Durgee Course Selections for 7th to 8th Grade
Transitioning Ray Students

English

English 8 (40 Weeks  No High school Credit)
English 8 is a progression of reading, writing, and research skills. Particular emphasis is placed on critical thinking and the promotion of independent reading. All students read the novel To Kill a Mockingbird.

Social Studies

Social Studies 8 (40 Weeks  No High school Credit)
8th grade social studies covers American History from post Civil War America to present day. We focus on building literacy skills through document analysis, inquiry tasks, and research projects. Students will be required to participate in group work and activities that require public speaking. It is our goal in 8th grade to help students develop the skills they will need to be successful in their high school coursework.

Math

Pre-Algebra I (40 Weeks  No High school Credit)
Students in Pre-Algebra will build a strong foundation of mathematical and critical thinking skills needed for Algebra 1. Basic number concepts and both single variable and multivariable equations will be explored and practiced throughout the year. Students will get an introduction of functions, bivariate data, polynomials, and the Pythagorean Theorem, all topics that will be visited during Algebra 1. Geometry concepts studied include volume of three dimensional figures, angles formed by two parallel lines cut by a transversal, similarity and congruence. The graphing calculator used in Algebra 1 will be introduced for students to become comfortable with them for the following year.

Algebra I (40 Weeks, 1 High School Credit)
This course is the first course in a three-year sequence aligned with the Common Core State Standards. Algebra provides tools and ways of thinking that are necessary for solving problems in a wide variety of disciplines, such as science, business, social sciences, fine arts, and technology. This course will assist students in developing skills and processes to be applied using a variety of techniques to successfully solve problems in a variety of settings. Topics include linear, quadratic, and exponential functions, solving equations and inequalities, and statistics, as outlined in the NYS Common Core Standards. The course concludes with the Algebra I Regents examination in June.

Science

Science Investigations (40 Weeks, No High School Credit)
Science Investigation is an intermediate level science course which covers the New York Science Standards at the middle school level. Specifically, the course covers content standards that are concerned with Life Science and Biology. Students will gain a rich understanding of biology related topics and develop a strong foundation of scientific skills before moving on to high school level science in proceeding courses. Upon its conclusion, the course also prepares students to take the 8th grade State Science Assessment.

Living Environment (40 Weeks, 1 High School Credit)
This course is a graduation requirement and is based on the NYS Living Environment Core Guide. This includes Biology as a science, methods of science, ecology, cells as unifying living features, exploring diversity, human physiology, genetics, reproduction, and evolution. The course culminates with the Living Environment Regents Exam. The class meets for a minimum of seven periods per week. Students must have satisfactorily completed the NYS course laboratory requirements to be eligible for admission to take the Regents examination.
World Languages

French I (40 Weeks  1 High School Credit)
This full-year course introduces the student to the French language and the French people. In French I, students learn how to communicate with French people about everyday life. Although spoken communication is the major emphasis, students also learn how to read and write in simple French. Through slides, students are able to learn to appreciate the culture of French speaking countries. This course is offered only at Durgee.

German I (40 Weeks  1 High School Credit)
This full-year, one credit course covers the essential grammatical and conversational components of the German language within the context of cultural concepts and the development of technological skills and responsibilities via Google Classroom. A combination of skits, listening activities, and guided notes are used in class to coincide with and complement the establishment of a long-term friendship with our partner school in Germany via pen pal letters and/or live video conferences. Circumstances permitting, an opportunity to host as well as visit said students will also be communicated. This course is offered only at Durgee.

Latin I (40 Weeks  1 High School Credit)
This full-year, one credit course is open to all students. Simple stories read in Latin combine the necessary grammar and vocabulary with knowledge of mythology and the history and background of our Western culture. Emphasis is also put on the development of English vocabulary through the study of derivatives and Latin words and phrases used in English today. This course is offered only at Durgee.

Spanish I (40 Weeks  1 High School Credit)
This full year, one credit course introduces the student to the Spanish language and the Hispanic people. In Spanish I, students learn how to communicate with Hispanic people about everyday life. Although spoken communication is the major emphasis, students also learn how to read and write in simple Spanish. Through Spanish, students are able to learn to appreciate the culture of Spanish speaking countries. Students will take the N.Y.S. Proficiency Examination at the end of the course. This course is offered only at Durgee.

Art

Art 8 (10 Weeks  No High School Credit)
This class is designed for the student who would like to explore the world of art, but because of a full schedule can only fit in a 10-week art class. We follow the 20-week 8th grade art course syllabus but modify the assignments to allow for limited time while giving the student a foundation in art and a snapshot of what additional art classes are available in you high school career.

Studio in Art 1 (20 Weeks  1/2 High School Credit)
This is a 1/2-year foundation course for students in grades 8-12. This course acts as a prerequisite for most other art electives and will fulfill 1/2 credit of the art/music graduation requirement. Students will gain general art skills by participating in a variety of fine arts experiences including creating their own artwork, and by building knowledge, understanding and appreciation for the arts. Emphasis is placed on creative problem solving. Mediums include drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed-media, and sculpture.

Business

Career and Financial Management (20 Weeks  1/2 High School Credit)
Do you know what you want to do with the rest of your life? Do you have a plan? This might be the course for you!
Career & Financial Management is a great course for those interested in a business major, as well as those who would just like to know more about business and/or career exploration.
Career & Financial Management provides students with valuable employability skills and knowledge of the workplace. Topics covered include: career planning, career development, time management, personal budgeting, purchasing a car, writing checks, balancing a checkbook, savings accounts, income tax, insurance, and credit. Course work includes projects and hands-on activities that simulate the real world.
This course satisfies 20 weeks of the 30 week CTE requirement for Grade 8.

Family and Consumer Science

Family and Consumer Science 8 (FACS) (10 Weeks  No High School Credit)
This course covers basic food preparation, textile production, and introduction to careers and financial management. Course work includes projects and hands-on activities. Some activities include food labs, a textiles project and a career exploration project. This course is a continuation of CTE: FACS 6 and CTE: FACS 7. This course satisfies 10 weeks of the 30 week CTE requirement for Grade 8.
Music

**Concert Band** (40 Weeks 1 High School Credit)

Band work includes instrumental group lesson, concert band, and required performance and non-performance evaluations. The concert band performs NYSSMA grade 3-5 literature. Opportunities are available for involvement in select ensemble groups such as Jazz Ensemble and Chamber Music Ensembles. Students will participate in five rehearsal sessions plus one instructional session per week. **This course will fulfill the 1 credit for the art/music graduation requirement.**

**Concert Choir** (40 Weeks 1 High School Credit)

Students can look forward to a Concert Choir of 100 mixed voices in September. The group performs at least four times during the year. Music selections throughout the year consist of all styles from the classics to pop. **This course will fulfill the 1 credit for the art/music graduation requirement.**

**Orchestra** (40 Weeks 1 High School Credit)

Prerequisite: Permission by instructor is required. Membership is open to any regularly enrolled student subject to instructor’s approval. Orchestra work includes weekly lessons, 5 rehearsals per week, and required performances. String Quartet and String Ensemble may be available. **This course will fulfill the 1 credit for the art/music graduation requirement.**

**Practical Musicianship** (20 Weeks ½ High School Credit)

The target audience is students who like music and want to learn how to play guitar, ukulele, keyboard or any combination of those instruments. Students choose their own project songs to work on (anything pop, rock, country, hip hop etc...). Students will be required to play their instrument. This is a participation class. Reading music will not be required as part of the class. **This class is only offered at Durgee. This course will fulfill ½ credit for the art/music graduation requirement.**

Technology

**Design and Drawing for Production** (20 Weeks 1/2 High School Credit)

This course is designed to challenge students using the creativity of design, the exactness of Technical drawing and the fun of model building. Students will be presented problems to solve in Architecture, Magnetic Levitation, Automobile design, Furniture design, and Bridge building as well as develop skills in 3D Computer Aided Design (CAD). This course may be used by any student to satisfy the high school fine arts elective for high school graduation. **This course will fulfill ½ credit for the art/music graduation requirement.**

**Technology 8** (20 Weeks No High School Credit)

An introductory 20 week course to explore systems in technology. Activities include LEGO problem solving construction, solar vehicles and other machines. Introduction experiences using AutoCAD Inventor to design patterns for small construction projects the student will build. Desktop publishing a personal logo design using the vinyl cutter. Aerodynamic principles related to paper airplane construction. These are a few of the instructional topics presented in the class. **This course satisfies 20 weeks of the 30 week CTE requirement for Grade 8.**

**Technology 8 Gateway** (10 Weeks No High School Credit)

(Module: Design and Modeling)

Students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they’ve learned throughout the unit to design and model a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy. **This course satisfies 10 weeks of the 30 week CTE requirement for Grade 8.**

Physical Education

**Physical Education 8** (40 Weeks - every other day, No High School Credit)

The Baldwinsville Central School District Commencement Standard in Physical Education for students is to develop an advanced level of wellness skills to create and pursue a lifetime fitness plan. PE classes are designed to make learning fun. They are geared toward positive self-esteem and cooperative learning experiences. Some of the activities include step aerobics, kickboxing, tae-bo, Pilates, hip hop dance, yoga, weight training, tennis, physical fitness, various team and individual sports and healthy living activities. Students have a series of required units of study including successful completion of the Baldwinsville swim/water safety unit.