576 (fax)
www.akronschools.com/school/NIHF+STEM+Middle+School

Parent/Learner
HANDBOOK

Revised 9/10/2015
Welcome to the National Inventors Hall of Fame® School...
Center for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Learning

Home of “The Tigers”
School Colors: Orange and Green

The National Inventors Hall of Fame® School...Center for Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Learning (NIHF STEM) administrators and faculty extend a warm welcome to the learners as they return or become part of the NIHF STEM community. We are sure that learners in our educational community will be provided with ample opportunities to learn and grow in a safe and nurturing environment.

The information in this book has been compiled to help learners and their families acclimate to the NIHF STEM School and become an integral part of it. Also, this guide was prepared to assist learners and their families in understanding the school and its policies. The book includes information regarding the scope of the school programs and activities offered. In addition, it has been designed to provide learners with information necessary to have a successful school year.

All learners are expected to uphold the core values and to follow the rules that are established for the welfare of the entire school body. In addition, we urge learners to participate in extracurricular activities, which best suit individual interests. In doing so, learners will increase their opportunities for learning and fulfill a well-rounded educational experience.

The NIHF STEM School maintains a reputation for academic excellence and outstanding citizenship. We look forward to learners joining us and continuing this tradition. Please refer to this handbook when questions or problems arise. If you cannot find the answer here, please contact the school. We look forward to the year ahead and the opportunity for all learners to succeed.

We look forward to a year of academic and personal growth!

Amanda Morgan
Instructional Leader
Staff Members

Instructional Leader
A. Morgan: amorgan2@akron.k12.oh.us
Assistant Principal
C. Morrison: cmorriso@akron.k12.oh.us

Afterschool Coordinator
E. Eaves: eeaves@akron.k12.oh.us
Child Nutrition
C. Owens: ccoughli@akron.k12.oh.us
Custodial
D. Domany
Program Specialist
S. Hall: shall3@akron.k12.oh.us
School Counselor
D. Whitfield: dwhitfie@akron.k12.oh.us
Secretary
S. Johnson: sjohnso4@akron.k12.oh.us
Technology Support Specialist
B. Nuss: bnuss@akron.k12.oh.us

Specialty Learning Coaches

Engineering/Robotics (Gr. 5-6)
P. Pringle: ppringle@akron.k12.oh.us

Engineering/Technology (Gr. 7-8)
E. Garcia: egarcia@akron.k12.oh.us

Gifted and Talented
K. Brandt: kbrandt@akron.k12.oh.us

Intervention Specialist
J. Lane: jhardin@akron.k12.oh.us

Media Specialist
L. Corrado: lec45917@akron.k12.oh.us

Music Department
S. Kitzler: srk46635@akron.k12.oh.us
S. Komlody: sak29570@akron.k12.oh.us*

Physical Education
G. Tournoux: gh47114@akron.k12.oh.us
K. Winters: kwinters@akron.k12.oh.us

Visual Art and Digital Literacy
E. Butler: eab46995@akron.k12.oh.us
J. Hogarth: jhogarth@akron.k12.oh.us

World Language
Q. Liang (Mandarin Chinese): qliang@akron.k12.oh.us

Fifth Grade
Planning/Conference Time: 12:04–12:44
B. Beebe (Mathematics/Science): bbeebe@akron.k12.oh.us
D. Pancoe (L. Arts/S. Studies): dpancoe@akron.k12.oh.us
J. Reitz (Mathematics/Science): jreitz@akron.k12.oh.us
A. Weaver (L. Arts/S. Studies): aweaver@akron.k12.oh.us

Sixth Grade
Planning/Conference Time: 1:18-1:58
F. Campbell (L. Arts): fcampbel@akron.k12.oh.us
S. Crews (Science): ccrews@akron.k12.oh.us
L. Trendell (Mathematics): lunderw2@akron.k12.oh.us
D. Wojcik (S. Studies): dwojck@akron.k12.oh.us

Seventh Grade
Planning/Conference Time: 8:59-9:39
K. Beal (Social Studies): kbeal@akron.k12.oh.us
B. Bugner (Language Arts): bbbugner@akron.k12.oh.us
J. Demangeont (Mathematics): jdemange@akron.k12.oh.us
C. Justiss-Simon (Science): cjustiss@akron.k12.oh.us

Eighth Grade
Planning/Conference Time: 2:19–3:00
E. Beldean (Social Studies): ebeldean@akron.k12.oh.us
R. Decatur (Mathematics): rdecatur@akron.k12.oh.us
S. Hankinson (Language Arts): shankins@akron.k12.oh.us
V. Lackney (Science)
vlackney@akron.k12.oh.us*

*Substitute teacher.
OUR BELIEFS: We believe all students will learn. We believe in lifelong learning and that family, community and school partners together contribute to the learning experiences of the student. We believe that effective schools have systems in place to sustain the vision, mission, beliefs, and values. We believe that ongoing, sustained professional development for all members of the school community is critical to the success of the school.

OUR MISSION: To nurture a community of empowered Learners who will succeed in a global society.

OUR VISION: To provide the highest quality education experience for students (learners) that ensures creativity and inventive thinking through a focus on science, mathematics and technology.

OUR PARTNERS: We have a total of six school partners who have brought a wealth of expertise and resources to create a learning center with innovative and high quality opportunities for Learners. Through these partnerships, our school has access to a variety of community experts and resources. As a result, learners will be able to learn in a classroom without walls.

The University of Akron
A public research university for Northern Ohio and the only public university in Ohio with a science and engineering program ranked in the top five nationally by U.S. News & World Report. UA’s College of Education has one of Ohio’s oldest and largest educator preparation programs.

Akron Public Schools
As a pioneer in education for more than 160 years, with an enrollment of 25,000 students, the district is a leader among Ohio’s large urban districts and, for the past five years, has successfully aligned all its teaching and learning efforts with the single focus of increasing student achievement.

City of Akron
Mayor Don Plusquellic was an enthusiastic and creative supporter of Akron Public Schools. He championed levy campaigns, led efforts to fund innovative, new Community Learning Centers and worked to engage partners in creating a new math, science and technology school at the National Inventors Hall of Fame Foundation.

Invent Now®
Previously called The National Inventors Hall of Fame Foundation, Invent Now® is a not-for-profit organization, headquartered in Akron, Ohio, dedicated to recognizing, honoring and encouraging invention and creativity.

Greater Akron Chamber
Is an economic development organization which serves Medina, Portage and Summit counties in Northeast Ohio.

Akron Tomorrow
A membership organization comprised of CEOs and community leaders whose mission is to provide leadership on issues of public policy, economic development, and quality of life in the Greater Akron community.

Our learning philosophy: Scientific inquiry and technological design are the cornerstones of instruction for our school. Our learning environments focus on personalized learning and teamwork skills while incorporating engineering, personal finance, music, art, humanities and other content areas. Learning Coaches act as advisors where they work with small groups of learners to set goals and identify rigorous coursework to meet those goals. State of the art technology is used to achieve academic excellence, creative instruction and 21st Century Skills.

Learners will:
• Solve real-world problems
• Participate in service learning projects
• Be provided a computer for use at home and school
• Be provided with learning opportunities beyond the school day

Learning is expanded by:
• Access to The University of Akron faculty and research labs, interaction with university candidates
• Mentorship from Engineer in Residence, Sam Landers
• Visiting Inductee Program (VIP) which allows for collaborative opportunities with Invent Now Inductees.
• Distance learning opportunities
• Comprehensive curriculum implemented by researched-based teaching and learning practices with a science, mathematics and technology focus
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

The National Inventors Hall of Fame School... Center for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Learning® follows the principles and philosophies of Mastery Learning that “all children can learn when provided with the appropriate learning conditions in the classroom”. Learning Coaches use formative, practice-type events (i.e. small quizzes, homework, in-class work), and summative, performance-related events (i.e. tests, projects, presentations, paper), assessments to evaluate mastery. Differentiation instruction is used in the classroom to allow learners to master concepts at his or her learning level. Mastery of the content standards is measured over the course of the year and is recorded in the learner’s portfolio kept by each content area Learning Coach.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Learners are expected to present their own work for any assignment, presentation, project, or assessment. Presenting another’s work as one’s own is considered plagiarism. Learners who violate this policy may earn zero credit for the offense. This includes the unauthorized use of technology to gain an academic advantage.

ADVISORY

Advisory is held twice a month on Wednesday for one and a half hours in the morning. Advisory time is used to work on academic and social goals for the school year.

ALEKS

ALEKS™ Math Program which can be accessed 24/7 with an internet connection at http://www.aleks.com/

- Learners can retrieve their username and password from their Mathematics Learning Coach.
- By grade level, ALEKS determines what a learner knows about math and does not know.
- ALEKS instructs learners on math topics he or she is most ready to learn.
- Learners should use ALEKS for 20 minutes daily outside of school for best results.

APPOINTMENTS

If a learner needs to be excused for a medical or dental appointment (or any other excused reason), the parent/guardian should call in advance of the appointment and then the learner should bring a note written by their parent/guardian to assure a timely release for the appointment. The note should include:

1. Reason for appointment
2. Time the Learner will leave and return
3. Date of the appointment
4. Parent/Guardian’s signature and phone number

Parent/Guardian should call and bring or send a note either the day prior to or the day of the appointment. Learners need to give the note to their learning coach in their Advisory who will then send it to the office with the attendance card. Written verification of the appointment from the doctor, dentist or place of the appointment for the time away from school will be required. This note must be brought back from the appointment or returned the next school day and given to the attendance secretary.

ATTENDANCE - ABSENCES

The Akron Board of Education has adopted a policy in accordance with State Board of Education regulations on excused absence. When a learner is absent for an “excused” reason, he/she is permitted to make up all classroom work within a reasonable period of time. That is, one day for each day absent. Reasons for excused absence include:

- Personal illnesses or injury
- Serious illness in the family
- Funerals
- Quarantine
- Religious holidays
- Medical and dental appointments (Documentation required from Doctor’s office)
- Appointments at the Board of Education, counseling services, or court appointments
- Emergencies excused by the principal

A parent/guardian must report a learner’s absence and the reason by calling the school at 330-761-3195 between 7:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. on the day of absence, or send a written excuse on the day of the learner’s return. A phone call is expected each day a learner is absent unless the parent/guardian indicates the absence may be for several days.
ATTENDANCE – ABSENCES (Cont.)

Failure to call off or bring a note will result in an unexcused absence and the learner will be considered truant. Learners absent for the following reasons will be marked “unexcused”. Learners are not permitted to make up class work for “unexcused” absences.

- Oversleeping
- Shopping trips
- Hunting, fishing, or any other recreational activity
- Truancy/Flicking

Please see The Akron Board of Education Policy on attendance for additional information. The Policy can be found on the Akron Public Schools website. Please also note that the Instructional Leader has the final authority determining excused or unexcused absences.

ABSENCES - TARDY TO SCHOOL

Learners are to be in their advisory at 8:00am. If arriving to school after 8:00 am, learners must sign in and receive a tardy slip to give to their advisor or first period teacher.

BLACKBOARD

Blackboard is a Web-based course-management system designed to allow learners and faculty to participate in classes delivered online or use online materials and activities to complement face-to-face teaching. Blackboard enables instructors to provide learners with course materials, discussion boards, virtual chat, online quizzes, an academic resource center, and more. Blackboard can be accessed at any time at http://blackboard.auburncc.org.

BULLYING

Bullying is defined as a single significant act or pattern of physical and/or verbal intimidation perpetrated against another person that interferes with the person’s rights in the school environment. Bullying includes but is not limited to

- Physical intimidation or assault
- Extortion
- Oral or written
- “Put-Downs”
- Social Isolation
- Name-calling
- Threatening Looks
- Gestures or Actions
- Cruel rumors or false accusations

Incidents of bullying must be reported to the instructional leader, guidance counselor or any staff member. To establish a culture of respect and intolerance of bullying, learners are encouraged to not be bystanders when bullying occurs. Learners are encouraged to:

- Not Join In
- Walk Away
- Tell a Trusted Adult

Learners are encouraged to monitor their behavior towards others using the Kindness Rubric. Learners will learn and demonstrate a new kindness skill monthly.
CAFETERIA

Every APS student can enjoy a FREE breakfast AND FREE lunch. This tasty, new program is available through the federal Community Eligibility Option (CEO) and will cover the full cost of serving meals at no charge to the district. Meal applications will not be required for any student. Breakfast meals will be served to the learners from 7:30 a.m. until 7:55 a.m. Monthly menus will be posted on the school’s web page. Please contact the guidance counselor, Coach Mason Whitfield, if your learner has food allergies.

CODE OF STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Please refer to our Home Page located on the Akron Public School’s web site. http://www.akronschools.com/school/NIHF+STEM+Middle+School/nihf-stem-middle-school-policies-procedures

Here you will find the Code of Student Behavior, along with other useful information, including a copy of this handbook. The Code of Student Behavior can be found under Policies and Procedures under the About Tab on our Home Page.

CODE OF STUDENT BEHAVIOR – WHERE TO FIND

All of the APS policies and procedures are available in their entirety in PDF format at the bottom of the ‘Policies and Procedures’ page on our web site. Click on the About Tab at the top of our home page.
Classroom Norms

During Learning Time

✓ Listen attentively; follow all directions the first time they are given.
✓ Be in your seat, ready to learn when class begins. Leave only with permission.
✓ Be prepared for class with all materials, supplies and assignments.
✓ Keep hands, feet and all objects to yourself. Respect yourself and others.
✓ Accept the responsibilities and consequences for your actions.

Entry

✓ Enter quietly and orderly.

Exit

✓ Return work to assigned area.
✓ Store materials in assigned areas.
✓ Clean your workspace.
✓ Wait for your coach to dismiss the class.
✓ Exit quietly and orderly.

Pencil Sharpener

✓ Only with permission.
✓ Two at a time in line

Restroom

✓ With permission only.
✓ Sign out and sign in.
# Progression of Consequences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interaction</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Interaction</td>
<td>Warning issued by coach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Interaction</td>
<td>Warning issued by coach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; Interaction</td>
<td>Learner has earned a Learner Response Form to be signed by a parent and returned the next day. If signed form is not returned the next day, parents will be contacted by the coach (entered in school electronic discipline system by assistant principal).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Interaction</td>
<td>Learner has earned a Learner Response Form to be signed by a parent and returned the next day (entered in school electronic discipline system by assistant principal). If signed form is not returned the next day, parents will be contacted by the coach. Learner has earned a detention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Interaction</td>
<td>Learner has earned a Learner Response Form to be signed by a parent and returned the next day (entered in school electronic discipline system by assistant principal). If signed form is not returned the next day, parents will be contacted by the coach. Learner has earned an after school detention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Interaction +</td>
<td>The learner is referred to an administrator for disciplinary disposition reflecting the Akron Public School’s Code of Student Behavior, which may result in loss of school privileges and/or activities, and could rise to the level of out of school suspension or expulsion.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Serious infractions will automatically be referred to an administrator.**

## Detentions

Detentions are assigned during the lunch period or after school. It is the learner’s obligation to serve the detention on the designated day at the designated time. Excused absence is the only acceptable reason for missing a detention. In this case, the detention is to be served on the following day. Learners are to report directly to the Coach’s room where the detention is assigned. Learners must bring work to complete or a book to read; no headphones, sleeping or cell phone use is permitted.
CONFERENCES
The parents/guardian’s involvement and interest in the learner’s education is encouraged. If there is a question or concern regarding a learner’s academic or social progress, a conference may be scheduled by contacting the individual learning coach or contacting the school counselor, Coach Mason Whitfield. Conferences may be scheduled during the learning coaches planning periods or depending upon the coaches’ availability before or after school.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION
To resolve a conflict peacefully, the learner is expected to:
• Identify the problem
• Focus on the problem
• Attack the problem, not the person
• Listen with an open mind
• Treat feelings with respect
• Take responsibility for his or her behavior

CORE CARDS, LIST CERTIFICATES AND CORE STORE
Learners who exhibit the core values will be randomly recognized by learning coaches and other faculty with LIST Certificates and core cards. Learners may accumulate core cards and deposit the core cards into the core bank. Learners may use 50 core cards to purchase a gift card from the core store on the designated days each week. Parents who wish to donate $5 gift cards to the core store may contact the school.

Every day, in every class, learners are expected to exhibit the 5 I’s, which represent our core values. For every core value exhibited, learners receive a “Core Buck” which they can redeem for prizes at the Core Store.

- **Innovation** – Creation rising from thought, study, and experimentation
- **Inquiry** – Seeking information by asking questions, exploring, and investigating
- **Inspiration** – Igniting ambition and creativity in ourselves and others
- **Integrity** – Truth, honor and trust: Doing the right thing even when no one is watching
- **Imagination** – The ability to use the creative power of the mind
5th GRADE COURSES

DAILY COURSES, All Year

**Language Arts**
Language Arts deals with vocabulary, reading, writing, research and communication.

**Mathematics**
Mathematics deals with number sense, operations, measurement, geometry and spatial sense, patterns functions and algebra, data analysis, probability and mathematical processes.

**Science**
Science deals with earth, space, life, physical and technology sciences.

**Social Studies**
Social Studies deal with people in societies, geography, economics, government, citizenship rights, responsibilities, social skills and methods.

SEMESTER COURSES, Daily

**Engineering and Robotics**
Engineering and Robotics deals with the engineering design process using research and design.

**Physical Education/Health**
Physical education deals with motor skills, movement, physical activity, physical fitness and responsible social and personal behavior.

EVERY OTHER DAY (A/B) COURSES

**Band (All Year)**
Group instruction on wind, brass and percussion instruments designed for the beginning band learner

**Chorus (All Year)**
Through group instruction learners begin to learn about proper production of the vocal sound through appropriate choral music

**Digital Literacy (First Semester)**
Digital Literacy deals with computer use in a real world, 21st century environment; learners will use their computers as a tool for typing, learning, designing, creating, problem solving, documenting and research

**Orchestra (All Year)**
Group instruction on string instruments for the beginning orchestra learner

**Visual Art (Second Semester)**
Visual Art deals with the impact of visual art on history, culture and society: creative expression and communication; analyzing and responding to art; connections, relationships and applications of other art areas and disciplines outside the arts.
6th GRADE COURSES

DAILY COURSES, All Year

Language Arts
Sixth grade Language Arts deals with grammar, literature, spelling, theme writing and communication. It will support teaching and learning, which challenges learners to become problem-solvers, critical thinkers, proficient writers, and effective communicators in all areas through reading, writing, listening, viewing, and speaking. The language arts processes work together so that learners can access information, new information, do research, make decisions, and apply knowledge/skills. The graded course of study will provide the grade level structure necessary to achieve excellence in language arts skills and concept development.

Mathematics
Our curriculum is supported by Connected Mathematics Project, CMP3. Through this curriculum, our learners learn how to reason and communicate proficiently in mathematics. They should have knowledge of and skill in the use of the vocabulary, forms of representation, materials, tools, techniques, and intellectual methods of the discipline of mathematics, including the ability to define and solve problems with reason, insight, inventiveness and proficiency. The curriculum includes factors and multiples, understanding rational numbers, two-dimensional geometry, understanding fraction operations, two-dimensional measurement, computing with decimals and percent, probability and statistics.

Science
Earth, Life and Physical Sciences are part of our comprehensive three-year middle level science. The curriculum is supported by SEPUP materials http://www.seopup.com. The program uses societal issues and problems as themes for the study of earth science. It is standards-based and can be used alone or in combination with other SEPUP courses. Like all SEPUP programs, it features an activity-based, minds-on approach. It features a nationally acclaimed assessment program and an embedded approach for supporting literacy in the science classroom. In addition to SEPUP units, our school delivers science and technology standards through problem based learning units.

Social Studies
The 6th grade curriculum is supported by Exploring Our World. Ancient History of regions in the Eastern Hemisphere will help focus understanding of the geography, politics, economics, religion, customs and traditions of each region today.

EVERY OTHER DAY (A/B) COURSES

Art (Second Semester)
Art is the study of drawing and painting. There is a focus on using the elements of art in the artwork. Learners will learn to draw from observation, portray the human figure, and learn color theory and mixing working two and three dimensionally. Projects are often integrated with PBL Projects or other content areas.

Band (All Year)
Large group instruction on wind and percussion instruments designed to continue building on previous instruction.

Chorus (All Year)
Through large group instruction, learners continue learning about proper production of the vocal sound through appropriate choral music.

Digital Literacy II (First Semester)
Learners will extend effective communication in a 21st century online environment using web 2.0 technology, visual literacy, and media literacy skills. Further use and application of higher level thinking skills will be used to create engaging digital presentations and tools.

Orchestra (All Year)
Group instruction on string instruments designed to continue building on previous instruction.

SEMESTER COURSES, Daily

Engineering and Robotics
Learners will use the engineer design process to create Lego NXT Mindstorm Robots. The NXT is the brain of a MINDSTORMS Robot®. It’s an intelligent computer-controlled Lego brick that will allow our learners to make a MINDSTORM robot come alive and perform different operations. This course covers the basic programming of Lego NXT Mindstorm Robots.

Physical Education/Health
Physical education deals with motor skills, movement, physical activity, physical fitness and responsible social and personal behavior. The health course covers body systems, human growth and development as it pertains to the overall learner.
7th GRADE COURSES

DAILY COURSES, All Year

Language Arts
Seventh grade Language Arts deals with grammar, literature, theme writing and oral communication. The curriculum is supported by the Collections instructional materials. It will support teaching and learning, which challenges learners to become problem-solvers, critical thinkers, proficient writers, and effective communicators in all areas through reading, writing, listening, viewing, and speaking. The language arts processes work together so that learners can access information, new information, do research, make decisions, and apply knowledge/skills. The Common Core graded course of study will provide the grade level structure necessary to achieve excellence in language arts skills and concept development. Learners who master Pre Honors English standards, concepts and procedures may gain 1 unit of high school credit at the completion of 8th grade school year.

Pre-Algebra
The curriculum is supported by Connected Mathematics Project, CMP2. Through this curriculum, learners learn how to reason and communicate proficiently in mathematics. They should have knowledge of and skill in the use of the vocabulary, forms of representation, materials, tools, techniques, and intellectual methods of the discipline of mathematics, including the ability to define and solve problems with reason, insight, inventiveness and proficiency. The curriculum includes some basic concepts of Pre-Algebra and Algebra such as variables and patterns, similarity, ratio, proportion, and percent, positive and negative numbers, linear relationships, three-dimensional measurement, probability and expected value, and describing variability and comparing groups. Learners who master Algebra standards, concepts and procedures may gain 1 unit of high school credit at the completion of 8th grade school year.

Integrated Science
Seventh grade science involves life and earth sciences. Life science focuses on ecology and earth science focuses on geologic process and how the process shapes the earth. The curriculum is supported by SEPUP materials (http://www.sepup.com). The program uses societal issues and problems as themes for the study of earth science. It is standards-based and can be used alone or in combination with other SEPUP courses. Like all SEPUP programs, it features an activity-based, minds-on approach. It features a nationally acclaimed assessment program and an embedded approach for supporting literacy in the science classroom. In addition to SEPUP units, our school delivers science and technology standards through problem based learning units.

Social Studies
Seventh grade social studies that deals more extensively with World Studies from 750 BC to 1600 AD: Ancient Greece through the First Global Age. The seventh grade learner begins the four-year historical sequence with a study of the ancient world through current times. This study incorporates each of the four standards into the chronology of historical civilization. Students learn that each historic event is shaped by its geography setting, culture of the people, economic conditions, governmental decisions and citizen action. Learners also expanded their command of social studies skills and methods.
EVERY OTHER DAY (A/B) COURSES, All Year

Band
Large group instruction on wind and percussion instruments designed for the beginning band learner. **Learners may meet fine arts requirements for high school graduation at the completion of 8th grade school year.**

Chinese /World Language
This class is designed for learners without any background in the Chinese language. Includes basic vocabulary and structures of Chinese; real life situations, introduction to Chinese culture, music, history, cuisine and crafts. **Learners who master Chinese I standards, concepts and procedures may gain 1 unit of high school credit at the completion of the 8th grade school year.**

Chorus
Through large group instruction, learners begin to learn about proper production of the vocal sound through appropriate choral music.

Innovation
Innovation is an enrichment and intervention course. As an enrichment course it provides extended learning opportunities in the reading and math content areas. As an intervention course it supports learning in the reading and math content areas.

Orchestra
String Orchestra-large group instruction on string instruments develops technical facility, interpretive ability and a high degree of musical understanding through group performing skills. **Learners may meet fine arts requirements for high school graduation at the completion of the 8th grade school year.**

Physical Education/ Health
Learners will focus on the National Health and Physical Education standards. Learners will utilize digital technologies to analyze their personal fitness levels and ways to enhance them. Learners will document their growth over the course of the year with ongoing assessments of their progress. Learners will gain knowledge on the benefits of healthy nutrition, understand lifestyle diseases and learn how to prevent them through proper exercise and nutrition. The learners will also engage in distance learning activities and use 21st century skills such as collaboration to learn how to share knowledge globally.

SEMESTER COURSES, Daily

Gateway to Technology/Entrepreneurship
Gateway to Technology is an exploratory course that provides opportunities for learners to explore careers and learn technology skills important to the economic future of the community. The Gateway to Technology modules are Design and Modeling, Automation and Robotics, The Magic of Electrons, The Science of Technology and Flight and Space.

Visual Art
Art is the study of drawing and painting. There is a focus on using the elements of art in the artwork. Learners will learn about styles of art during different time periods as they find inspiration in their own work. The skills learned will be applied in a variety of assignments using a variety of media based on principles of art. Projects are often integrated with PBL Projects or other content areas.
DAILY COURSES, All Year

**Algebra I**
The Algebra I Course focuses on the development of fundamental algebraic and reasoning skills along with continued study of data analysis and probability. Learners will explore linear, quadratic, and exponential function relationships. The course includes furthering problem solving strategies and processes, use of appropriate mathematical terms and symbols in communications, understanding and using real numbers, understanding real-world problems by constructing and interpreting equations, tables, and graphs. Learners will use patterns, relations and functions to model, represent and analyze problem situations that involve variable quantities. This is an accelerated course, and learners will be expected to complete independent practice daily. *(Learners must have at least an 80% at the end of the first semester to be eligible to earn high school credit)*

**Integrated Science 8**
The Integrated Science Course deals more extensively with the study of earth and space, physics, chemistry, and will conclude the year with bio engineering. The course will move at an accelerated pace and learners will be responsible for completing a science fair project and research paper. *(Learners must have at least an 80% by the first grading period to be eligible for biochemistry in the upcoming school year)*

**Pre-Honors English 8**
The Pre Honors English Course concentrates on literary analysis and vocabulary development skills using short stories, plays and novels from American and British literature. Responding to essay questions and prompted topics gives learners an opportunity to develop writing skills. Extensive class discussion in response to text provides learners with speaking and listening practice as well as an opportunity to synthesize and evaluate what they have learned *(Learners will participate in this course for one high school elective credit and must have at least an 80% at the end of the first semester to receive high school credit. Learners may not use this course to replace credit for English)*

**Social Studies 8**
The Social Studies 8 Course will cover the United States Studies from 1607-1877: Colonization through Reconstruction. The historical sequence continues in the eighth grade with an in-depth study of the early years of our country. This study incorporates each of the seven standards into the chronology. While learners are studying a particular historic event in the United States they also look at its geographic settings, economic implications, developments in government and the role of citizens.
EVERY OTHER DAY (A/B) COURSES, All Year

**Band**
Large group instruction on wind and percussion instruments designed for the beginning band learner. **Learners may meet fine arts requirements for high school graduation at the completion of 8th grade school year.**

**Chinese /World Language**
Chinese/World Language course includes basic vocabulary and structures of Chinese; real life situations, introduction to Chinese culture, music, cuisine, history and crafts. *(Learners who have a least an 80% by the first semester have the opportunity to gain 1 high school credit for Foreign Language)*

**Chorus 8**
Through large group instruction, learners begin to learn about proper production of the vocal sound through appropriate choral music.

**Innovation**
Innovation is an enrichment and intervention course. As an enrichment course it provides extended learning opportunities in the reading and math content areas. As an intervention course it supports learning in the reading and math content areas.

**Orchestra**
String Orchestra-large group instruction on string instruments develops technical facility, interpretive ability and a high degree of musical understanding through group performing skills. **Learners may meet fine arts requirements for high school graduation at the completion of the 8th grade school year.**

**Physical Education**
The Physical Education course will consist of the following: proper technique for working out, understanding of the FITT Principle, fitness testing, team sports, health and wellness, food logs, journaling and research reports.

**SEMESTER COURSES, Daily**

**Art 8**
The Visual Art Course is a study of our visual world and how we see it and how we express ourselves. The skills learned will be applied in a variety of assignments using a variety of media based on principles of art. Learners will learn about the styles of art during different time periods as they find inspiration for their own work. **Learners may meet fine arts requirements for high school graduation at the completion of the 8th grade school year.**

**Gateway To Technology (GTT)**
The Gateway to Technology Course is a cutting-edge program that addresses the interest and energy of NIH STEM Learners, while incorporating national standards in mathematics, science, and technology. GTT is “activity oriented” to show learners how technology is used in engineering to solve everyday problems in units of study. There are two instructional units: *The Magic of Electrons* and *Automation and Robotics*. The units are designed to excite and motivate learners to use their imaginations and teach them to be creative and innovative, while gaining the skills they need to develop, produce, and use products and services.
English Composition I - 124 - This course emphasizes writing based on reading response with review of essay development, grammar, and punctuation. Emphasis is on the process of drafting, revising, and editing to achieve clarity. A research project requires APA or MLA documentation. (1st semester 7th and 8th grades)

English Composition II 131 - This course will build on the skills and knowledge obtained in College Composition including research and inquiry. Students will develop an understanding of rhetoric, argument, and language as they explore and write about complex topics in formal papers. (2nd semester 7th and 8th grades)
# Dress Code

**Uniform policy for students in grades K-8**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APS dress code requirements plus the following:</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Colors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Tops/Shirts**  
Properly sized, Tucking optional | Polo-style collared shirts/button-up blouses with collars or turtlenecks | Polo-style collared shirts/dress shirts with collars or turtlenecks | Solid Colors Only |
| **Sweaters/ vests/ hooded apparel**  
Must be worn over a collared shirt or blouse | Cardigans, pullover sweaters, vests, or hooded apparel (hoods down) | Cardigans, pullover sweaters, vests, or hooded apparel (hoods down) | Solid Colors Only |
| **Bottoms/Pants**  
No jeans, no denim pants or sweat suits, cargo pants are permitted | Uniform-style, classic-fit or corduroy pants, skirts, capris, shorts, jumpers and knee-length shorts | Uniform-style, classic-fit or corduroy pants and knee-length shorts | Navy blue, khaki or black |
| **Shoes** | Encouraged to wear plain shoes or athletic shoes | Encouraged to wear plain shoes or athletic shoes | Black, blue, brown or white |
| **Belts**  
No chain belts or belts with writing | If the slacks or pants have belt loops, students are encouraged to wear a belt | If the slacks or pants have belt loops, students are encouraged to wear a belt | Black, brown or navy |

*All clothing items are available at any retail store or can be ordered through catalogues or online.*

**In addition, yoga pants and leggings alone are not appropriate for the school environment. Learners may wear navy blue, black or khaki bottoms and any solid color polo-style collared shirts.**

The staff at the National Inventors Hall of Fame® School...Center for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Learning is responsible for maintaining an environment that is healthy, safe, and conducive to learning. A learner’s dress and general appearance should not be of such extremes that it draws undue attention to the learner, or should the dress and appearance distract or interfere with the educational process. Such a standard of dress and appearance is in effect at school and all school-sponsored activities. This is at the discretion of the school administration. **Please make sure your learner is dressed appropriately for academic success.**
DROP OFF/PICK UP & PARKING
To ease traffic congestion, yellow school buses will drop off and pick up bussed learners at the South Broadway entrance. Car riders may be dropped off at the back entrance from 7:30 am up until 8:10 am. The back entrance is accessible from East Bowery Street, turning onto the one way alley behind the Morley Parking Deck. At dismissal, parent drivers must pick up learners at the back of the building between 3:00-3:20pm. If picking up after 3:20pm, learners must be picked up by parent/guardian at the front of the building (outside the main office). During the school day, temporary parking is available on S. Broadway in front of the school. Visitor parking spaces are also located behind the school. Additional parking options will be provided for special events.

ELEVATOR
The school elevator is available for learner use only when written office permission has been granted. Learners may obtain written permission to use the elevator from the school counselor by bringing a note from a doctor describing the need.

FEES
A list of course and workbook fees will be distributed to the learners at the beginning of the school year. A fee statement, listing all course and workbook fees for the year, will be available to the parents. At the end of the school year, report cards may be withheld until all fees are paid. Grade cards may also be held each quarter for non-payment of fees.

FIELD TRIPS
When learners are on a school sponsored field trip they are subject to all school regulations and to the discipline of the learning coaches in attendance. Parents will be informed in writing or by phone of any planned fieldtrips, date of such activity and of any special instructions. Learners may need a signed permission slip by parent or guardian to attend scheduled fieldtrips.

FIRE DRILLS
State law requires drills for fire, weather, civil defense and evacuation emergencies (ALICE drills). A fire evacuation plan is posted in each room. When the alarm sounds, learners will exit the building in an orderly and quiet manner. Talking and running are not permitted. Learning coaches will instruct learners when to return.

GLOSSARY OF NIHF STEM TERMS

- **Learners** – Traditionally called “Students”. Focus at all times is to learn more than the prior day.
- **Learning Coaches** – Traditionally called “Teachers” or other adults working at school.
- **Instructional Leader** – Traditionally called “Principal”.
- **Laptop** – Computer issued to each student to be used for educational purposes.
- **Advisory** – Support group of approximately 15 learners led by a learning Coach. In Advisory, learners are called “Advisees” while Learning Coaches are called “Advisors”.
- **Morning Meeting** – Traditionally called “Morning Announcements” where entire school meets every morning to get ready for the day by sharing announcements.
- **Learning Team** – Learners assigned to a specific set of learning coaches per grade level consisting of approximately 50 learners per team.
- **STEM** – Acronym for academic content areas: Science, Technology, Engineering & Math.
- **PBL** – Acronym for “Problem-Based Learning” activity that learners complete each semester.
- **PLC** – Acronym for “Professional Learning Community” where learning coaches partake in professional development and planning time.
- **Service Learning** – Learner projects, usually completed in Advisory, which integrates teaching and learning into a meaningful service experience for Learners.
- **Learning Commons** – Traditionally called “Library” or “LRC”.
- **Independent Practice** – Traditionally called “Homework” which includes assignments given to learners by learning coaches to be completed independently.
- **Mastery Learning** – The core concept is that learners master content at individual paces.
GRADING SCALE

Mastery of the content standards is measured over the course of the year and is recorded in the learner’s portfolio kept by each content area Learning Coach. Parents make the best partners in schools and are encouraged to work cooperatively with learning coaches to monitor academic progress on a regular basis. Ongoing communication is encouraged by families in scheduled conferences, via e-mail, telephone calls, and through Blackboard.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent Correct</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Grade Point Average</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93 - 100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90 - 92</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87 - 89</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83 - 86</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>80 - 82</td>
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<td>60 - 62</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<tr>
<td>0 - 59</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

GROUPS

Groups that address emotions, friendship and development of test taking skills will be hosted by The University of Akron’s Clinic for Individual and Family Counseling. Groups facilitated by the University of Akron will be held after school. The Girl Power group sponsored by the Boys and Girls Club will be hosted during lunch once a week. Please contact guidance counselor, Coach Mason Whitfield for further information.

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

The mission of the STEM Middle School Counseling Department is to prepare each child for success. The goals of the STEM Middle School Counseling Department are to facilitate partnerships between learners, parents, staff and community, to prepare learners with the knowledge, skills and behaviors necessary to successfully graduate from high school and to continue their education and/or be workforce ready to successfully participate in the global economy as productive citizens. Please contact the school counselor for further information.

HEALTH AIDE SERVICES

Learners taking medication during school hours must retrieve the proper form from the Health Aide to be completed by the learner’s doctor and returned to the school. All medications must be kept in the school health office.

HOME ACCESS CENTER

Home Access Center is a browser-based learner information system that allows you to view learner registration information, schedule, attendance, class assignments, progress report, and report card, and test score information. If you would like to gain access to this information for your learner, please contact the office.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Learners entering the 7th grade are required to receive the Tdap or TD booster vaccine prior to entry. Please provide the office with an updated immunization record that includes this requirement at the beginning of the school year. Learners may be excluded from school after the 14th day of school without this documentation on file.

INCLEMENT WEATHER & SCHOOL CLOSINGS

During inclement weather (usually extreme cold or snow), or other emergencies, parents will be notified via the new district-wide, all-call system. Please listen to the local radio and television stations for updated information regarding school closings. Please be advised that whenever the Akron Public Schools are closed for inclement weather, out of school suspensions, and any other disciplines for that date(s) must be made up upon the reopening of our school.

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

Independent practice (homework) is the learner’s responsibility to compete and turn in on time. Learners are responsible for recording assignments in their Learner Handbook. Parents are encouraged to check the planner daily.
INTERIM REPORT PICK-UP
Interim Report Pick-Up: Three times throughout the year, interim report pick-up will be held from 3:30 – 7:30 p.m. During this scheduled time, parent/guardian(s) discuss their learner’s current progress and discuss a plan for continued growth. Parents may schedule appointments with learning coaches in advance. Interim reports and attendance reports not picked up that evening will be mailed home.

INTERNET
Email addresses and internet usage is needed for learners to access the learning management system, Blackboard, where learning can continue beyond the classroom. Learning email and internet safety, etiquette and responsibilities are built into the educational program. All Akron Public School Board policies, all state and federal laws apply. Learners will abide by the terms and conditions for use of technology and telecommunication resources, E-Mail, and the Internet. Learners and parents should be aware that violation of the guidelines and regulations outlined is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should a learner commit any violation, access privileges may be revoked, disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action may be taken.

LAPTOP: LEARNER RESPONSIBILITIES
Learners’ laptop computers are an important learning tool and are to be used for educational purposes only. In order for learners to take their tablet home each day, learners must be willing to accept the following responsibilities.
Please note: Families are responsible for the replacement costs of the lost or damaged laptops and accessories. Replacement costs may be retrieved from the main office.

• When using my tablet computer at home, at school, and anywhere else, I will follow the policies of the Akron Public Schools and abide by all local, state, and federal laws.
• I will treat my tablet with care by not dropping it, getting it wet, leaving it outdoors, or using it with food or drink nearby. I will always carry it in the tablet carrying case in the proper manner.
• I will recharge the tablet battery every night.
• I will bring my tablet to school each day.
• I agree not to place decorations (stickers, markers, etc.) on my tablet.
• I understand that my tablet is the property of the District. All accounts, programs, and files are subject to inspection at any time without notice.
• I will not lend my tablet to anyone; it will stay in my possession at all times.
• I will keep all accounts and passwords assigned to me secure and will not share these with any other learners.
• I will be responsible for all damage or loss caused by neglect or abuse.
• I will not load any software onto the tablet without first receiving permission.
• I agree that email (or any other computer communication) should be used only for appropriate, legitimate, and responsible communication. I will not use my tablet to access online chat rooms or any social networking sites such as myspace.com or facebook.com.
• I agree not to share personal information about myself (e.g. full name, address, or other personal information) and about my family, friends, or anyone else.
• I agree not to search for, display, download, or distribute vulgar, offensive material or images as described in applicable District policies.
• I will talk with my parent or guardian about their expectations and ground rules for going online when not at school.
• I agree to abide by school rules that will identify tablet procedures when I am not in an academic class (e.g. cafeteria, assemblies, after school activities/events).
• I will return the tablet computer when requested and upon my withdrawal from school.

LATE WORK POLICY
Learners who did not complete an assignment by the original due date may turn in the late assignment within 2 academic days from the day it was due. However, the maximum score the learner will be able to obtain is 80% (B-), which is mastery.*Policy subject to change during the academic year.
LEARNING COMMONS

8:00am – 3:00pm
Monday – Friday

Additional hours available by advanced request. Visit our Virtual Learning Commons on Blackboard 24 hours a day!

- A weekly schedule is posted on the Library Blackboard site
- With your classroom or in small groups sent by Coaches
- Any time through the day with Coach’s permission
- During lunch with a pass from a coach
- At the end of the school day and immediately after school

LEARNING COMMONS COMMUNITY

✔ The Learning Commons is a busy place of collaboration, research, and reading.
✔ During a collaboration period you may request a quiet space.
✔ If you arrive during instruction, please be courteous to your community.
✔ Use a browser card when looking for materials. If you do not know where you selected the book, please put materials in the book return at the circulation desk.
✔ Classroom and school rules are observed in the Learning Commons.
✔ When you leave, please show integrity by cleaning your area, returning materials to the circulation desk, and pushing in your chair.

LENDING POLICY

Ebooks and audio books are available through our library blackboard 24 hours a day. Ebooks and audio books will be available on the ebook reader for 2 weeks. These books are automatically returned to our catalog after the 2 week period.

✔ A learner may keep fiction and nonfiction items for 2 weeks.

✔ Items on reserve as well as reference materials are checked out overnight. This special circulation for these items is at the end of the school day.
✔ To renew an item, bring it to the library to be rescanned.
✔ Items requested by another learner cannot be renewed.
✔ Overdue notices will be passed out in advisory. Please return overdue materials when you receive a notice. If you have questions, please see Coach Hall.
✔ Library books and materials not returned by the end of a grading period are eligible for a report card hold. Unpaid holds at year end result in loss of activity privileges.
✔ Lost or damaged materials will be replaced using current replacement cost.

MAKE-UP WORK

When a learner is absent, it is his/her responsibility to check Blackboard for assignments and the learning coach to get what was missed and how it may be made up. The learner will do this on his/her first day back to school. The days needed for make-up work will be equal to the number of excused days missed.

Parent/Guardian(s) may request independent practice/make-up work assignments for their learner if he/she is going to be out a minimum of five consecutive school days due to illness. All work is to be completed when the learner returns to school.

MEDIA RELEASE

Media Release forms are required for all learners. Media Release forms give consent to the publication and other use of learner’s name, writing, photographs, video, art or quotes without limit, reservation or remuneration by the media and/or Akron Public Schools. Please contact the school if there are further questions.

MESSAGES/TELEPHONE USE

Parents are requested to limit phone messages to learners. Should the urgent need arise to contact a learner during the school day a parent or guardian may call the main office. Each classroom and office contains a phone for faculty and staff use only. Use of the office phone may be prohibited except in case of emergency.
PLEASE NOTE THAT CELL PHONE USE IS PROHIBITED DURING THE SCHOOL DAY. Phones may be used during recess for technology, not making phone calls. Learners who use a cell phone without learning coach permission (including the use of a camera phone) or have a cell phone visible but may not be using will have the phone confiscated. Parents will be notified by the learning coach via phone or email. A parent/guardian may pick up the phone at the end of the day.

PLANNER
Learners have options to record their assignments. We encourage learners to use the personal calendar in Blackboard to record assignments. Learning coaches will provide planner pages to learners who prefer to record assignments on paper.

PROBLEM BASED LEARNING
Problem Based Learning is an instructional approach built upon authentic learning activities that engage learners’ interest and motivation. These activities are designed to answer a question or solve a problem and generally reflect the types of learning and work people do in the everyday world outside the classroom. Learners will participate in several Problem Based Learning activities during the school year. Please contact our Program Specialist if you have questions about Problem Based Learning experiences throughout the school year.

PTA – Parent Teacher Association
Parents/Guardians are encouraged to join the NIHF STEM PTA. The PTA sponsors many school events, programs, projects and services for families, learners and faculty. There are many volunteer opportunities and participation is a good way to become part of the school community.

RECOGNITION CEREMONY
Learners are recognized for honor roll, merit roll and perfect attendance. Honor roll learners earn a 3.5 or higher grade point average and merit roll learners earn a grade point average of 3.0-3.49 grade point average.

SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION
School bus transportation is available for learners who live within the city of Akron. You must reside two miles from the school to receive yellow bus transportation. Please contact the school for further information.

SCIENCE FAIR
All learners 6th – 8th grade will have the opportunity to participate in the Akron Public School District Science Fair. Learners who receive advanced scores may be eligible to participate in the regional and state fairs. Please contact your learner’s science coach for further information.

SERVICE LEARNING
Service learning is a form of project based learning in which academic goals are accomplished through community service. Learners will complete Service Learning projects with their advisory groups.

S.M.A.R.T.E. CLUBS
S.M.A.R.T.E. (Science, Mathematics, Arts, Recreation, Technology and Engineering) Clubs are held daily after school until 5:00 p.m.

STANDARDIZED TESTING
The Akron Public Schools implements standardized tests to measure learner achievement against state and national norms. The NIHF STEM School complies with state mandated testing. Learners and parents are notified in advance of testing and procedures.

VISION AND HEARING SCREENINGS
Fifth grade learners will have their vision and hearing checked by the Health Aide at the start of the school year. Seventh grade learners will have their vision checked as well. Parents will be notified in writing of any failed hearing or vision tests.

VISITORS
Parents/guardians are always welcome to visit the school. All visitors are required to sign in at the Main Office. If you wish to see a Learning Coach, a 24-hour notice is required, unless other arrangements have been made.