

Hempfield Area School District

Middle School Program of Studies



HARROLD
WENDOVER
WEST HEMPFIELD

2018-2019

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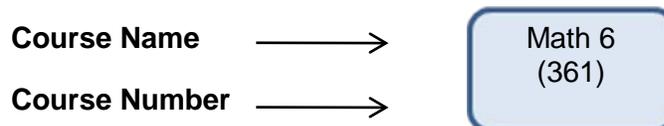
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A Message to Parents

This Program of Studies has been prepared especially for the parents and students of our middle schools. Educational planning is a vital part of school life. It may be compared to a road map. Just as on a map, there are many different routes an individual student may take.

Decisions made in 6th grade can impact the availability of courses later in the scheduling process. As a result, we want you to be aware of the progressions. In addition to descriptions of the various courses available at each grade level, this book also provides schematics showing the progression of courses at various academic levels where appropriate.

Please take some time and examine this publication carefully. Core subjects are presented in two parts: The first is a written description of the course by grade level and the second is a chart that shows the progression of courses based upon meeting subject requirements. Each box displays the course name and number. For example:



If you have questions or concerns about the information contained in this publication, please contact the appropriate school representative listed below:

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Mathematics

Grade 6

Math 6 (Course # 361)

This course provides a comfortable transition for students coming into our middle schools from elementary schools, and is aligned with the PA Core Standards for grade 6. There are four classifications for assessment anchors in grade 6: Numbers & Operations, Algebraic Concepts, Geometry, and Data Analysis & Probability. This course is for any 6th grade student NOT taking Advanced Math 6 or Advanced Pre-Algebra.

Advanced Math 6 (Course # 360)

This course is for students who are very good mathematicians. Like Math 6, it is aligned with the PA Core Standards, but students work at a much faster pace and are expected to be independent thinkers and workers. Problem solving activities are more challenging and rigorous. There are four classifications for assessment anchors in grade 6: Numbers & Operations, Algebraic Concepts, Geometry, and Data Analysis & Probability.

Advanced Pre-Algebra (Course # 370)

This course is rigorous and designed to challenge students to develop algebraic relationships and techniques to prepare them for other higher level honors mathematics courses. This course is only for students who have scored 90-98 on the Orleans Hannah Algebra Prognosis Test given to 5th grade students.

Grade 7

Math 7 (Course # 371)

This course is aligned with the PA Core Standards for grade 7. There are four classifications for assessment anchors in grade 7: Numbers & Operations, Algebraic Concepts, Geometry, and Data Analysis & Probability. This course is for any 7th grade student NOT taking Advanced Pre-Algebra or Honors Algebra I.

Advanced Pre-Algebra (Course # 370)

This course is rigorous and designed to challenge students to develop algebraic relationships and techniques to prepare them for other higher level honors mathematics courses. Students who wish to enroll in this course should have taken Advanced Math 6. All students in this class are talented mathematicians and problem solvers who are on track to take Advanced Placement Calculus AB as seniors.

Honors Algebra I (Course # 380)

The Honors Algebra I planned course emphasizes the structure of mathematics (numerous axioms and properties), the algebraic solving of statement problems, and the use of algebraic procedures. This is a rigorous course that is designed to challenge students at the highest levels of Algebra. Students will take the Keystone Algebra Exam in mid-May.

Grade 8

Math 8 (Course # 381)

This course is aligned with the PA Core Standards for grade 8. There are four classifications for assessment anchors in grade 8: Numbers & Operations, Algebraic Concepts, Geometry, and Data Analysis & Probability. This course is for any 8th grade student NOT taking Honors Algebra I or Honors Algebra II.

Honors Algebra I (Course #380)

The Honors Algebra I planned course emphasizes the structure of mathematics (numerous axioms and properties), the algebraic solving of statement problems, and the use of algebraic procedures. This is a rigorous course that is designed to challenge students at the highest levels of Algebra. Students will take the Keystone Algebra Exam in mid-May.

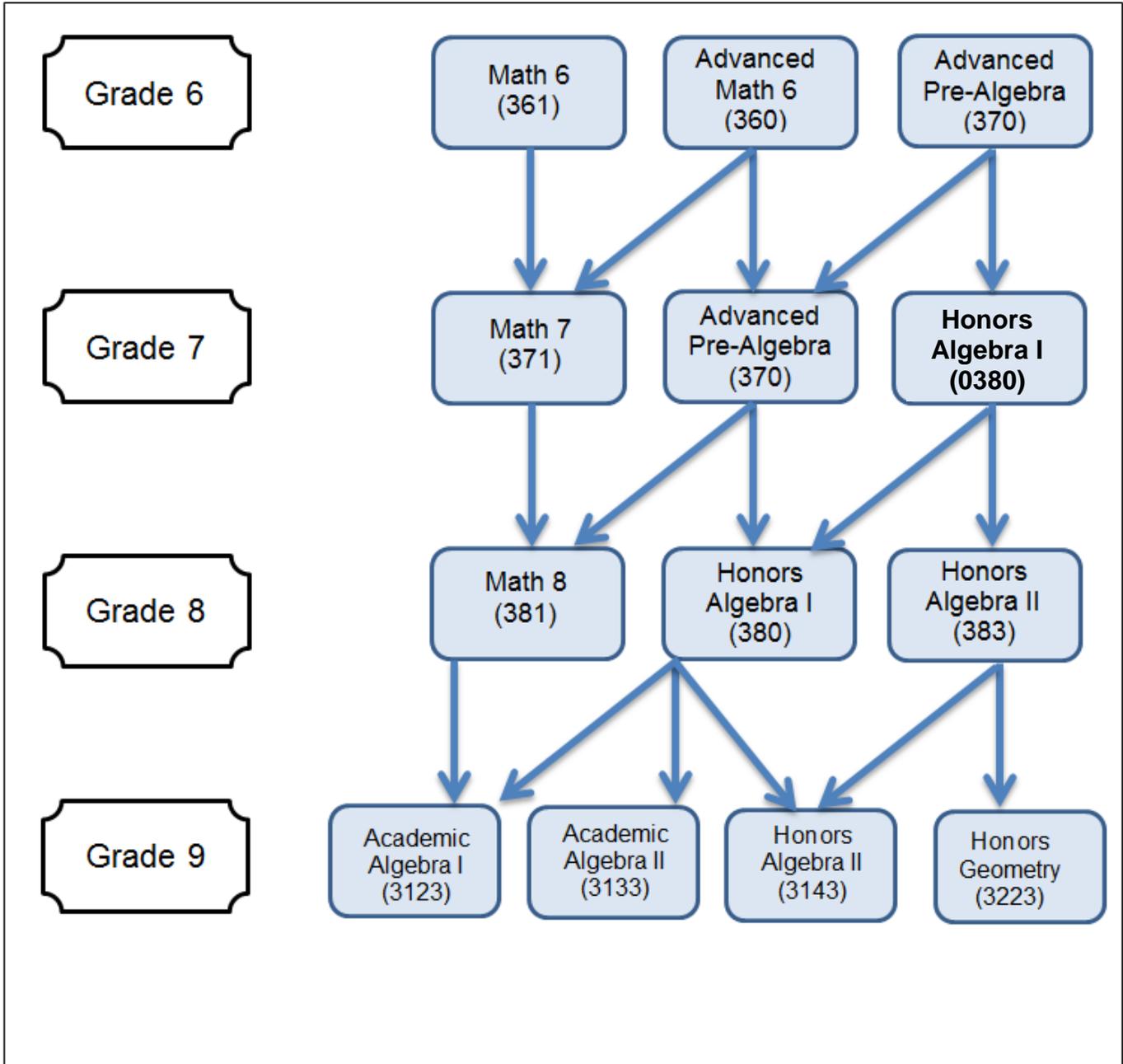
Honors Algebra II (Course #383)

This course reviews rigorously and more extensively the basic concepts presented initially in Honors Algebra I. Students then proceed to more advanced algebraic concepts. The algebraic solving of a variety of statement problems is emphasized in Honors Algebra II. Since Honors Algebra II is potentially the last “algebra” class the student will take, it is imperative that the student masters the material presented in this course before proceeding to higher level honors and advanced placement mathematics courses offered at the high school.

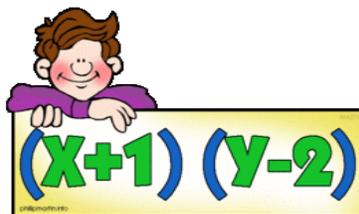


The Hempfield Area Mathematics Program has been developed to provide each student with a mathematics course consistent with his/her skill level. This program is intended to be flexible and to allow students to move up and down between levels from year to year, depending upon performance and achievement. A schematic showing possible progressions is provided on the following page. For more information about the requirements used for course placement, please contact a guidance counselor from your middle school.

What's Next in Mathematics?



NOTE: Any student not enrolled in Honors math is NOT eligible to take Honors Science at the High School.



ELA

Grade 6

ELA 6 (Course # 1161)

In this ELA class, students are expected to build upon, extend, and apply independent comprehension skills and strategies. Comprehension, vocabulary, spelling, fluency, and critical thinking skills using text dependent analysis continue to be developed through reading a variety of informational text and literature. Reading is stressed as a basic means of gathering information and as a lifelong skill used for enjoyment. Reading materials include a variety of on-level nonfiction and fiction texts to encourage growth and independent thought. Sixth grade students integrate writing, listening, and speaking skills in sixth grade ELA. The first form of writing is argumentative, which is written to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence. The second form of writing is informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content. The third form of writing is narrative. Narratives are written to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective techniques, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured sequence of events. While completing these writing techniques students are using the writing process, which includes prewriting, drafting, revising and editing. The study of grammar, mechanics, and standard usage continues throughout each form of writing. In addition, students demonstrate effective listening and speaking skills by giving presentations and participating in discussions.

Grade 7

ELA 7 (Course # 1171)

Seventh grade ELA focuses on developing and refining all reading skills and strategies. ELA teachers stress the importance of reading critically across all content areas. Comprehension, exploration of various informational text and literature, vocabulary development, literary elements, fluency, spelling, and study skills are the areas in which students receive instruction. A variety of on-level texts are employed to encourage independence and enjoyment of reading. Seventh grade students continue to develop and refine writing, listening, and speaking skills as they read and respond to pieces of literature. Students draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection and/or research. Students develop three writing pieces. The first is an argumentative, which is written to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence. The second form of writing is informative/exclamatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content. The third form of writing is narrative. Narratives are written to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective techniques, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences. While completing these writing techniques students are using the writing process, which includes prewriting, drafting, revising and editing. The study of grammar, mechanics, and standard usage continues through each form of writing. In addition, students demonstrate effective listening and speaking skills by giving presentations and participating in discussions.

Grade 8

ELA 8 (Course # 1181)

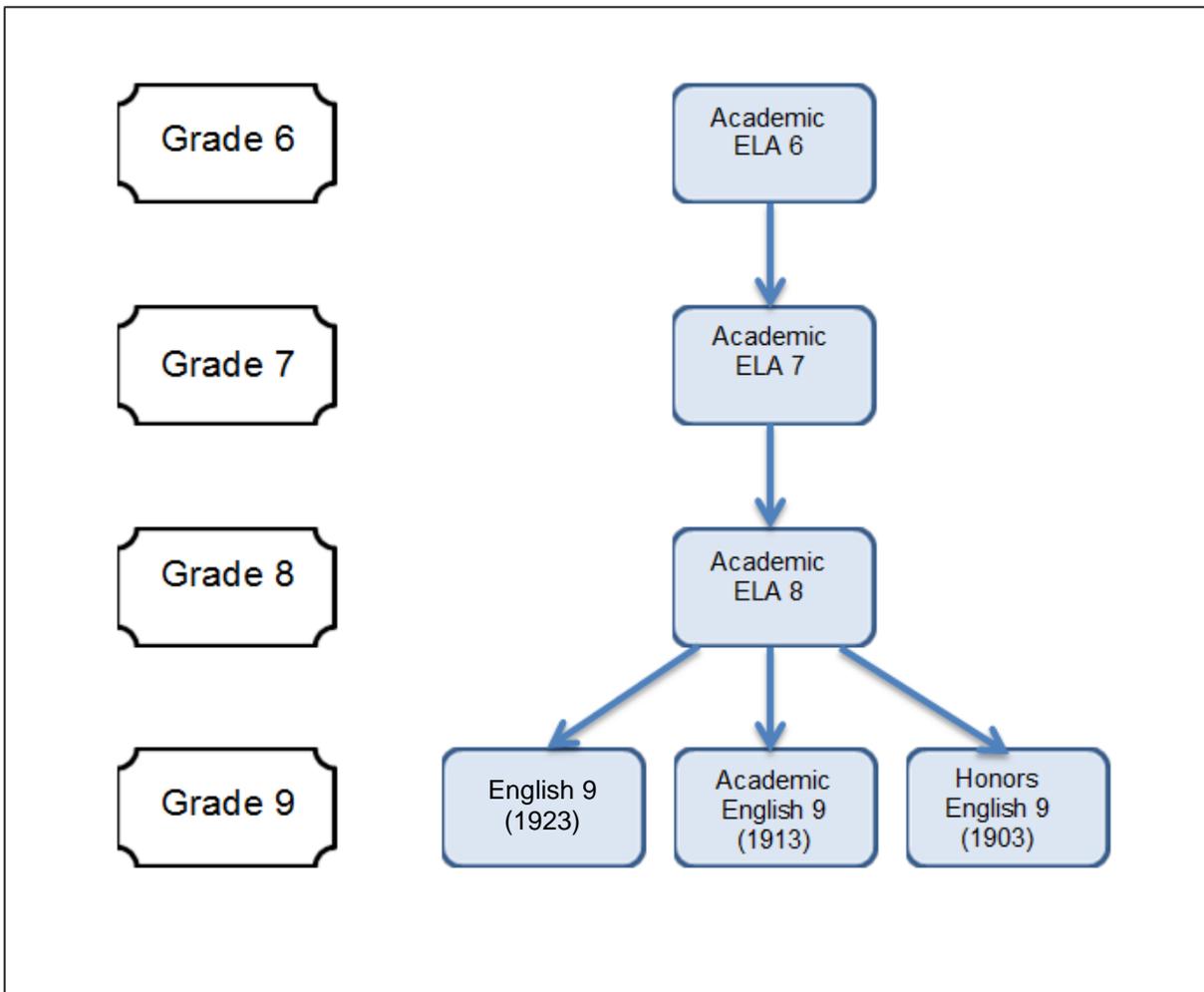
Eighth grade ELA focuses on critical reading skills, using reading as a method of gaining information, developing vocabulary, promoting study skills, and fostering a lifelong independence and enjoyment of reading through the use of novels, short stories, and poetry. The ELA teacher incorporates a variety of assessments, activities, and strategies to develop students' confidence and abilities in all genres. Eighth grade students complete three forms of writings; argumentative, informative/explanatory, and narrative. The first form of writing, argumentative, supports a claim with clear reasons and relevant evidence. The second form of writing, informative/explanatory, examines a topic and conveys ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization and analysis of relevant content. The third form of writing, narrative, is written to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective techniques, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences. Usage of literary terminology is also incorporated into oral and written expressions. Additionally, standard usage, correct spelling, and proper mechanics are taught and evaluated in conjunction with the writing process.

LANGUAGE LIVE! – GRADES 6, 7, AND 8

Language Live! is a comprehensive literacy program that provides research-based strategies and tools to address the needs of struggling readers. The program meets the students at varying skill levels and significantly improves literacy skills. This Language Arts course will be scheduled as a double period, providing both English and reading instruction for learning support students. A placement test is administered to determine the appropriateness of the program.

Note: Exit criteria includes a score of 80% or better on the End-of-Book Content Mastery test and Lexile score from the LRS (Language! Reading Scale) test within a designated grade level range. Exiting Language Live! is an IEP team decision.

What's Next in ELA?



Science

Grade 6

Science 6 (Course #461)

The sixth grade science program offers students an opportunity to explore the basics of biology, weather sciences, and physical science. Through experimentation and inquiry-based activities, students explore the methods that scientists use to investigate and observe the world. Through experimentation, students relate the structure and function of cells to real-world applications involving the study and treatment of diseases. A study of Earth's weather introduces students to the study of the atmosphere, weather patterns, and climate. Finally, students are introduced to concepts and applications pertaining to both energy and the properties of waves.

Grade 7

Science 7 (Course #471)

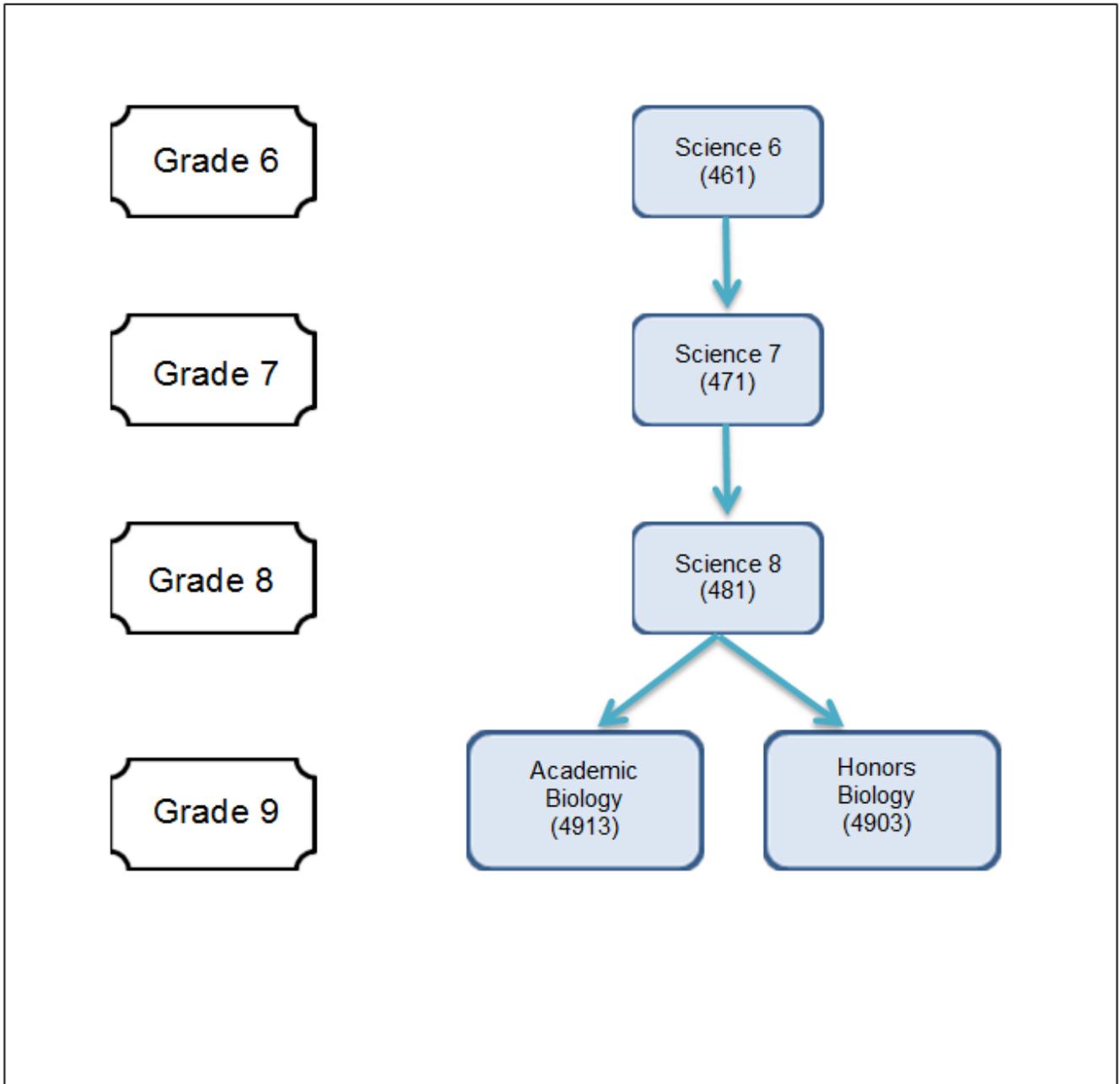
The seventh grade science program offers students an opportunity to explore the principles of geology, ecology and physics. While being introduced to geology, students compare and contrast different processes that change the Earth's surface. Students use this information to examine issues relating to ecology and energy conservation. The relationship among organisms in different ecosystems concludes the study of ecology. While exploring concepts of physics, students use science processing skills to examine principles of motion and force.

Grade 8

Science 8 (Course #481)

The eighth grade science program explores topics in biological science, physical science and astronomy. An examination of cells leads to the study of genetics in which students will learn how genetics determine inherited traits. Students study how scientists classify different forms of matter. In addition, they investigate concepts pertaining to the structure and properties of matter (and more specifically water) through experimentation and hands-on activities. During the astronomy unit, students analyze the composition and structure of the universe, as well as the relationship between the objects of our solar system. Students finish the course with an introduction to bioengineering. By combining concepts of engineering, medicine, and the physical and natural sciences, students explore how bioengineering solves health and medical problems.

What's Next in Science?



Social Studies

Grade 6

World Geography 6 (Course #261)

Students will define the five fundamental themes of geography – location, place, human-environmental interactions, movement, and regions – and use these tools to develop their geographic literacy of Latin American, Europe and Russia, Africa, and Asia and the Pacific. The students will also examine various types of maps and acquire the map skills needed to study the physical and political divisions of these four major regions. In addition to the physical geography, the students will be introduced to the cultural, ethnic, economic, and political realities of these areas. Overall this course allows students to focus on a global perspective of their world.

Grade 7

World History I (Course #271)

Building upon the five fundamental themes of geography they acquired in grade six, students will continue to build their geographic, historical, and cultural literacy by focusing on the ancient world. Emphasis will be placed on the civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Greece, and Rome. This course will further detail Byzantine and Muslim empires as well as Europe during the medieval, Renaissance, and Reformation eras. Students will examine how the physical geography of an area profoundly affects people's lives from their economic and government systems to their culture and beliefs systems. Students will learn about the contributions of these ancient civilizations to our modern world.

Grade 8

United States History 1 (Course #281)

Students will begin the study of American history from the formation of the new nation through the Civil War. Within this course of study, students will understand why and how the colonists broke away from Britain and created a republican form of government. More specifically, the causes and effects of the French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War will be outlined, along with an understanding of the results that led to the establishment of the new republic and the ensuring expansion and change within the American nation brought about by the division between the North and South, the age of reform, and the westward expansion. Students will develop a better understanding of recurring issues throughout American history, thus enabling them to make connections between past and present. This course serves as a basis for the continuing study of the post-Civil War period and beyond that is the basis for the American history courses at the high school.

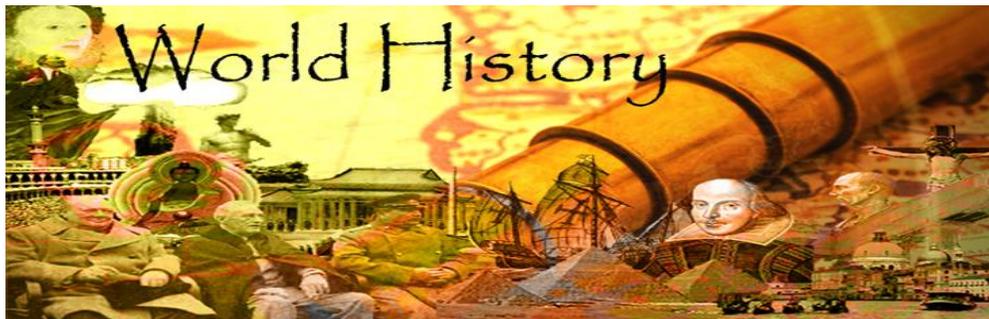
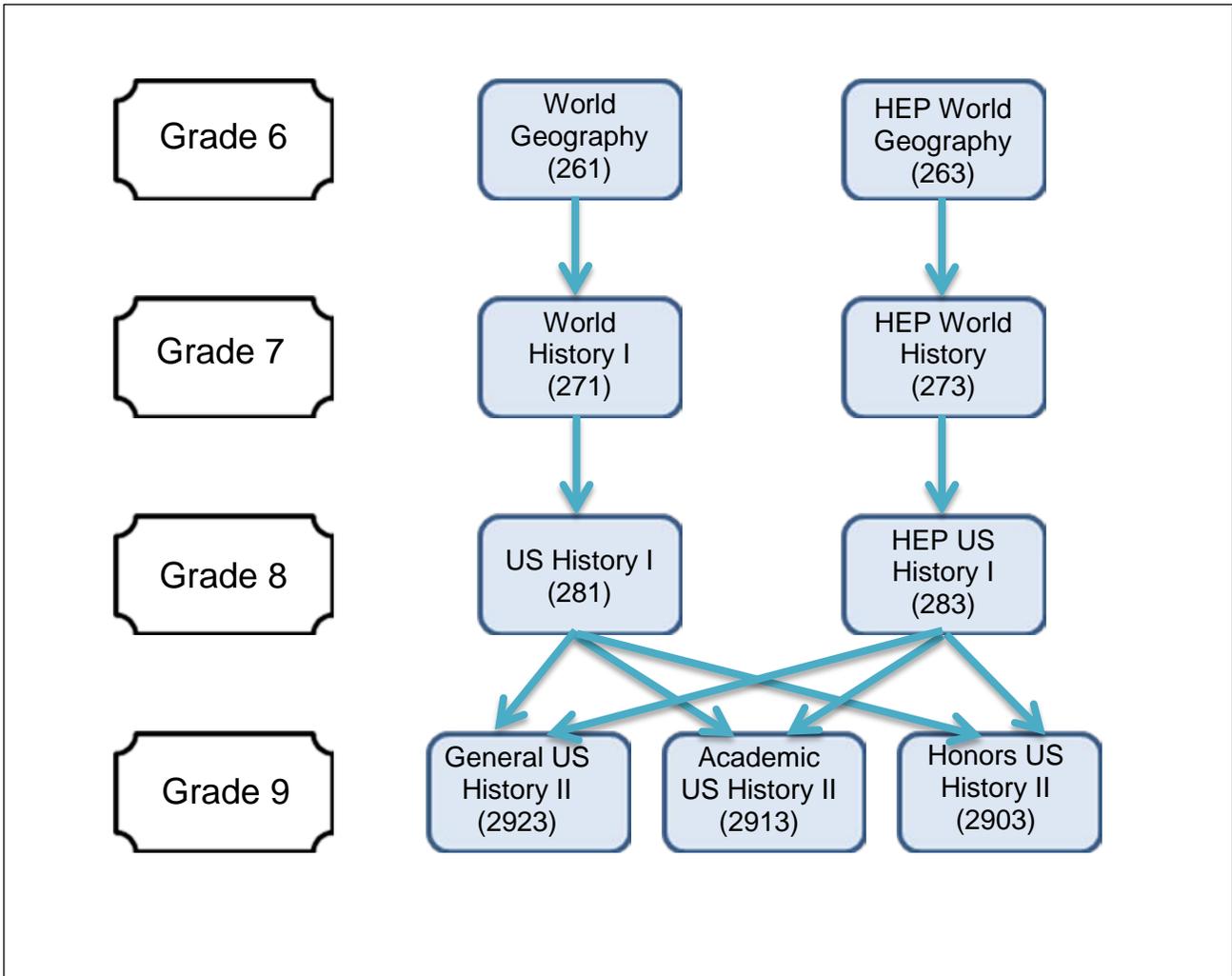
Hempfield Enrichment Program (HEP)

World Geography 6 (Course #263); World History I (Course #273); United States History 1 (Course #283)

The HEP students are scheduled together by grade for social studies. While each course covers the same content as the regular social studies course for that grade, it does so at a much faster pace and uses a variety of approaches to deliver the information and to assess student comprehension.



What's Next in Social Studies



World Language

Grade 6

Project Passport (Course #0164)

In Project Passport, sixth graders will study one semester each of French and Spanish culture to introduce them to the areas of the world where French and Spanish are spoken. The emphasis is on global awareness with an exposure to the French and Spanish languages. This course is for all 6th grade students and is designed to complement the 6th grade Geography curriculum. The class will meet approximately 15 times throughout the school year.

Grade 7

Exploratory French/Spanish (Course # Spanish 172, French 173)

In Exploratory French and Spanish, seventh graders will study one semester each of French and Spanish to learn to greet and interact with others, as well as gain an introduction to basic grammar concepts. The emphasis is on communication skills, cultural awareness, and critical thinking, which are also addressed in other planned courses such as language arts, math, the fine arts, science and social studies. This course is for all 7th grade students and is designed to introduce students to French and Spanish language and culture.

Grade 8

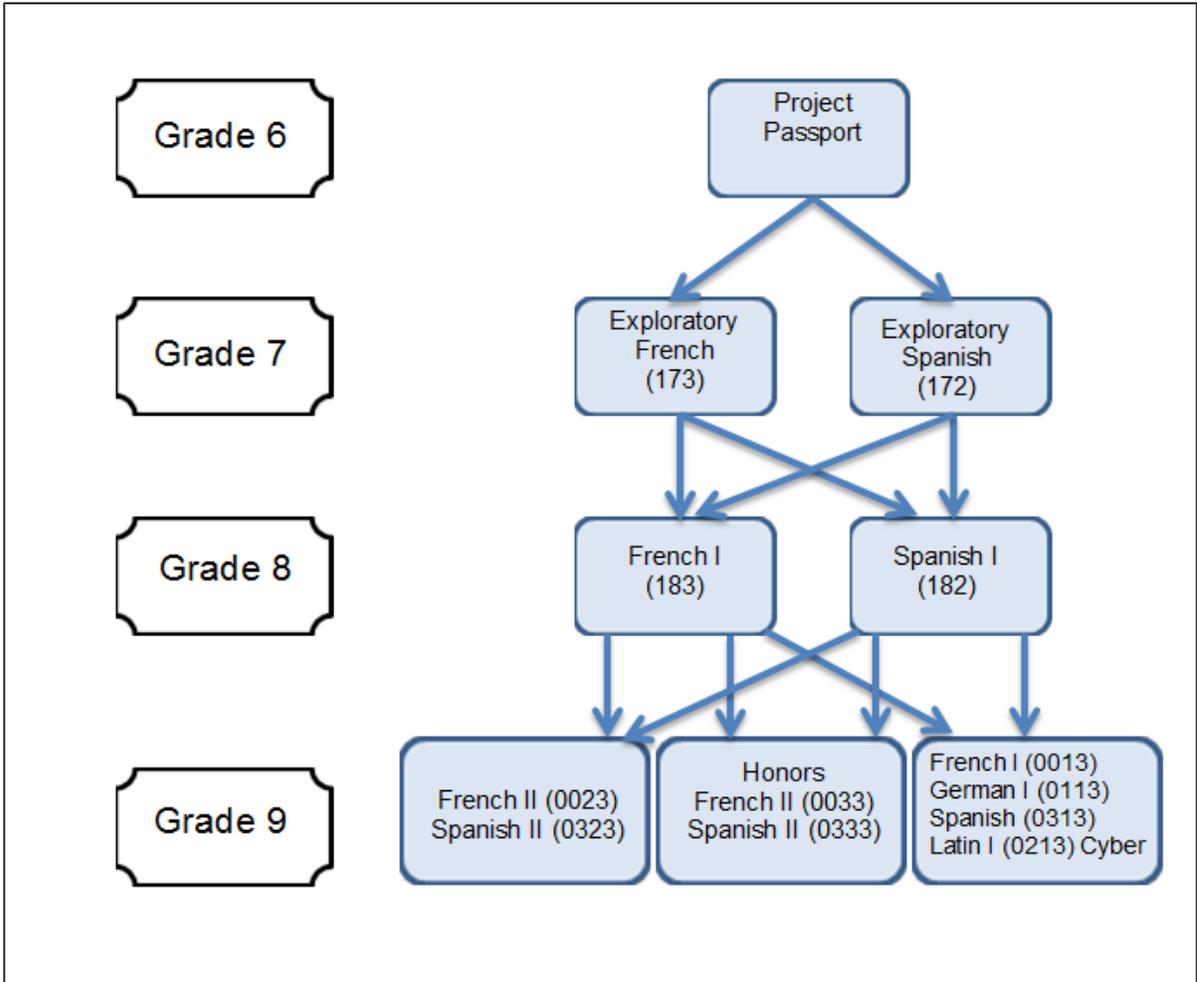
French I/ Spanish I (Course #Spanish 182, French 183)-ELECTIVE

French I/ Spanish I provides an introduction to French/Spanish through listening, speaking, reading, and writing activities. The student will begin to exchange ideas orally and in writing, participate in simple practical conversations, build a basic vocabulary, and develop an appreciation of geography and French/Spanish culture.

Successful completion of this course will enable the student to continue in French II or Spanish II in 9th grade or, for students earning above 93%, Honors French II or Honors Spanish II and, ultimately, to continue to level 5 of the language in high school.



What's Next in World Language?



Library

Grades 6,7,8

The library curriculum includes the following competencies: location and access of materials, information and technological literacy, literature and genre, and responsible citizenship in the use of print and electronic information. Building on the skills developed in the elementary grades, the middle school library program teaches a sequential, problem-solving research approach as students gather, interpret and organize information for curricular projects. The K-12 library program teaches the Modern Language Association guidelines for citing sources and encourages its use for all assignments. The teaching of information and technology objectives is the joint responsibility of the librarians and the subject area teachers. Middle school students visit the library with their classroom teachers to conduct research and to select independent reading materials. Research in each subject area is designed to meet the Common Core standards.

The Middle School libraries, reading, and English departments participate in the Accelerated Reader (AR) program. This is an internet based computer software program. It monitors students' comprehension, growth, and success in reading. Each student is tested to determine his/her reading range. This range will help with selecting books that can be comprehended and read at one's own pace. After reading the AR book, the student will take a short quiz to evaluate comprehension of the book. These test scores are then used in middle school English Language Arts (ELA) classes. The AR program helps guide students to books that are challenging but not frustrating. Students may use the AR book finder from home to see if personal copies are AR books. Parents can monitor student testing by entering an email address. After testing, an email will be sent to the address on the student's scores.

8th grade students have the opportunity to enroll in Library Creation Studio class.

There is a library in each middle school building that is staffed by a full-time certified librarian. Each library has a fully automated system for circulation and the library catalog. Every library provides Internet access and a wide variety of on-line database subscriptions including World Book Online, GaleNet, Grolier Online, and Culturegrams. The POWER Library is provided free by the state of Pennsylvania.

These databases are available from home via the Internet which allows students and parents to access the resources of the library outside the school day. The collections of all the middle school libraries are also accessible via the Internet at: <http://bit.ly/2q8zes2>

Grade 8

Library Creation Studio (Course #1081)-ELECTIVE

The Hempfield Area School District Middle School Library Media Program provides students with an elective program that focuses on the integration of information and technology skills across the curriculum. Throughout the course students will work collaboratively to explore cross-disciplinary projects and participate in interactive learning challenges. Eighth grade students in this elective will work on each of these skills during Library Creation Studio, which is taught by the librarian. Students meet twice in a six day cycle for this graded course. Library Creation Studio will support students to become lifelong users of ideas, information, and technology for education and recreation.



Business, Computer and Information Technology

Grade 6

Introduction to Business, Computer and Information Technology (Course #761)

This survey course is an introduction to Business, Computer, and Information Technology concepts. Topics include business communication, employment opportunities and environments, laws and their impact on the workforce. The basics of accounting, entrepreneurship, finance and economics, global business, management, and marketing in today's information age will be explored. Students will continue to expand on the topic of problem solving using various technologies. We will reinforce and explore with the students their digital footprint as well as areas of digital citizenship and etiquette.



Family and Consumer Sciences

Grade 7

Family and Consumer Sciences 7 (Course #572)

The seventh grade Family and Consumer Science classes meet twice during each six day cycle rotation for the entire school year. Areas of study include:

- Financial and Resource Management
- Balancing Family, Work and Community Responsibility
- Food Science and Nutrition
- Child Development

Students participate in lessons that help prepare them for life. The curriculum includes;

- Budgeting
- Resource management highlighting textiles and sewing
- Goal setting
- Sustainable food systems
- Culinary skills
- Nutritious meal planning and labs
- Stages of child development.



Boys'/Girls' Physical Education

Grade 6 (Course #661, 662); Grade 7 (Course #671, 672); Grade 8 (Course #681, 682)

The Physical Education Grades 6-8 Course of Study is designed to provide each student with knowledge, ideas, skills, and concepts they can use for the rest of their lives to maintain a healthy level of physical activity and fitness. The curriculum will provide students with opportunities to learn skills and movement patterns needed to participate in a variety of sports and activities and to participate regularly in physical activity. The students will develop knowledge and understanding of basic physical fitness training principles, and learn to apply those principles to personal fitness plans. In addition, the students will evaluate their individual levels of fitness, and compare themselves to national standards. Through these activities, the students will develop an understanding of the benefits of physical activity, and the students will also learn to respect and cooperate with others. This course is designed to reinforce goal setting, cooperating, problem solving, and basic math skills taught through other curriculums.

Physical Education classes meet twice in a six-day cycle.

During these courses, the students will:

- Combine and refine motor skills and patterns necessary for physical activity.
- Demonstrate knowledge of concepts, strategies, and tactics for a variety of physical activities.
- Participate in activities promoting physical fitness.
- Achieve and maintain a healthy level of physical fitness.
- Demonstrate responsible behavior and cooperation in physical activity settings.
- Show an understanding and respect for peoples' differences.
- Develop an understanding of the benefits of physical activity toward positive physical, mental, emotional, and social health.



Grade 8

Activities and Sports PE (Course #0684)-ELECTIVE

This course aims to enhance physical wellness through participation in team sports, individual sports, and non-traditional activities. Students will experience ways in which sports and activities have a positive effect on sportsmanship, competition and social interaction with peers. The course will focus on providing students with opportunities to participate in activities and sports that may include, but are not limited to the following:

Team Sports: Basketball, Football, Hockey, Lacrosse, Volleyball, Team Handball

Individual/Dual Sports: Pickleball, Badminton, Bowling, Gymnastics

Non-Traditional: Dodgeball, Ultimate Sports, Rock Climbing, Scooters

Health

Grade 6

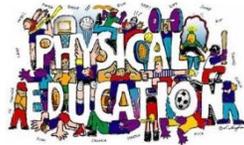
Boys'/Girls' Physical Education and Health (Course #661, 662)

Sixth grade students will be provided with a framework for discussion about topics such as the body systems, nutrition, and risky behaviors related to drug use. Additionally, guest speakers from the Blackburn Center will present information on child sexual abuse and family violence.

Grade 8

Boys'/Girls' Physical Education and Health (Course #681, 682)

Expanding on previous learning, eighth grade students will develop a deeper understanding of the concepts that promote lifelong optimal wellness. Drug education, disease prevention (including HIV/AIDS education), and avoiding risky behaviors are a primary emphasis of the curriculum. Additionally, guest speakers from the Blackburn Center will present information on dating and relationships. ***Health classes meet once in a six-day cycle.***



Technology Education

The Middle School Technology Education Department provides students with experiences to help develop technological literacy in order to prepare students to not only take technology education classes at the high school, but to also become productive members of our technology filled society. Our curriculum is based on four themes: Production, Technical Design, Robotics, and Digital Graphics. Students participate in these units in each grade level expanding on their learning from year to year. A STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) approach with an emphasis on following an engineering design process is utilized and reinforced throughout each area of study.

The facilities at each middle school include a computer lab/classroom and a production lab. The Robotics, Technical Design, and Digital Graphics units are primarily implemented in the computer lab/classroom. The production lab is utilized for creating student projects. Safety is taught in all necessary situations and reinforced throughout 6th, 7th, and 8th grades.

The Robotics portion of the curriculum is taught employing Lego NXT mindstorms robotics kits. Students use Lego pieces to construct a robot with motors, gears, and up to 4 sensors. Programs for the robot are written on a computer and then downloaded to the robot. Once the program is downloaded, the robot is then ready to execute the program. The robots are capable of performing a variety of tasks which include but are not limited to: altering speed based on gear ratios, traveling predetermined distances using distance/rotation ratio calculations, activation from a sound command, following dark lined paths, and obstacle detection.

In the Technical Design portion of the curriculum, students use computer software and/or traditional drafting techniques to design and create technical drawings and three dimensional models. Conventional techniques are reinforced through all grade levels as students primarily use AutoCAD and Inventor software to create their drawings and models. Oftentimes, students draw what they will create in the production area thus following an engineering design process.

The Production portion of the curriculum provides students with the opportunity to use many hand and power tools to create their own projects. Rudimentary skills are introduced in sixth grade as students are introduced to machines to complete a common project. As they progress to seventh and eighth grade, students are able to individualize their designs to create a power technology project or work cooperatively to mass produce and/or utilize an assembly line to create their projects.

Students studying the Digital Graphics portion of the curriculum are able to create graphic arts projects through a variety of software. Programs include but are not limited to, Microsoft PowerPoint, Google Sketch-Up, and CorelDRAW. Layout, proportion, balance, sketching, and digital photo editing techniques are main concepts taught and reinforced through all grade levels. Given the nature of this portion of the curriculum, student projects can vary greatly due to the creativity of the student.

Grade 6

Technology Education 6 (Course #563)

- Technical Drawing - Use Autodesk AutoCAD software at a basic level to produce a functional drawing
- Robotics - Build a robot with Lego NXT robotics kits and then program the robot to perform basic functions
- Production - Utilize tools/machines, materials and processes to complete an introductory wood project
- Digital Graphics - Employ graphic software at a basic level to create an image

Grade 7

Technology Education 7 (Course #573)

- Technical Drawing - Use Autodesk AutoCAD and Inventor software at an intermediate level to produce functional 3D models and drawings
- Robotics - Build a robot with the Lego NXT robotics kit and program it complete intermediate tasks
- Production - Utilize tools/machines, materials and processes to complete an intermediate wood project
- Digital Graphics - Employ graphics software at an intermediate level to create an image

Grade 8

STEM 8 (Course #583)-ELECTIVE

Students: Now is the time to begin engineering your future! The eighth grade S.T.E.M. elective allows students to tackle real-world challenges in a hands-on environment. Students can expect to work independently and in groups on projects focused upon research and design.

Projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Product design using 2-D and 3-D CADD software
- Rapid prototyping using 3-D printing technology
- Graphic design for product enhancement
- Designing, troubleshooting, and programming robotics equipment
- Manufacturing and construction integrated with 3-D printing, laser, vinyl, or CNC technologies

Upon completion of the eighth grade STEM elective, students will have acquired a variety of useful 21st century technical skills, through a social work environment that builds communication skills and rewards teamwork.



Music

Grade 6

Band 6 (Course #962)

Chorus 6 (Course #965)

Music 6 (Course #961)

In sixth grade, students may choose band, chorus, or general music as approved by music staff. All music courses provide opportunity to learn music reading skills. In addition, students will participate in listening to, performing, creating, responding to, and analyzing music from a variety of different time periods, cultures and styles. Those choosing band and chorus participate in a scheduled class during the normal day as well as combined classes during activity period which is the only time they rehearse together. After school rehearsals are also utilized in preparation for winter and spring concerts. Band students may also participate in chorus during activity period and after school. In general music, guitars, keyboards, and percussion instruments may be used to reinforce music reading skills. In chorus, solfeggio (do, re, mi...) is the medium through which music reading skills are acquired. Technology may be used in all courses to enhance



Grade 7

Band 7 (Course #972)

Chorus 7 (Course #975)

Music 7 (Course #971)

Seventh graders continue to build on skills learned in the sixth grade classes. Students can continue in the band, chorus, or general music track. All students focus on the ability to read music, developing sequentially from year to year, while exploring the areas of music history, style, creation, performance, and response. As in the sixth grade, band and chorus performing ensembles meet during the normal day as well as activity period and after school in preparation for concerts. Guitars, keyboards, drums, and technology may be tools used in learning to read and perform music in the general music classes.

Grade 8

Students learn to read and interpret more challenging music in their chosen track. Performing ensembles continue to meet during the scheduled day as well as activity period and after school. These rehearsals continue to be the norm for students in performance classes, as full ensemble rehearsals are available only during that time. The elements of music are reinforced and built on each year. Students listen to, analyze, and perform music from different time periods and cultures and are encouraged to make connections to history and other arts. Technology continues to be used in all courses to enhance learning.

Band 8 (Course #982)-ELECTIVE

Eighth grade band students build on the skills and knowledge they have acquired in sixth and seventh grade band. As you continue in this track, you learn to read, interpret and perform a more challenging repertoire of music.

- You will learn more about music theory, the understanding of key signatures and scale patterns.
- You will participate in activities and skill building games using the iPads and other technology.
- We perform at concerts and school assemblies.
- You have the opportunity to play in advanced groups like Jazz Band and/or Wind Ensemble.
- Band is a fun way to build skills like creativity, teamwork, time-management and problem solving. These are some of the most important qualities that employers look for in potential employees. In addition, colleges look for students with a well-rounded education.
- 8th grade band is a stepping stone to the high school band program where you will have the opportunity to travel and perform.

Chorus 8 (Course #985)-ELECTIVE

The 8th grade choral program builds on the skills and knowledge the students have acquired in the sixth and seventh grade. Students will be required to participate in a winter and spring concert for family and friends. There may be other possible performance opportunities as well.

- The 8th grade choral program is an incredible avenue toward building better musicians, better people, and better students.
- Through teamwork, performance, and creativity, students will be able to develop their confidence and ability to express themselves.
- Students will be exposed to many different musical styles and time periods heightening their awareness of history and world cultures.
- Students will recognize the impact that music can have in their lives and in the lives of others as they continue on the path to becoming life-long musicians.
- Students will have the opportunity to use some of the latest technology to advance their music abilities
- Students also have the opportunity to audition for higher level ensembles.

General Music 8 (Course #981)-ELECTIVE

As in the other music offerings, the students will build upon what they've acquired in 6th and 7th grade. All students will be provided, in a variety of settings, the opportunity to read, notate, listen and respond to, perform through playing instruments, improvise, create and explore music. Students have access to iPads and laptops to achieve and aid in these aforementioned opportunities through the use of various apps and software. We will explore multicultural and historical perspectives that reflect a wide diversity of people, styles and times.



Art

Grade 6

Art 6 (Course #861)

The 6th grade art course introduces students to visual arts experiences designed to require creative problem solving. Studio assignments will have definite criteria, but will allow students creative freedom in execution. Hemisphericity will be introduced and revisited throughout the course as “right side of the brain” thinking is encouraged. Correlating art history lessons will help students to identify major artists and art periods and to correlate this knowledge to their own studio projects.

In this course, students will complete units in drawing, painting, bas-relief, functional arts, and contemporary art styles. They will learn to assess their work, to reflect on learning, and to determine their own levels of success.

Grade 7

Art 7 (Course #871)

The 7th grade art course is designed to provide students with a variety of visual arts experiences designed to require critical thinking and creative problem solving. Basic concepts learned in 6th grade will be expanded into more complex studio activities and a wider variety of assessments. Art history lessons will again help students identify major artists and art periods which correlate to their studio projects.

While studying the elements of art and design, students will assimilate previous learning through the creation of studio projects incorporating elements of drawing with a focus on shading, exploring color theory in paint, and using various drawing mediums and textures.

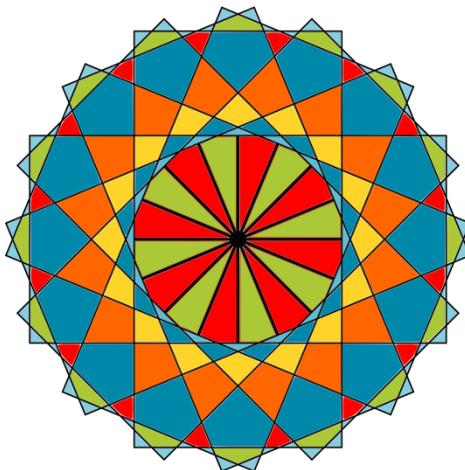


Grade 8

Art 8 (Course #883)-ELECTIVE

Students enrolled in this course have the unique opportunity to become independent, creative problem solvers contributing to their own academic environment by providing them with skills to innovatively express themselves creatively. After setting a foundation in 6th and 7th grade, 8th grade art students will expand their scope of learning and understanding. The course will focus on the following:

- Study of artists and styles in a 3 year rotation including: Renaissance, Impressionism, and American Art.
- Exploration and creation of 2d art such as drawing, painting and printmaking with subjects including but not limited to people, places and still life as students utilize skills from observation, memory, and imagination.
- Exploration and creation of 3d art such as ceramics, sculpture, and crafts.
- Use of various technologies to research and create art.
- Opportunity to receive an outreach from or field trip to the Westmoreland Museum of American Art in Greensburg.



Guidance

The middle school guidance program is designed to support the students as they develop skills necessary to meet the academic and social expectations of 6th, 7th and 8th grade

Grade 6

Guidance 6 (Course #762)

At the beginning of the school year, the focus in the sixth grade guidance course is to assist students in adjusting to the middle school environment. Guidance classes are introduced with lessons on familiarizing students with the staff and other sixth grade students. Lessons on study skills, time management, organization and learning styles help students adjust to the rigors of the middle school curriculum. Other topics include conflict resolution, friendship, careers and tolerance. Sixth grade guidance classes are scheduled to meet once during the six-day cycle.

Grade 7-8

Grade 7-8

Although guidance classes are not regularly scheduled for seventh & eighth grade, the counselors meet with the students throughout the year. Lessons with a focus on using students' interests and skills to explore possible careers are presented. Additional lesson topics include results from PSSAs and scheduling.

Communication with parents, students and teachers is paramount to the success of our guidance program. Parents are encouraged to contact the counselor whenever a concern arises. These issues will be addressed confidentially and with respect to the student. Counselors work closely with administrators, the SAP (Student Assistance Program) team, the Bully Prevention committee and community agencies.



Support Services

Learning Support Program (LS)

The learning support program serves students who have a disability and are in need of academic support within the general curriculum. Small class sizes and an individually prescribed program are offered to maximize student learning opportunities. An Individualized Education Plan (IEP) is developed collaboratively by the regular and special education teachers, building administrator, parents and student. Services and supports including adaptations and modifications are then provided based on the specific needs identified in the IEP.

Speech & Language Support Program

The Speech & Language Support Program provides therapy to students who exhibit a communication disorder. Students suspected of having impairments involving articulation/phonology, fluency, voice, or language will be screened and, if deemed necessary, further evaluated by the district Speech & Language Pathologist. If the student qualifies for services, an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) will be developed that specifies the services and supports which are needed to help the student to be successful. In addition to direct speech & language therapy, the Pathologist also collaborates with the classroom teacher(s) and parents, assisting them in understanding and effectively managing the student's communication disorder.

Student Assistance Program (SAP)

The Student Assistance Program is designed to assist students who are experiencing problems which may be interfering with their learning or who are involved with chemical dependency. A team of trained teachers, counselors, nurses, and building administrators work together to gather and assess data in order to create an appropriate action plan for each student referred to the program. Referrals may come from teachers, parents, other school personnel, or from students themselves. For more information, please contact the school counselor at your child's school.

Hempfield Enrichment Program (HEP)

The Hempfield Enrichment Program (HEP) is designed to provide enrichment for gifted students extending above and beyond the students' general curriculum, as needed by the students. In middle school, the HEP students' schedule includes a grade-level social studies class with all HEP students of that grade. While each HEP social studies course covers the same content as the general social studies class, it does so at a much faster pace while delving deeper into some topics using a variety of approaches to deliver the information and to assess student learning. By compacting the social studies curriculum, it allows time for enrichment activities. Every other week, students are taught S.A.T. vocabulary words, thus expanding the HEP students' vocabulary. Also in the social studies class, each semester students complete a differentiated curriculum project of their choice chosen from a menu of options in various subject areas. Academic competitions and pull-out classes in math, science, social studies, writing, literature, computers, and architectural design are offered to students demonstrating a need beyond the additional enrichment provided in the social studies class.

Rehabilitation Act - Section 504 and Title IX The Hempfield Area School District, an equal opportunity employer, will not discriminate in employment, educational programs or activities, based on race, sex, handicap, or because a person is a disabled veteran or a veteran of the Vietnam Era. This policy of non-discrimination extends to all other legally protected classifications. Publication of this policy in this document is in accordance with state and federal laws including Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972. Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Inquiries should be directed to the Supervisor of Special Services, Hempfield Area School District, 4347 Route 136, Greensburg, PA 15601 (724) 834-2590.