

Galway Junior High School Handbook



H O M E O F T H E
GOLDEN EAGLES

Welcome to Galway Junior High School!

We are very excited to get to know you and your parents as you embark on this new chapter in your educational career. With this change, come many new challenges along the way. We feel that the elementary school has given you the academic tools that you will need in order to be successful in the Junior High School.

As you move on to the 7th and 8th grade, here are a few tips for you to remember:

- Come to school every day
- Set challenging goals for yourself
- Stay organized
- Complete your homework and turn it in on time
- Stay for extra help when needed or 9th period
- Don't be afraid to ask questions when you don't understand a concept or directions
- Be respectful to every student, teacher and staff member
- Have a positive attitude!

At the end of 8th grade, you will be prepared to make the transition to High School with all of the knowledge, skills and habits necessary to be successful in your endeavor. Best of luck to you this school year!

Respectfully,

Michael R. Miller
Junior/Senior High School Principal

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Junior High Faculty & Staff

518.882.1033

Administration:

Michael R. Miller Jr/Sr High School Principal
Nate Kocak Director of Athletics/Dean of Students
Jennifer Hall, Pupil Services Director

Counseling Services:

Shannon Britten, K-8 School Counselor
Christine Bornt, K-12 Social Worker
Andy Huszar, K-12 School Psychologist

Administrative Assistants:

Camila Colangelo, Jr./Sr. High School Secretary
Barb Hartz, Pupil Services Secretary
Kate Keller, Secretary to the Athletic Director

Nurse/Attendance:

Cindy Colby, 7-12

7th Grade Teachers:

Karen Decker	English
Beth Deluca	Social Studies
Kristin Sheehy	Math
Lynn Prehn	Math Lab 7/8
Trevor Tripp	Science
Christin Sickles	Special Ed.
Sue Peters	Spanish 7/8
Brenda Peconie	Spanish 7/8
Amy David	Art
Mellenie Booth	Music & Chorus
Gary Barrow	Band
Michael Glenn	Technology 7
Jennifer Gerber	Health
Allison Leonardo	ELA Lab 7/8
Ross Hayden	Phys. Ed. 7/8
Jourdan Vatalaro	Phys. Ed. 7/8
Jesse Radosti	Life Skills

8th Grade Teachers:

Kristyn Akin	Math 8 & Int. Algebra
Rachel Clay	Science 8 and Science 7 Honors
Jeanine Bechand	Living Environment 9
Jacqueline Mullin	English
Elaine Vandenburg	Social Studies

Beth Brewster

Special Ed.

Taylor Clifford

Technology

Susan Kinne

Home & Careers

Junior High School Requirements

The following courses are NYS requirements to be completed by the end of 8th grade:

English/Language Arts: 2 units

Social Studies: 2 units

Mathematics: 2 units

Science: 2 units

Technology: 1 unit

Health: $\frac{1}{2}$ unit

Home & Career Skills $\frac{3}{4}$ unit

Arts $\frac{1}{2}$ unit

Music $\frac{1}{2}$ unit

Physical Education: Every other day each year

Library and Information Skills: equivalent of 1 period per week

Languages (other than English)



Student Schedules

Student Schedules get mailed out in the middle of August prior to the start of the school year. There will be a Junior High Orientation the last week in August for students to practice walking through their schedules and try out their lockers.

Sample 7th Grade Schedule:

Period	Time	A-Day	B-Day
Period 1	7:55-8:43	Math 7	Math 7
Period 2	8:47-9:27	Math Lab	ELA Lab
Period 3	9:31-10:11	English 7	English 7
Period 4	10:15-10:55	Science 7	Science 7
Period LCH A	10:56-11:27	A-Lunch	A-Lunch
Period 5-JH	11:30-12:10	Social Studies 7	Social Studies 7
Period 6-JH:	12:14-12:54	Art 7	Music 7

Period 7	12:58-1:38	Tech 7	Health 7
Period 8	1:42-2:22	PE 7	Spanish 7
Period 9	2:30-3:20	RTI ELA/Math	RTI ELA/Math

Sample 8th Grade Schedule:

Period	Time	A-Day	B-Day
Period 1	7:55-8:43	Tech 8	Phys. Ed. 8
Period 2	8:47-9:27	Social Studies 8	Social Studies 8
Period 3	9:31-10:11	Science 8	Science 8
Period 4	10:15-10:55	Spanish	Spanish
Period LCH A	10:56-11:27	A-Lunch	A-Lunch
Period 5-JH	11:30-12:10	English 8	English 8
Period 6-JH	12:14-12:54	ELA Lab	Math Lab
Period 7	12:58-1:38	Math 8	Math 8
Period 8	1:42-2:22	JH Band	Home & Careers
Period 9	2:30-3:20	RTI ELA/Math	RTI ELA/Math

**Accelerated Math, Science, Band/Chorus, and students with special needs may have slightly different schedules

Annual Review

Every 7th and 8th grade student will meet with their school counselor at least once a year to discuss the following:

- Interest, skills, strengths
- Goals for the upcoming school year
- Current concerns
- Post-graduation plans
- Career Interests

All 8th grade students will take a Career Interest Inventory in order to begin or further their Career planning process. This will take place in Home & Careers class.. The High School guidance counselor will go into the classrooms in the spring and discuss course selections for 9th grade.

Planning for High School

Students and parents should try to plan, not only for the upcoming school year, but for the years beyond Junior High School. The chart below shows the required courses that a student needs to pass throughout their High School career to earn a Regents or Advanced Regents Diploma.

Regents Diploma

Advanced Regents Diploma

Content Area	Credits	Content Area	Credits
English	4	English	4
Social Studies	4	Social Studies	4
Math	3	Math	3
Science	3	Science	3
Foreign Language (LOTE)	1	Foreign Language (LOTE)	3***
Art/Music	1	Art/Music	1
Health	.5	Health	.5
Physical Education	2	Physical Education	2
Electives	3.5	Electives	1.5
Total:	22.0	Total	22.0

***Students Acquiring five (5) units in Art, Music, Business, Technology, or Vocational Education may be exempt from the LOTE requirement for the Advanced Regents

Accelerated/Advanced Classes

The goal of Accelerated/Advanced Classes is to provide an enhanced curriculum that interests and challenges your child. The practical result of success in an accelerated/advanced program will be for your child to participate in this specified subject area for subsequent years to come. Accelerated/Advanced classes are weighted more (3%) than regular classes.

Criteria for placement in Accelerated/Advanced Classes:

7th grade honors classes:

Accelerated Math 7

- | | |
|---|-----|
| • Math Placement Test Score | 30% |
| • Percentile Ranking in STAR Math | 20% |
| • Percentile Ranking in STAR Reading | 20% |
| • 90% or better average in 6th grade math | 20% |
| • Teacher Recommendation | 10% |

Advanced Science:

Must have met all 4 criteria

- 2 teacher recommendations (one must be from the 6th grade Science teacher)
- 90 or higher grade in Trimesters 1 and 2 for 6th grade Science
- 85% or higher on the Science Placement Test
- Complete application and write a brief essay explaining why you are interested in being accepted into this program

8th grade honors classes:

Accelerated Algebra:

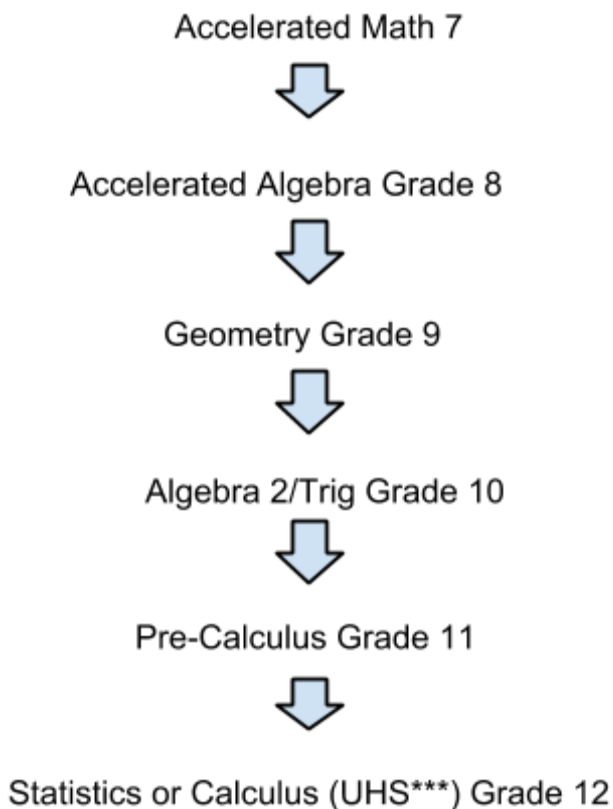
- Students must have successfully completed Math 7H with a final average of 85 or better and teacher recommendation

English, Social Studies and Spanish H:

- 92 final average in 7th grade class
- 4 or High 3 on ELA /Percentile ranking on STAR Reading
- Teacher Recommendation

Living Environment:

- 85 final average for 7th grade Honors Science
- 85 final exam grade for 7th grade Honors Science
- Teacher recommendation

Example of the potential path one could take if placed in Advanced Math:

**University in the High School Class (Students can earn 3 or more college credits)

Advanced Science Path:

- 7th grade: 7th and 8th: Life Science and Physical Science
- 8th grade: Living Environment class and Regents exam
- 9th grade: Earth Science and Regents exam
- 10th grade: Chemistry and Regents exam (if meeting recommended Math requirements)
- 11th grade: Physics and Regents exam
- 12th grade: UHS Chemistry or AP Biology or other elective (UHS/AP classes receive college credit)

Report Cards and Interim Reports

Parents will receive 4 report cards and 4 interim reports. The interim reports are sent home with students at the mid-marking period and are designed to give parents/guardians a general idea of their student's progress. The information listed on the interim report is generalized and sometimes, parents need a more detailed assessment to determine their child's progress. If this is the case, parents may contact specific teachers or set up a parent/teacher conference at a mutually agreed upon time to discuss their child's progress in more detail.

Honor Roll

At the end of each marking period, the Honor Roll will be automatically calculated in SchoolTool. In order to be eligible, the following averages must be achieved:

Academic Scholar: 94.5-100

High Honors: 89.5-94.4

Honor Roll: 84.5-89.4

Academic Ineligibility

Students will be placed on academic ineligibility if they are not passing a class within that **two-week period**. If a student is placed on the Ineligibility List, it does not mean they are failing the class for the entire quarter. Students who are failing two or more subjects during that two week period will not be allowed to attend any extra-curricular activities. Students who are members of a team or group may attend practices, but will not participate in games (please see extracurricular handbook for more details).

Incomplete Grades

Teachers should only place an incomplete on a student's report card in extraordinary circumstances. Extraordinary circumstances will usually be defined as times when a student has missed a significant amount of instructional time due to an illness or other excused absence from school. All incomplete grades will be changed into numeric grades when the student returns to school and/or sufficient work has been collected by and meets the teacher's expectations..

Promotion Criteria for Junior High

The passing standard for Galway Junior High School is 65%. Students who fail to meet the academic expectations in Grades 7 and 8 may be retained in that grade

level the following school year. Students who fail (2) or more Core classes (English, Math, Social Studies, Science, or Spanish) will be considered for retention. Administration will review each case on an individual basis after consultation with guidance, teachers, and parents as needed.

Parental Involvement

Parent involvement in school matters is a key factor in ensuring student success. We strongly encourage involvement with your child's education. Parents can help their children by checking SchoolTool on a regular basis, checking their child's agenda daily, ensuring they are attending school on a regular basis, and checking in with teachers as needed.

SchoolTool

The Junior High offers public access for SchoolTool/Parent Portal. This means you will be able to see your child's grades and attendance on a weekly basis. All parents are required to have access to this information. If you are having difficulty, please contact your son/daughter's school counselor.

Communication

The report cards and interim reports should not be the only communication between the parents/guardians and the school district. There are many effective ways for parents to communicate with their student's teachers. Parents/guardians who are unclear of their student's explanation of his/her responsibilities, are encouraged to email or call the teacher. Parents/guardians who need further clarification or detailed updates of their child's progress may call the guidance office to set up a parent/teacher conference. Google classroom, REMIND APP, etc. are additional avenues for parents to stay up-to-date on classroom assignments/grade level expectations.

Conferences

Conferences can be scheduled strictly as an informative meeting for teachers, students and parents to work together and set up a plan to help enhance the child's level of success at the junior high level. This is a very effective means of communication between student, parent and teachers.

For the conference to be effective, here are some helpful guidelines to follow:

- 1.) Discuss with your child the goal(s) of the conference.
- 2.) Communicate with the school counselor so everyone knows the objectives and can be well prepared for the conference
- 3.) Plan on having the student attend the conference. Students need to hear the information shared about them so they know and understand

the perspectives and goals of everyone involved. They also need to be part of the plan developed by the teachers and parents if they are going to reach their goals.

- 4.) Have all parents/guardians attend the meeting if possible. Parents should share any information with teachers that they feel is relevant to the success and understanding of their child.
- 5.) Plan to follow-up and assess the effectiveness of the plan. Make any necessary adjustments.

School Counseling Services

The purpose of the school counseling program is to assist students as they begin to identify and realize their personal and academic goals. Counseling is provided in individual, small, and large group settings by our district school counselors and social worker..

Topics may include:

- career/life planning,
- decision making
- academic planning
- social skills
- transitional adjustments as students move from grade to grade
- study skills
- crisis intervention
- peer relations
- anger management
- drug and alcohol awareness/education
- suicide prevention and awareness
- bullying awareness

Our counseling staff consults with parents, teachers, administrators, and outside agencies on a daily basis in order to better meet students' needs.

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Galway Junior High School students have many opportunities to become involved in extracurricular activities through the school. Some of the them include , but are not limited to:

Footprint
NJHS

Best Buddies
Art Club

Buddy Up Galway
Marine Science

Modified Sports Teams:

Soccer, Cross Country, Volleyball, Wrestling, Basketball, Baseball, Golf, Softball & Track

Responsible Thinking Classroom (RTC):

If a disruptive behavior presents itself (calling out, tapping desk, etc), students are asked the following three questions by the teacher:

1. What are you doing?
2. What are you supposed to be doing?
3. What is going to happen if you continue to disrupt?

If the behavior stops, the teacher will move on with the lesson. If the behavior continues, Teacher will respond with: "I see you have made the choice to leave"

- RTC pass is filled out by teacher
- Pass will include appointment time to meet with the teacher in order to return to that class the next day (ideally by the end of the day)

Student is sent to the main office with RTC pass for the remainder of that period. While the student is in the RTC room, they will fill out the contract in order to return to that class the next day. When the contract is complete, the student will proceed to their next period class. Students will bring the completed contract to the referring teacher at their scheduled appointment time to review and sign

Course Offerings at Galway Junior High School:

English Language Arts

English 7: Students will develop as readers and writers (and consequently thinkers) as they study poetry, nonfiction, narrative, the conventions of English, vocabulary, and spelling. They will write to reflect, express creativity, process information, share outcomes of research and communicate claims effectively. An emphasis is placed on developing good work habits (studying, proofreading, accepting challenges, etc.). Persistence and growth are common topics explored through the different reading assignments.

ELA Lab 7 is designed to strengthen students' skills in listening, speaking, writing, literature and language. ELA Lab is an extension of the regular ELA class.

Learning Lab: The students taking learning lab will work on study skills, time management, and organizational skills. This class also gives the student more individualized help in the content areas.

English 8: Students will begin the year sparking their critical thinking skills by exploring the systems in the world around us through their reading of *The Giver*. Among many types of writing, they will write relevant and persuasive papers advocating for a system that improves our quality of life. In alignment with the Common Core, there will also be an ongoing emphasis on Informational text through weekly articles. Students will continue to study a variety of short stories, poems, and novels through interdisciplinary units coordinated with the history curriculum, starting with the Civil War all the way to studying our role in the Middle East.

ELA Lab 8 is designed to strengthen students' skills in listening, speaking, writing, literature and language. ELA Lab is an extension of the regular ELA class.

Math

Math 7: Students in this course will explore in depth the 7th grade Common Core curriculum while working on problem solving and application to real life situations. Students will have a major focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

Math 7 Lab is an extension of class time and coursework that provides student an opportunity to explore more in depth the common core curriculum. Students will have an opportunity to complete hands on labs that help solidify the concepts, work on numbers sense and fluency as well as have guided practice on math skills.

Accelerated Math 7: Students in this course will explore in depth the 7th grade Common Core curriculum while working on problem solving and application to real life situations. Students will have a major focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples. In addition, they will be presented with 8th grade material that covers rational and irrational numbers, radicals and Pythagorean Theorem, congruence and similarity and volume of cylinders, cones and spheres. Successful completion of the course with an 85 or better average allows students to take HS Algebra Regents Course in 8th grade. There are mandatory prerequisites to be accepted into this Honors Math 7H course.

Math 8 (Pre-Algebra): Students in this course will explore in depth the 8th grade Common Core curriculum while working on problem solving and application to real life situations. Eighth grade math is about (1) formulating and reasoning as it pertains to expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative

relationships; (3) analyzing two and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. Key focus is linear algebra. Students will take the 8th Grade NYS Common Core exam in April/May.

Math 8 Lab is an extension of class time and coursework that provides students an opportunity to explore more in depth the Common Core curriculum. Students will have an opportunity to complete hands on labs that help solidify the concepts, work on number sense and fluency as well as have guided practice on math skills.

Accelerated Algebra 8: Students in this course will explore in depth the Common Core Algebra curriculum while working on problem solving and application to real life situations. This course deepens and extends the understanding of linear and exponential relationships by contrasting them with each other and by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Students will engage in methods for analyzing, solving, and using quadratic functions. Students will solve characteristic problems involving geometry of lines, including writing the equation of a line given a point and a slope. Students will add, subtract, multiply, and factor polynomials to create and understand equivalent expressions. Students will take the regents exam in June.

Credits: 1

Accelerated Algebra Lab 8 is an extension of class time and coursework that provides student an opportunity to explore more in depth the Common Core curriculum. Students will have an opportunity to complete hands on labs that help solidify the concepts, work on number sense and fluency as well as have guided practice on math skills.

Social Studies

Social Studies 7 is the first half of a two-year course in United States and New York State History. After a review of Geography and a unit on the United States Constitution, students will explore important historical topics and events that shaped this country from New York's early inhabitants through the pre-Civil War Era.

Social Studies 8: Students will study the United States from the Civil War to the present focusing on eras, themes, developments, and turning points. NYS Social Studies curriculum and Common Core Learning Standards guide the historical, geographical, political, economic, and sociological study of our nation and its role in the world.

Social Studies 8H: Students will also study the United States from the Civil War to the present. NYS Social Studies curriculum and Common Core Learning Standards guide classroom learning. Students will have more opportunity for in depth study, more current event discussion, and more time to research personal topics of interest in American history.

Science

Science 7: This is a Life Science course designed to prepare students for both the 8th grade science exam as well as giving them as solid foundation with which to build the Living Environment curriculum on. We cover the Metric System, Science Inquiry, Cells, Human and Cellular Reproduction, Viruses and Immunity, Genetics, Evolution, Classification, Kingdoms, Ecology, Human Body Systems and Science in Society. This is a very hands on course and students benefit most from being present in class to perform experiments and see demonstrations. Students will learn the basics of how to write a proper lab report as well as creating several models and posters throughout the year.

Science 7H & 8: Students will learn about the concepts of Introductory Chemistry and Physics. Students will explore the properties of matter, atoms and elements, bonding and reactions, forces and motion, and forms of energy. Students will analyze real-world experimental data with graphs, draw conclusions from the information and learn to question the world around them.

Living Environment-This NYS Regents course covers basic concepts of biology, scientific inquiry, and laboratory skills. Ecology, evolution, reproduction and development, genetics, cellular biology and basic biochemical processes are some of the topics covered. The laboratory exercises are an integral part of the course. The final is the Living Environment Regents exam.

Credits: 1

Foreign Language

Spanish 7: Students in this course will continue to be introduced into the wonderful world of learning a foreign language. They will also be exposed to various cultures in the Spanish-speaking world. Students will learn vocabulary relating to school, telling time, places, sports, food and family. They will also learn how to conjugate -ar verbs, the verbs estar, ir and tener. Class is taught mainly in Spanish.

Spanish 8: This course is a continuation of the Spanish 1 program that began in 6th grade. It is held every day. Students will continue learning vocabulary, grammar and culture. Some of the topics that will be covered this year are: the family, descriptive adjectives, the verbs "tener" and "ser", clothing, colors, vacation, weather, the house, furniture, chores, body parts, the community and transportation. All students will be taking a proficiency exam in June. This exam will be based on the material from their last 3 years. By passing the exam along with the course students will earn 1 high school credit.

Spanish 8 honors class will learn the same material but at a faster pace with more projects and an extra emphasis on speaking.

Technology 7 &8

Technology (PLTW Gateway): Through topics like robotics, computer aided design, and DNA and Crime Scene Analysis, students will find their natural curiosity and imagination engaged in creative problem solving. PLTW's Gateway Program is a strong foundation for further STEM learning in high school and beyond, challenging students to solve real-world problems like cleaning oil spills and designing sustainable housing solutions. Using the same advanced software and tools as the world's leading companies, students see the application of math, science, technology, and engineering to their everyday lives.

Music

General Music 7: In this class, students explore the process of creating music. The fundamentals of reading and writing music will be learned. Students will be composing songs, and performing on many different instruments. We will also take a look at what role music plays in our daily lives. In addition, we will discover music from around the world, and the effect music has had on our history and culture.

Junior High Band 7 &8: This course consists of students in grades 7 & 8; the majority of whom have had two years experience in the Elementary Band Program. Students must play a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument; such as flute, trumpet, trombone, or snare drum. In addition to rehearsing every other day (during the standard 8-period day), each student is provided with a weekly small group lesson. (This small group lesson is where playing technique and music reading is learned and refined.) The Jr. High Band typically performs three or four concerts per year.

Students are expected to achieve high standards of musicianship and scholarship, and are encouraged to remain in the band throughout Jr. and Sr. High School.

Jr. High Chorus 7&8: This is a performance-based ensemble in which students rehearse and prepare for three annual concerts. In addition, healthy singing techniques are explored. There is a focus on proper breathing, posture, and vocal tone. Students will also develop their music reading skills, and are expected to complete sight-singing exercises in every class.

Health

Health 7 is a New York State requirement that students complete an equivalent of 20 weeks of Health Education during Middle School. The focus of this course is to equip them with the knowledge and skills that will enable them to pursue healthy lifestyles and be competent at making decisions that will enhance their lifestyle. Topics covered are skills based: Self-management, relationship management, stress management, communication, planning and goal setting, decision making and advocacy. Within the skills functional knowledge (scientifically research-based health knowledge that is essential information for young people to know and be able to use within the context of the Health Education Skills in order to be safe, healthy, and achieve academically) will be incorporated. The functional knowledge covered will be physical activity and nutrition, HIV/AIDS, family-life/sexual health, body systems, tobacco/alcohol and other drugs, unintended injury, and violence prevention.

Home & Careers

Home and Career Skills 8 is designed to help middle level students live in a society that is forever changing and to improve their quality of life by preparing them to meet their present and future responsibilities. Communication, leadership, management, and thinking are taught within the content topics: study skills, career planning/research, sewing (drawstring backpack), consumer resource management, financial management, human development, interpersonal relationships, nutrition and wellness, and personal environment management.

Art

Art 7: Students in this course learn the elements of art and the principles of design while developing their ability to read and interpret works of art from around the world. Students practice with many art materials, from drawing media to clay, as they create their own works of art, organized around the four concepts of Space and Structure, Movement, Color, and Light.

Physical Education 7 &8

Physical Education incorporates team sports, individual sports, fitness and strength training and safe and responsible behaviors. Physical Education also promotes an appreciation of the rules and etiquette that games are played with. Students will be participating in different skill units over the course of the semester. At the culmination of the unit, they will be given a written and/or a skill test that assesses knowledge and understanding of terminology, rules, scoring, history and skill in their particular skill unit. Study guides for tests can be found online on the teacher's pages.