

Homewood Middle School

Curriculum Guide

2021-2022

Homewood City Schools

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HMS Mission Statement

The mission of the Homewood City Schools is to educate and empower all student to maximize their unique potential.

Homewood City Schools is a student-centered system enriched by tradition, vision, and compassionate spirit. Our mission is ensured by a dedicated, exemplary staff; a supportive, involved community; an appreciation for diversity; an effective use of resources; and an uncompromising commitment to excellence.

Counseling Department

Mrs. Jimicka Alexander: 6th Grade

Mrs. AnnaGrace Baldwin: 7th Grade

Mrs. Leigh Graham: 8th Grade

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Open Enrollment

Homewood City Schools believes in open enrollment during the course selection process. With open enrollment, students and their parents are able to select any courses from the full range of options, including Pre-AP English 8 and Math Team Courses. Homewood City Schools will assist families in the course selection process by providing students and parents with relevant data to better inform their decisions.

Faculty and Staff

Homewood Middle School faculty is composed of highly qualified individuals who are dedicated to the profession and devoted to meeting the unique needs of young adolescents. An exemplary support staff is in place to complement the services provided by our faculty.

School Recognition

HMS is accredited by AdvancEd.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Language Arts - Grade 6

Sixth grade language arts encompasses all skills related to written and spoken language, including reading and responding to literature. The course incorporates grammar, vocabulary, and writing with an emphasis upon authentic opportunities for communication. Information retrieval and organization is also a part of the language arts curriculum.

Language Arts - Grade 7

Seventh grade language arts focuses on the development of competency in reading, writing, and critical thinking. Students refine their skills through daily practice in authentic situations that include analysis of fictional and informational texts, interdisciplinary learning, and the application of knowledge through written expression. Seventh grade language arts builds on skills learned in previous grades and introduces new skills that will be honed in future grades.

English - Grade 8

Eighth grade English encompasses instruction in vocabulary, literature, grammar and writing. Literature studies include the short story, the novel, poetry, and drama. Reading is emphasized throughout the year because of its pronounced effect on written language skills. Formal and informal writing, consisting of personal narratives and original fiction, along with formal essays and compositions, will be required to further refine students' communication skills.

Pre-AP English - Grade 8

Pre-AP English is an accelerated academic course designed for dedicated students who plan to continue on the Advanced Placement track throughout high school in preparation for college. Students will move at a fast pace, requiring an increased expectation of responsibility and independence. Students are expected to display a high level of proficiency in writing, reading, and critical thinking. Additionally, they should be willing to respond to an increased workload, exhibit a strong work ethic, demonstrate a serious attitude toward their studies, and participate consistently in class discussions. This is not a weighted GPA course.

MATHEMATICS

Math 6

The sixth grade mathematics program requires proficiency in performing the basic operations with whole numbers and decimals. Emphasis is placed on application and understanding the relationships among fractions, decimals, and percentages. Measurement and geometric concepts are extended and applied. Students learn skills to make conjectures and draw conclusions. The study of statistics and probability involves conducting surveys and selecting appropriate ways to organize, display and interpret data. Sixth grade mathematics includes various techniques of mental arithmetic, estimation skills, the use of calculators, and an introduction to pre-algebra. An understanding of mathematics is fostered through the use of instructional strategies in which students apply problem-solving techniques, explore and examine realistic situations, build understanding of percent and application to sales tax and discounts, and formulate questions to clarify their thinking and level of understanding. The 6th grade math curriculum includes and exceeds the standards set forth by the Alabama Course of Study.

Math 7

Math 7 is a course designed to provide students with a strong foundation in the concepts of algebra and geometry. Mathematical procedures are reinforced through expanded use of algebraic methods and complex problem-solving activities. Exploratory opportunities are provided in data analysis and probability. Students are encouraged to think critically about results and implications, consider alternative methods to approach problems, and generalize information properly. Pre-Algebra provides a comprehensive introduction to the properties and applications of the real number system. The 7th grade math curriculum includes and exceeds the accelerated standards set forth by the Alabama Course of Study.

Math 7: Math Team

Math 7: Math Team is a rigorous course designed for the mathematically-oriented student. The fast-paced curriculum covers not only all of the objectives in the Math 7 course description, but also provides students with numerous and varied experiences with problem solving as a method of inquiry and application. These experiences include ciphering to help prepare students to compete in math tournaments throughout the year. Students are expected to display a high level of proficiency in mathematics. They should be willing to respond to an increased workload, exhibit a strong work ethic, and demonstrate a serious attitude toward their studies. The 7th grade math curriculum includes and exceeds the accelerated standards set forth by the Alabama Course of Study.

Attendance is required at math tournaments.

Math 8

Math 8 is a rigorous study of the fundamental structure of the real number system. Emphasis is placed on algebraic properties and operations needed to solve complex equations. Correlation between equations and their corresponding graphs are a primary focus. Real life application is emphasized throughout the course to develop problem-solving and higher-order thinking skills. Calculator use is encouraged when appropriate. The Math 8 course can be considered an Algebra 1 equivalent. The 8th grade math curriculum includes and exceeds the accelerated standards set forth by the Alabama Course of Study.

Math 8: Math Team

Math 8: Math Team is a rigorous course designed for the mathematically-oriented student. The fast-paced curriculum covers not only all of the objectives in the Math 8 course description, but also provides students with numerous and varied experiences with problem solving as a method of inquiry and application. These experiences include ciphering to help prepare students to compete in math tournaments throughout the year. Math Team students are expected to display a high level of proficiency in mathematics. They should be willing to respond to an increased workload, exhibit a strong work ethic, and demonstrate a serious attitude toward their studies. The Math8: Math Team course can be considered an Algebra 1 equivalent. The 8th grade math curriculum includes and exceeds the accelerated standards set forth by the Alabama Course of Study.

Attendance is required at math team tournaments.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies - Grade 6

Sixth grade Social Studies focuses on America from the beginning of the twentieth century to present day. Units of study include: immigration, westward expansion, World War I, Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, World War II, the Fifties, and the Civil Rights Movement. Research, map and globe skills, literacy, and writing are applied throughout the course.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies - Grade 7

Seventh grade Social Studies is comprised of Citizenship and Geography. The Citizenship course serves as a bridge between the curriculum emphasis in the elementary and secondary grades by providing an understanding of representative democracy, law, personal economics, and civic responsibility. Geography places emphasis on the knowledge and skills that allow the student to develop a geographical perspective of Europe and the Eastern hemisphere. The six essential elements of geography form a framework within which major geographic concepts are introduced.

Social Studies - Grade 8

Eighth grade Social Studies is a course blending world history and geography from prehistoric man to the 1500's. Students are required to think critically about the various forces that combined to shape the world today. Emphasis is placed on geographic impact, development of civic knowledge/responsibilities, and emerging economic systems within a chronological context.

SCIENCE

Science - Grade 6

Sixth grade science curriculum focuses on earth and space science. Content standards challenge students to discover their Earth and its place in the universe. The study of Science is blended with the development of literacy in the content area, mathematical skills such as charting and graphing, and project-based learning.

Science - Grade 7

The seventh grade science course serves as a bridge to allow students to connect the concepts and skills learned in the sixth grade earth and space course to the principles of the universe studied in the eighth grade physical science course. Students in the seventh grade are encouraged to develop an appreciation for the diversity of life on Earth while understanding the importance of their individual roles in the community of life.

Science - Grade 8

Content standards in the eighth grade include chemistry and physics that are inquiry-based. In eighth grade science, students engage in higher, more abstract thinking processes that combine reasoning skills with scientific knowledge through experimental, manipulative, and laboratory-oriented processes.

ELECTIVES

Elective Rotation - Grade 6

These courses are exploratory in nature and introduce students to a variety of activities. Students spend a nine weeks in each four of the following courses below. Elective choices may change based on personnel and student enrollment. Not all elective options are guaranteed course offerings.

Art 6: An introduction to basic drawing skills, color theory, and color design.

Character & Career 6: Students will develop skills to build character and prepare for future careers. Topics of study in this class include, but are not limited to, life skills, digital citizenship, keyboarding practice, and career exploration.

Creative Writing 6: Express yourself! Using a variety of writing styles, students will create their own pieces of work and will learn how to produce good, solid writing. Students will use their imaginations and broaden their thought process as they develop their voice. In Creative Writing, students will discover their creative thoughts and turn those ideas into masterpieces of writing.

Family and Consumer Sciences/ FACS 6: This is a project-based course that is exploratory in nature. The course will provide a general understanding of what to expect from Teen Discoveries (7th grade). Students will learn 21st century skills and how to apply them to a variety of tasks.

Music 6: An extension of the general music that students began in their elementary music classes. This course includes studying composers, different styles of music, music technology, and singing.

Semester Long Electives - Grade 7

These courses are exploratory in nature. Students will spend one semester (18 weeks) in two of the following courses below. Elective choices may change based on personnel and student enrollment. Not all elective options are guaranteed course offerings.

Art 7: Students study the Principles of Design to conduct an in-depth study of Color Theory, while using a variety of media.

Character & Career 7: This course provides a unique opportunity for students to grow in several different areas. Students engage in a variety of tasks and projects that provide challenges and teach valuable life skills. Lesson topics include Making Good Decisions, Social Skills, Advertising and Media Influences, and Stress Management. Students conduct interviews with people outside of class, gain confidence with oral presentations, learn to type correctly from the home row, and more.

Music Technology 7: Fundamental music theory with computer-aided instruction, students are introduced to creating music. Projects such as songwriting and producing music for multimedia assignments are components of this class.

Speech & Debate 7: Do you love to argue? Learn how to do it constructively and persuasively. Students will learn fundamental speaking skills such as organizing material, projecting one's voice, and persuading an audience. Students will be introduced to different types of public speaking and will engage in debates and panel discussions.

Teen Discoveries/ FACS 7: Emphasis is placed on understanding the physical, intellectual, emotional, and social development of teenagers and how to use a variety of 21st century skills to become financially literate.

Semester Long Electives – Grade 8

These courses are exploratory in nature. Students spend one semester (18 weeks) in two of the following courses below. Elective choices may change based on personnel and student enrollment. Not all elective options are guaranteed course offerings.

Art 8: This course builds upon artistic skills introduced in the rotations to create a foundation for future study in art. The elements and principles of art are fully introduced.

Character & Career 8: This course provides a unique opportunity for students to grow in several different areas. Students explore a variety of life skills and topics such as Resolving Conflict, Self-Image and Self-Improvement, Resisting Peer Pressure, and Leading a Healthy Lifestyle. Students will create resumes, work on keyboarding and computer skills, practice good etiquette, and hear from guest speakers.

Computer Science 8: This course takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as programming, physical computing, HTML/CSS, and data. Students are empowered to create authentic artifacts and engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun.

Semester Long Electives – Grade 8

Speech & Debate 8: Do you love to argue? Learn how to do it constructively and persuasively. Students will learn fundamental speaking skills such as organizing material, projecting one’s voice, and persuading an audience. Students will be introduced to different types of public speaking and will engage in debates and panel discussions.

Teen Connections/ FACS 8: Course content provides opportunities for students to use a variety of 21st century skills to build a small business. General knowledge in food, clothing, and consumerism will be explored in order for students to develop entrepreneurial skills.

YEAR LONG ELECTIVES

These courses offer students the opportunity to expand their knowledge through in-depth study. Most of these courses have an associated cost. Elective choices may change based on personnel and student enrollment. Not all elective options are guaranteed course offerings.

Band 6: Beginner band is for any student who is interested in learning to play a musical instrument. Students are taught the basics of how to read music as well as how to play their instruments. No prior musical experience is necessary. Associated cost.

Band 7: Intermediate band allows students to develop the technical skills and tone production necessary for individual musical achievement. Instruction includes instrumental proficiency, improving listening skills, and music appreciation. Prior instrumental music experience is preferred. Associated cost.

Band 8: This course encompasses advanced music fundamentals and skills, which develop musicianship. Instruction includes instrumental mastery, performance, and evaluation. Prior instrumental instruction is required. Associated costs.

Concert Choir 7: This choir class will allow students to have the opportunity to develop sight reading skills, basic theory knowledge, music history fundamentals, as well as vocal technique through unison, two-, three-, and four-part singing. Choir classes will be combined for all performances. The ability to sing well is not required only the desire to learn how to sing well and contribute through hard work. Associated cost.

Chamber Choir 8: This choir class will allow students to have the opportunity to develop sight reading skills, basic theory knowledge, music history fundamentals, as well as vocal technique through unison, two-, three-, and four-part singing. Choir classes will be combined for all performances. The ability to sing well is not required only the desire to learn how to sing well and contribute through hard work. Associated costs.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education - Grades 6, 7, and 8

Physical Education is a vital part of the total program of Homewood Middle School. The course is designed to help each student develop and maintain a high degree of physical fitness in addition to the acquisition of new skills with lifetime carry-over values, a solid base of sports knowledge, and desirable health practices. This course includes a variety of team, dual and individual activities including: flag football, Frisbee football, wrestling, golf, Frisbee golf, track & field, basketball, weight training, horse shoes, volleyball, jump rope, bowling, softball, tennis, soccer, crab soccer, badminton, gymnastics, pillow polo, aerobics, gym hockey, and personal fitness. In addition, the Presidential Fitness test is administered twice per year.

Health Curriculum - Grades 6, 7, and 8

Comprehensive health education is delivered through the physical education department. The range of instruction focuses on understanding health issues and personal responsibilities related to adolescent growth & development, promoting health-enhancing behaviors, and obtaining accurate information from a variety of sources. Content standards contain grade-appropriate, current, and health-related information. Health-literate students have opportunities to determine positive influences on health in the environment. They use decision-making and communication skills important for enhancing relationships, reducing conflicts, expressing needs, and evaluating behavioral consequences.

COURSE SELECTION PROCESS

Students and parents should carefully consider student participation in advanced courses. Your student’s grades, STAR scores, and standardized test scores can help you make an informed decision. Work habits and student interest in course material should be considered in your decision. Course selections are full-year commitments.

Course Information

Required Academic Courses:

Language Arts/English

Language Arts 6, 7
English 8

Math

Math 6, 7, 8

Science

Science 6, 7, 8

Social Studies

Social Studies 6, 7, 8

Physical Education

Physical Education 6, 7, 8

Optional Advanced Academic Courses:

English

Pre-AP English 8

Math

Math 7: Math Team
Math 8: Math Team

Elective Courses

Grade 6:

<u>Rotation Elective (9Wks)</u>	<u>Year Long (36 Wks)</u>
Art 6	Band 6
Character & Career 6	
Creative Writing 6	
FACS 6	
Music 6	

Grade 7:

<u>SEM Elective (18 Wks)</u>	<u>Year Long (36 Wks):</u>
Art 7	Band 7
Character & Career 7	Concert Choir 7
Music Technology 7	
Speech & Debate 7	
Teen Discoveries/ FACS 7	

Elective Courses

Grade 8:

SEM Elective (18 Wks)

Art 8
Character & Career 8
Computer Science 8
Speech & Debate 8
Teen Connections/ FACS 8

Year Long (36 Wks):

Band 8
Chamber Choir 8

Homewood Middle School offers athletic participation for seventh and eighth grade students in the following sports:

Baseball	Softball
Boys & Girls Basketball	Boys & Girls Tennis
Cheerleading	Track & Field
Cross Country	Volleyball
Football	Wrestling
Boys & Girls Golf	

THE STATE ELIGIBILITY RULES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. No sixth graders are allowed to participate.
2. The maximum age limit for seventh and eighth grade competitions is 15 years of age on or after August 1 of the current year to be eligible.
3. A player must have a composite of 70 or better in 5 courses. A player eligible at the beginning of the year is eligible the whole year.
4. No pupil shall be eligible to participate in inter-scholastic athletics until his/her birth certificate issued by the State Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state in which he/she was born has been sent by the athletic director to the State Executive Director. The State will not accept hospital certificates or photocopier copies. Original birth certificates will be returned after processing. Student must show proof of insurance.
5. Any member of a school athletic team who participates in an athletic contest as a member of a similar team during the same season shall be ineligible to compete under these rules for the remainder of the season.
6. A pupil must be legally enrolled in Homewood City School System.
7. A student must have passed a current year physical examination. Record of such must be on file.

Registration Procedures

Step-by-step online registration instructions for all upcoming Homewood Middle School students will be mailed to parent(s) in the spring or early summer timeframe.

Registration Dates:

2021-2022 Registration dates will be announced and published on the HMS website, www.homewood.k12.al.us/hms

Registration Requirements:

1. **PowerSchool Online Data Verification**
2. **Homewood Residency Verification:**
All HMS students must provide proof of the following:
 - A July AL Power or ALAGASCO utility bill
 - A current tax notice or lease. All occupants must be listed on the current lease agreement.
3. **Updated Immunization Form:**
 - A Tdap vaccine is needed for all 6th grader who will be 11 years of age or older by the first day of school. Please check with your pediatrician to verify whether or not your child has received this immunization.
4. **Required Cost Payments:**
Required costs to be paid by all students are:
 - Book Locker
 - PE Locker & Shirt
 - HMS Student Planner
 - Student Resource
 - Team T-Shirt (6th & 7th grade only)
 - Optional cost may apply to certain students based on their course selection.

HMS Home School Athletics Policy:

Home School students who reside in Homewood may participate on athletic teams at Homewood Middle School, as outlined in procedures established by the Alabama High School Athletic Association. In order to play on a team, 7th and 8th grade students will be required to take Physical Education at Homewood Middle School during the school day. The students would remain full-time home school students and would not be enrolled in any other courses at Homewood Middle School. As such, the home school student would not be permitted to take any other courses nor would they be allowed to participate in any other activities or standardized testing at Homewood Middle School.

Extracurricular Opportunities

Jazz Band

The jazz band is an opportunity for instrumental music students to express themselves through a different means and enjoy the experience of participating in small group performance. It develops training in jazz, rock, and popular music. Prior instrumental instruction is required. Students are selected for jazz band through an audition process.

Trendsetters

Trendsetters is a character building club geared towards community service. The Club's mission statement is, "Preparing and developing young men and women to become leaders and to pursue success in all walks of life." Trendsetters provides an opportunity for all students to get plugged in and develop positive relationships with students from all grade levels. The club prides itself on commitment, integrity, honesty, loyalty, and hard work.

Student - Athlete

Homewood Middle School provides for the development of boys and girls through a properly controlled, well-organized sports program designed to meet the students' needs for self-expression, mental alertness, and physical growth. A student who elects to participate is voluntarily making a choice of self-discipline. Specific expectations and program philosophy may be communicated from the athletic department.

Extracurricular Opportunities

Patriot Singers (Show Choir)

Any seventh or eighth grade student is eligible to audition for Show Choir. The students will represent Homewood Middle School at civic performances, competitions, and festivals throughout the school year. Participation in performances is required.

Sixth Grade Math Team

The sixth grade math team consists of students who are highly motivated and enjoy math. Students learn new, inventive, and challenging ways to solve math problems. The math team competes in tournaments against other schools in the state.

Heritage Panel

The Heritage Panel is an organization that empowers a group of student leaders to make their school a more inclusive and welcoming place by creating a climate which discourages bullying and harassing behavior. This year-long program begins by training a diverse group of twenty-five students and five faculty advisors in an intensive two-day workshop. During the training, participants are asked to look within themselves and their school community and make personal commitments to improve relations at school. Students prepare to sit on a panel and discuss issues which are relevant to their school experience and often include cliques, race, gender, cultural backgrounds, and exclusion. The panelists present to various classrooms, and the audience is invited to participate in a discussion of issues related to the presentation. The Heritage Panel is a program of the National Conference for Community and Justice.

Robotics

Robotics is a fall extracurricular that teaches students to problem solve, collaborate, create, and communicate. The students design and manipulate a robot to compete against other schools around the state. Each year there is a game "theme" that enables students to learn about science concepts beyond engineering and robotics. Robotics is a fun, fast paced program that is open to all grade levels.

Student Government Association (S.G.A.)

The S.G.A. is an organization of students committed to maintain laws of good order; to maintain high standards of cooperation, loyalty and fair play; to set high standards of citizenship; and to encourage the support of all forms of student activities. Furthermore, the S.G.A. organizes, promotes, and supervises school elections; assists in honor roll and other special assemblies; sponsors and supervises drives and campaigns; and originates policies in the areas of student activities which make more wholesome school citizenship. S.G.A. officers are chosen by school-wide election. Officers must maintain upstanding grades and behavior. Anyone is eligible to be a representative if he/she is elected and meets the academic and behavioral criteria. S.G.A. sponsors may replace representatives who are not adequately functioning within the organization.

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)

The FCCLA Club encourages students to be leaders in their school, community, and family. Students participate in projects that promote personal development and community involvement. Club activities allow students to utilize skills learned in Family and Consumer Science Courses.

Chess Club

Chess Club members are from all three grade levels. Students learn the fundamentals of chess and have the opportunity to play in tournaments. Students do not have to be "Rated/Ranked" in order to participate in the club.

Backstage Crew

Students assist the HMS Show Choir with their performances by creating a backdrop that travels with the show. They design, build, and paint the props. On performance days, students load a moving truck, haul the equipment to the site, and erect it during the performance.

Peer Helping Program

The Peer Helping Program is designed to enhance each student's middle school experience by providing peer helpers with the skills and resources necessary to encourage and help their fellow classmates. Peer helpers, which consist of 7th and 8th grade students, are expected to maintain high personal standards and be positive role models for their peers. The selection process held in April and May includes an application, interview, and parent meeting. Peer Helper responsibilities include: commitment to an alcohol, other drug, and tobacco free lifestyle, before and after school meetings and other school events, minimum of 30 hours of community service, and mentoring HCS elementary students.

Debate Club

This club, which is open for all grade levels, researches and reads rigorous debates and engages in competitions in the Birmingham Area Debate League. Students learn the outline and art of debating a variety of topics in a respectful, yet strict manner.

JUNA (Junior United Nations Assembly)

JUNA is made of a delegation of 5-7 students that represents a different nation of their choosing. Guided by their teacher sponsor, students research their nation, identify a problem or issue in that country or elsewhere in the world, and write a resolution that proposes a solution to the issue. Resolutions are presented first in committees and upon passage are presented in General Assembly. Here delegates discuss, question, and vote just as they would do in the real United Nations. At the same time, select delegates solve an international crisis in Security Council. Students wear the native dress of their country for recognition in the General Assembly. If you like to travel or learn about different cultures, grab your passport for a two day trip to JUNA!

Honor Societies

National Junior Beta Club

NJBC Eligibility Requirements:

1. Eighth grade students must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.3 in seventh grade. Cumulative GPA for 7th grade for Beta Club is calculated by including all grades earned during the seventh grade year.
2. Members of Beta Club must exemplify good character, creditable achievement, and a commendable attitude.
3. Any transfer student with a 3.3 G.P.A. who is a member of Beta Club at the school from which they transfer may participate in the Homewood Middle School Beta Club.
4. The induction ceremony will be conducted in the fall of the eighth grade school year.

Honor Societies

National Junior Honor Society

NJHS Eligibility Requirements:

1. Eighth grade students that have been enrolled for at least one semester at Homewood Middle School are considered for membership.
2. The student must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.7. Cumulative grade point average for National Junior Honor Society excludes sixth grade, but includes all grades earned in seventh and first semester of eighth grade.
3. The student must exemplify the qualities of service, leadership, character, and citizenship.
4. The induction ceremony will be conducted in the spring of the eighth grade year.

National Junior Beta Club and the National Junior Honor Society are honors bestowed upon students at the secondary level. Accordingly, the requirements for induction into these distinguished organizations will emphasize the scholarly outcomes in seventh and eighth grades.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENTS

Equal Opportunity Employment (Board Policy GAAA) for adults.

It is the policy of the Board that no person in this district shall, on the basis of race, sex, religion, belief, national origin, age, disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or any personal characteristic(s), or an affiliation with the Boy Scouts of America be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination in any education program or activity. This includes employment, retention, and promotion.

Equal Educational Opportunity (Board Policy JAA) for students.

No student shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination in an program or activity, on the basis of race, sex, religion, belief, national origin, age, disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or any personal characteristic(s), or an affiliation with the Boy Scouts of America.