



# CONNELLSVILLE AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Course Descriptions 2019-2020 School Year GRADE 7

All students entering seventh grade in September are assigned four **CORE COURSES**: English Language Arts (ELA), Math, Science and Social Studies. In addition, students select three **ELECTIVE COURSES** to complete their school schedule.

A separate selection sheet will be provided to each student to establish their schedule for the 2019-2020 school year.

### **CORE COURSES**

#### **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

##### **ELA 7**

Students will read a variety of literature and informational texts as they consider divergent concepts and ideas presented by the selections. Careful reading to grasp information, ideas, and details will be required as students create their own understanding and arguments through writing and discussion. Written responses will further develop student's analytical thinking as they develop solid text dependent analysis pieces based on various tasks and texts. A multifaceted approach to advance students' vocabulary knowledge will be reflected in their reading and writing. Students will be expected to demonstrate appropriate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

##### **FOUNDATIONS of ELA 7**

Students will demonstrate increased comprehension of text as they begin to examine the concepts and ideas of authors of various works of fiction and nonfiction. Increased vocabulary acquisition along with a focus on written communication of the student's thoughts and ideas will be expected as students move toward proficient written communication. Skill mastery of complex comprehension and oral and written communication will be a primary focus of this course. Students will be expected to demonstrate appropriate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

#### **MATHEMATICS**

##### **MATH 7**

Students enrolled in this course will focus on concepts that address all of the 7th grade standards as outlined by the PA Core Standards. The primary focus of this course are the five areas of the 7th grade PA Common Core, including the number system, expressions and equations, ratios and proportional relationships, geometry, and probability and statistics. In the course, problem solving and critical thinking skills will be enhanced.

##### **MATH 7/ALGEBRA I – PART 1**

Algebra I Part 1 focuses primarily on linear relationships. Investigations will include and emphasis on expressions, equations, functions, linear equations, linear functions and inequalities, and linear relationships based on data. Also geometry and data and statistics will be covered as well as including a review of operations with rational and real numbers.

#### **SCIENCE 7**

This course provides an overview of physical, earth/space and life sciences, technology, engineering and math (STEM) concepts. Instructional units are arranged around a driving question in which students engage in a series of unique learning experiences that are carefully designed to immerse them in science and engineering practices as they construct their understanding of important concepts. Students have opportunities to learn and apply engineering specific practices such as designing solutions to identified problems.

#### **SOCIAL STUDIES – WORLD HISTORY**

Students will study the progress of humans from "cave people" to modern humans. Study will begin with Early Humans as they began to settle various parts of the world and establish the major civilization of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome. Moving into the Middle Ages, students will explore how modern jobs, inventions, and governments became established through research of important individuals, civilizations and cultures. Students will examine how geographic, political and economic systems played a role in the existence, development, and sometimes, the decline of civilizations as different events and elements changed the course of history. The course will conclude with the Age of Exploration and the discovery and settlement of the New World. Major religions of the world and their impact on history will be incorporated.

## **ELECTIVE COURSES**

### **ART 7**

Students continue their focus on developing art skills by incorporating vocabulary, creativity, and concepts of design. Two-dimensional lessons may include painting, collage, drawing, and printmaking. Three-dimensional projects may include functional or sculptural ceramic experiences. Art history, art appreciation, and art criticism are integrated into the lessons as a framework of the curriculum.

### **APP CREATORS**

App Creators introduces students to computer science and the concept of creating interactive apps for computers, tablets, and cellular phones. Students will design, code, and test fun interactive games and other applications featuring a variety of media and animated objects. Through the creation of these mobile apps, students are challenged to be creative and innovative as they design, develop, and debug their product. The final lesson is open to students to create an app of their own choice and design.

### **INNOVATORS AND MAKERS**

Innovators and Makers is a computer science course that teaches students basic coding. The coding is combined with a microcontroller, sensors, other input devices, and output devices to solve everyday problems. Students are challenged to collaborate, problem solve, and think creatively to create games and other interactive working projects. Other fun STEM projects are also included throughout the course.

### **Chorus 7**

Chorus 7 currently meets every other day for the entire school year. Members are selected by audition. Members are required to attend two mandatory concert performances at night and sing in small groups for singing tests. Members are required to sing and memorize various styles of music selected by the instructor.

### **CONCERT BAND**

The Connellsville Area Middle School Concert Band is a performance-based, instrumental music course that explores classical and contemporary concert band literature with a difficulty level of 2 to 3 on a scale of 1 to 6. In addition to the concert band repertoire, the students will perform in a marching band setting as well as a small ensemble study that includes group lessons conducted using a pull-out rotational schedule.

### **DESIGN**

Using the CAMS FabLab featuring advanced computer software and contemporary tools, students design, develop and fabricate test objects. Products and processes are typically individualized but can also be developed for mass production. The Lab is designed to explore interests in graphic design, visual arts, business, computer-assisted design, physical and natural science, and mathematics, as well as engineering and other advanced technologies.

### **DIGITAL MEDIA PUBLICATIONS**

Students will produce original media content for school news broadcasts and classroom projects. As they work with audio/visual technology to create original electronic media publications, students will gain knowledge and skill-sets in operating and troubleshooting video equipment including but not limited to: hand-held video cameras, electronic storage devices such as SD cards, Chroma-key editing software and various recording and editing platforms. In addition, students will utilize various manipulatives for stop motion animation and incorporate original graphic designs into their media publications. Through project-based learning activities, students will investigate and respond to authentic, engaging, and complex questions, problems or challenges as they anticipate tomorrow's world.

### **FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE**

Students will learn basic food preparation skills including food safety and sanitation, healthy eating habits and risk factors, and the impact of media and technology on the food industry. The class will also include various computer modules with an introduction to child development, money and consumer skills, life and family skills, sewing, and heart fitness. Highlights of the course will include hands-on lab experiences including the opportunity to taste success!

### **GIFTED\***

The Gifted Program is intended to be a support system that addresses the emotional and social needs of the gifted learner by suggesting strategies for coping with life's situations. It is designed to challenge students to develop their interests and abilities through individual and group projects, extended challenges, and enriching experiences that emphasize higher-order thinking skills, and may include modifications to curriculum.

\*Prerequisite - Students must be evaluated by the school psychologist to be included in the Gifted Program

### **SPANISH – EXPLORATORY**

Exploratory Spanish will provide basic concepts and vocabulary that will not only enhance overall language skills, but provide the experience for students to choose a language for future study. Students will be "exploring" and discussing the language and culture of the Spanish speaking world as they learn the alphabet, parts of speech, and various greetings while developing a positive attitude toward the people who speak Spanish.

### **INTRODUCTION TO JOURNALISM**

This course is an introduction to news writing for newspapers and other media. Emphasis is placed on basic methods of gathering information, conducting interviews, organizing a story, writing leads, features and reviews and developing research skills. Students will be exposed to the role of social media such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram in the print and digital journalism. Students will gain real world skills in partnering with the production of the CAMSI Newspaper, The Fledgling.

### **TECH ED /ROBOTICS 7**

This course has two parts: Tech Ed and Robotics. The Tech Ed segment builds on the students' previous skills as they learn basic drafting and design to build a CO2 powered car. Internet research of friction and aerodynamics will be applied to car shape and structure the challenge to build the fastest car possible. In the Robotics segment, students will develop, build and program a Lego NXT robot as they continue to learn about programming and problem-solving strategies. Teams of students will be assigned challenges and tasks for the robot to accomplish to demonstrate the students' understanding of the underlying skills.

### **WELLNESS**

During the students' time in middle school, they will be exposed to the following individual and team sports on a three-year rotational schedule: jump rope, backyard games, individual aerobic/anaerobic and cardiovascular training, pickleball, badminton, hockey, speedball, football, soccer, basketball, volleyball, softball, ultimate frisbee and nitroball. By exposing students to many different activities, the goal is for each student to find an activity they enjoy and may pursue for a lifetime. While continuing to place an emphasis on personal fitness, Wellness 7 is designed to demonstrate strategies to improve or maintain a high quality of life through regular physical activity. Fitnessgram® testing continues as students work toward their personal fitness goals. Personal hygiene, decision making, nutrition, bullying/harassment prevention, and tobacco and drug awareness will be integrated into the wellness curriculum throughout the year.