

Knoch Middle School
CURRICULUM
MANUAL
2019 - 2020



Knoch Middle School
South Butler County School District
Saxonburg, PA
16056

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INTRODUCTION

Education's purpose is to prepare the student for living in a complex world where they are constantly challenged by change. Careful planning is required to meet these challenges. Included within, you will find information and guidance to assist you in planning for next year.

Your selection of a Program of Study and subjects should be based on your proven ability, interests, aptitudes, and ambitions for the future. Select those subjects within your ability, which will offer a challenge to you. Carefully consider your plans, establish your goals, and work toward them.

DIRECTORY

District Telephone No

352-1700

Administrative Personnel:

Middle School Principal	Mr. Tyler Vargo	3605
Middle School Assistant Principal	Mrs. Kim Fitzgerald	3610
School Psychologist/Director of Special Services.....	Mr. Greg Hajek	5640

Guidance and Counseling Department:

Counselor, Grade 6 & 7.....	Mr. Jeffery Woller	3650
Counselor, Grade 8	Mrs. Marissa Panzer	3651
Career and Intervention Counselor.....	Ms. Courtney Stein.....	4653

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

South Butler County School District is an equal opportunity educational institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, age, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or limited English proficiency in its activities, programs, or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504.

For information regarding civil rights or grievances procedures, contact the Title IX coordinator and Section 504 coordinator at South Butler County School District, Saxonburg, PA 16056 (724-352-1700). For information regarding services, activities, and facilities that are accessible to and usable by handicapped persons, contact the support programs coordinator (724-352-1700).

EDUCATIONAL GOALS OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Middle School, the first part of the secondary school, provides students with the opportunity to make a transition from the Elementary School to the High School. The goals of the Middle School are such that they are designed to make that transition gradual and as easy as possible for each student.

The aims of the Middle School are as follows:

1. To provide an educational atmosphere whereby students can expand basic learning skills.
2. Develop new academic skills in preparation for entry into the last segment of the student's formal secondary school education - the Senior High School.
3. To provide a program which is exploratory in nature - a testing ground where students can identify interest and aptitude areas.
4. To provide a socialization and maturation process where students can learn to become independent, responsible young adults.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PROMOTION

Students expecting to be promoted each year must meet the following requirements for promotion:

1. A student who is to be promoted from 6th, 7th, and 8th grade must earn a minimum of **4 core academic credits** (i.e. English, Math, Social Studies, Reading, and Science).
2. A student who is to be promoted from 8th to 9th grade must earn a minimum of **4 core academic credits** (i.e. English, Math, Social Studies, Science, and Reading).
3. **A student who fails two (2) or more of his/her core academic subjects must repeat the entire grade or attend summer school and pass the failed subject(s).**

THE STUDY LOAD

Study Load:

Grade 6: Students are required to take 5 academic courses, Physical Education, and Unified Arts.

Grade 7: Students are required to take 5 academic courses, Physical Education, Health, and Computer Applications.

Grade 8: Students are required to take 5 academic courses, Physical Education, Computer Programming, and up to two electives.

Students in Grades 6, 7, and 8 may elect to take a music course of Band, Chorus, or Orchestra.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Guidance services are available to all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students and their parents for academic, social and personal counseling. Information for career exploration is available. Periodically throughout the year, standardized testing is done and this is coordinated through the Guidance Department. Parent/Teacher conferences are arranged and conducted in the Guidance area. If a need arises, referrals to support services are made.

PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Each student will participate in a group guidance scheduling orientation.
2. Each student must prepare a class selection sheet/registration form with parental signature required.
3. Each student must meet course prerequisites before enrolling for a class.
4. Your registration for required and elective subjects is a commitment to remain in that class for the entire term.
5. A registration form will be submitted by each student.
6. If necessary, the Guidance Department will call each student to their office to further counsel and advise on all course selections and requests.

SELECTION OF ELECTIVE COURSES/SCHEDULE CHANGES

Please give careful consideration to the selection of elective courses. An elective course should be chosen based on a student's interest and ability in that subject, rather than because "friends are taking it." Registration for elective courses is a commitment to remain in these classes for their duration. Any request for a schedule change must be submitted in writing (noting specific reason for request) by the parent/guardian to the Guidance Office. The parent/guardian will be notified of the decision after the request is reviewed by administration. Schedule changes will be kept to a minimum and will only be made under extenuating circumstances by school administration.

INCOMPLETE GRADES

All incomplete grades must be made up within 10 school days after the completion of a marking period. Otherwise, they will become a failure grade for the stated period. It is the student's responsibility to see the instructor for all make-up material and for meeting the requirement.

KNOCH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Course Offerings - Grade 6

Students will be taking the courses listed below:

Grade 6

- 160** - English 6
- 161** - Reading 6
- 162** - Discovering Literature 6*
- 260** - Social Studies 6
- 360** - Math 6
- 460** - Science 6

* See page 6 for prerequisites.

Learning Support Students Only

- 664** - Learning Support English 6
- 666** - Learning Support Math 6
- 880** - Learning Support Resource Room 6-7-8
- 669** - Learning Support Reading 6

860 - Unified Arts

- General Music
- Art
- Word Processing
- Information Skills
- Family Consumer Science
- Physical Education/Health 6
- Technology Education

Students may elect to take the following courses:

Grade 6

- 861** - Orchestra 6
- 862** - Band 6
- 863** - Chorus 6

KNOCH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Course Offerings - Grades 7 and 8

Students are required to take the courses listed below:

Grade 7

- 170 - English 7
- 171 - Reading 7
- 172 - Discovering Literature 7*
- 270 - Western World 7
- 370 - Math 7 or
- 371 - Pre-Algebra (Teacher Recommendation)
- 375- Fundamentals of Math 7 (One Semester * Day 1/Day 2)
- 470 – Life Science 7
- 471 – Earth and Space Science 7
- 7823 - Physical Education 7 Male (One Semester)
- 7824 - Physical Education 7 Female (One Semester)
- 570 - Health 7 (One Semester)
- 571 - Computer Applications (One Semester)
- 382 - Algebra 1 (Prerequisite)

* See pages 10,11,12,14,16,19 for prerequisites.

Learning Support Students Only

- 774 - Learning Support English 7
- 775 - Learning Support Math 7
- 776 - Learning Support Reading 7
- 880 - Learning Support Resource Room 6-7-8

Semester Elective Classes – Grades 7 & 8

The following elective classes will be 18 weeks (one semester) in length. The elective classes will consist of mixed groups of 7th and 8th graders. Students will need to select two elective classes for each open period in their schedule.

In the area of Family and Consumer Sciences:

- 7801 - Career Connections
- 7802 - Food and Finances
- 7803 - Child Development

In the area of General Music:

- 7806 - World Percussion Ensemble
- 7807 - Media Arts I
- 7808 - Media Arts II

In the area of English/Language Arts:

- 7825 – Greek and Roman Mythology (Prerequisite)

Students may elect to take the following courses:

Grade 7

- 873 - Chorus
- 872 - Band 7
- 881 - Orchestra 7

Grade 7 & 8

- 885 - Jazz Band 7-8 *by audition only

Grade 8

- 180 - English 8 or
- 1180 - Advanced English 8 (Prerequisite)
- 181 - Reading 8
- 182 - Discovering Literature 8*
- 280 - American History 8

- 381 - Pre-Algebra 8 or
- 382 - Algebra I (Prerequisite)
- 384 - Geometry (Prerequisite)
- 480 - Science 8 or
- 481 - IPS Science 8 (Prerequisites)
- 7823 - Physical Education 8 Male (One Semester)
- 7824 - Physical Education 8 Female (One Semester)
- 590 - Intro to Programming (One Semester)

- 874 - Learning Support English 8

- 876 - Learning Support Math 8

- 879 - Learning Support Reading 8

- 880 - Learning Support Resource Room 6-7-8

In the area of Technology Education:

- 7818 - Manufacturing Through Industrial Materials
- 7819 - Experiencing Modern Technology/Robotics
- 7820 - GTT Design & Modeling
- 7821 - GTT Flight & Space
- 7822 - Automation & Robotics

In the area of Art:

- 7812 - Cartooning
- 7813 - Drawing and Painting
- 7814 - The Art of Clay and Wire Sculpture

Grade 8

- 580 - Spanish I * classes held with High School Students

- 581 - German

- 882 - Orchestra 8

- 883 - Band 8

- 884 - Chorus

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Grade 6

160 - ENGLISH - GRADE 6 Full Year - 1 Period

English 6 is designed to enhance the concepts taught at the elementary level. This course combines the study of grammar, vocabulary, writing, and literature. Speaking and listening skills are taught as integral components of daily communication. The objectives for English 6 are aligned to the PA Core Standards for Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Research.

161 - READING - GRADE 6 Full Year - 1 Period

The reading program for 6th grade continues the development of reading skills from the elementary grades. The reading program includes the implementing of different strategies through the exploration of a variety of genres. These genres are taught through short stories as well as novels. Theme book studies will also be used to supplement the program. The course will enhance the student's ability to critically evaluate reading material. The course includes in and out-of-class reading, group projects/reports, class discussion, written evaluations, and critical papers. The course's objectives and assessments are aligned to the PA Core Standards for Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Research.

162 – DISCOVERING LITERATURE - GRADE 6 Full Year - 1 Period – Prerequisite: Student must qualify for the Gifted Program in the area of reading through district testing, or have an A in his/her previous reading class and score advanced on the PSSA Reading 5 test at the 82nd percentile or higher. Fifth grade Reading Benchmark Assessments will also be taken into consideration (preferred advanced performance).

Discovering Literature 6 is designed for the sixth grade student who has either qualified for the Gifted Program or has met the above mentioned prerequisites and will replace Developmental Reading 6 in the student's schedule. The student will read a variety of materials from several different genres. Emphasis will be placed on class discussion, research, writing, technology use, and interdisciplinary extension activities. The course will enhance higher order thinking skills in their tasks.

260 - SOCIAL STUDIES - GRADE 6 Full Year - 1 Period

The sixth grade Social Studies course covers a variety of subject areas including: geography, climate, the environment, and the people of Asia, Africa, & the Pacific. All of Pennsylvania's State Standards are covered.

360 - MATH - GRADE 6 Full Year * See page 13 for higher math choices.

Math 6 will focus on developing the final stages of computation skills taught at the elementary level. At the completion of this course, the student will demonstrate workable background knowledge of number and operations, algebra, geometry, measurement, data analysis and probability, techniques of problem solving, the multiplication and division of decimals, fractional computation, ratio and proportion. The course will provide opportunities and stresses the importance for the students to become independent learners. These basic skills and strategies will be facilitated by incorporating calculators, with the intent of enhancing future technological literacy. The objectives for Math 6 are aligned with the PA Core Standards.

460 - SCIENCE - GRADE 6 Full Year - 1 Period

Sixth grade science is a one-year course. The course consists of the following modules: Electricity and Magnetism, Sound and Light, Water on Earth, and Weather and Climate. Lab activities, projects, class discussions, and technology enhance the curriculum, which is aligned to the Pennsylvania and National Science Education Standards.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Learning Support Services are available to students diagnosed as exceptional and in need of special education services. The purpose of Learning Support is to educate to their maximum achievement those children who cannot fully benefit from the regular curriculum.

664 - LEARNING SUPPORT ENGLISH 6

666 - LEARNING SUPPORT MATH 6

880 - LEARNING SUPPORT RESOURCE ROOM 6-7-8

669 - LEARNING SUPPORT READING 6

Emotional Support Services are available to students that qualify for this program. These services are deemed appropriate by each I.E.P. team.

LEARNING SUPPORT RESOURCE ROOM

The Learning Support Resource Room is available for students diagnosed as exceptional and in need of special education services. Students receive support service as needed to assist them in all areas of the curriculum. This may be accomplished through techniques such as additional instruction, individual help on assignments, and oral testing. This program may offer direct instruction in Social Studies, Science, Math, Reading, and English when regular curriculum courses are deemed not appropriate by the I.E.P. team.

860 - UNIFIED ARTS SUBJECTS - GRADE 6

Unified Arts 6 contain the following subjects:

ART - GRADE 6

The sixth grade Unified Arts Course is a project-centered program. The basic elements of art are reintroduced and reviewed. The projects are two-dimensional and three-dimensional with an emphasis on mastering the medium. Art history is intermixed with each of the project activities. This course is intended to review and further explore basic art elements, techniques, and medium.

GENERAL MUSIC - GRADE 6

General Music 6 is an introductory level music class. Students will be introduced to music fundamentals such as basic keyboard playing, music literature, and level 1 piano playing.

WORD PROCESSING - GRADE 6

This course will begin with a brief review of keyboarding skills to improve skills gained in fifth grade. Emphasis will be placed on speed and accuracy. Students will use Dell computers and the Microsoft Word and Google Documents applications to learn basic word processing commands. Basic draw tools and commands are covered, as well as importing graphics to enhance documents. Students will also utilize proofreading, revising, and editing skills while composing a variety of documents on the computer. The basic of PowerPoint and an Introduction to Internet Terminology and usage will be introduced. (PA Standards 1.1.8E, 1.2.8A, 1.2.8B, 1.4.8B, 1.5.8A, 1.5.8G, 1.6.8E, 1.6.8F, 1.8.8A, 1.8.8B, 1.8.8C, 3.6.10B, 3.7.7C, 3.7.7D, 3.7.7E)

FAMILY CONSUMER SCIENCE - GRADE 6

The sixth grade Family Consumer Science course is designed for self-discovery, understanding and building relationships, managing your life, and working in the kitchen. Students will discover themselves and the world in which they live. They will learn about building relationships and communication with others. They will learn how to work with young children through babysitting and an understanding of child development. Through learning to manage their life, students will learn about decision making and goal setting. At the completion of the course, students will learn the basics of working in the kitchen and how to make delicious and nutritious recipes.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION – Grade 6

Tech. Ed. 6 is an introductory level, classroom manufacturing experience where students will become familiar with the use of basic hand and power tools and also develop skills in the safe operation and care of them. Students will also learn the importance of measuring, planning, and organizing. During the class, students will have a fun and informative experience learning how to plan and construct various simple and unique teacher generated projects.

INFORMATION SKILLS - GRADE 6

Technology is fundamental to the Library Information Skills curriculum. Our Information Skills curriculum has been designed to teach students how to effectively access, evaluate and use information resources. Formats of focus include primary source documents, databases, and Internet sites. The 6th grade students will also be introduced to online literature formats that promote literacy and encourage pleasure reading.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH - GRADE 6

Physical Education is an important part of the total educational program. Students participate in physical activities that allow them to develop an understanding of the physical abilities of themselves and others. Students become aware of the social benefits of physical activity through participation. The mental and emotional benefits of physical activity become evident when an active role in physical activity is encouraged.

The total development of students is the goal of the educational system. Physical Education is a vital part in reaching this goal. A variety of activities are incorporated into the physical education program. The class is composed of a range of fitness activities, creative movement endeavors, co-operative games and lifetime/team sports. The age level of the individuals is a factor determining what activity is to be provided, but the outcome at any level should be the same.

All students have the need and right to enjoy the benefits of physical activity. Through a creative and well-rounded physical education program, students will benefit.

The Health course is designed to promote student learning with regard to health issues that affect the immediate and long-term health of each student. Maintaining a healthy way of living requires a balance of physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being.

Health education provides students with knowledge of skills necessary to confront health related issues and make a smooth transition from puberty to adolescence.

By providing a comprehensive middle school health education program, we are facilitating optimum student learning. When children are healthy, they can learn; when they are educated, they can stay healthy.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Grade 6

861 - ORCHESTRA - GRADE 6 Students will be assigned to Orchestra by their Elementary Instrumental Instructor. No beginning Orchestra students should enroll in this class without prior approval of Orchestra Instructor.

The elementary school string student joins the sixth grade orchestra to continue study on their instrument. String technique is the main focus of this course; therefore only violin, viola, cello and bass are accepted into this ensemble. The orchestra is designed to further develop the physical and mental skills of musicianship through orchestral literature.

862 - BAND - GRADE 6 Students will be assigned to Band by their Elementary Instrumental Instructor. No beginning Band students should enroll in this class without prior approval of Band Instructor.

The Middle School Band work is divided into three groups - sixth, seventh, and eighth grade band. The elementary school band student joins the sixth grade band to continue the study of his/her instrument. Effort is made to keep a proper balance of instrumentation.

The band groups are designed to develop further the physical and mental skills and musicianship through use of moderately difficult music. The three bands are the preparatory organizations for students seeking admission into the senior high band and afford an opportunity to learn the principles of senior band discipline and performance.

863 - CHORUS - GRADE 6 Students will be assigned to chorus by their Elementary Chorus Instructor, however, Sixth Grade Chorus is open to all sixth grade students.

The Sixth Grade Chorus curriculum is an introduction to proper singing and a continuation of the students' study of music. This class will introduce the fundamentals of vocal technique, choral technique, and musicianship, which are the basis of all studies throughout middle school and high school choral programs. The changing voice is strongly emphasized to help all students better understand the process of vocal maturation and ease their transition through the coming years.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Grades 7-8

170 - ENGLISH - GRADE 7 Full Year - 1 Period

English 7 is designed to further enhance the spelling, vocabulary, grammar, and literature concepts taught at the lower grades. The writing process is also taught with emphasis given to narrative, descriptive, persuasive, and creative writings as well as research and correspondence. The curriculum and objectives are aligned to the PA Core Standards for Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening.

171 - READING - GRADE 7 Full Year - 1 Period

The reading program for seventh grade continues the development of reading skills from the elementary grades. Emphasis is on understanding and interpreting literature. Students read stories, plays, and poetry both aloud and silently. Each student is responsible for bringing his/her own silent reading material according to his/her interest. Course objectives are aligned to the PA Core Standards for writing, literature, listening and speaking, reading and study skills, vocabulary, and research.

172 - DISCOVERING LITERATURE - GRADE 7 Full Year - 1 Period – Prerequisite: Student must qualify for the Gifted Program in the area of reading through district testing, or have above 96% in his/her previous reading class (81% or higher is required in Discovering Literature 6) and score advanced on the PSSA Reading 6 test at the 83rd percentile or higher to be placed in Discovering Literature 7. Sixth grade Reading Benchmark Assessments will also be taken into consideration (preferred advanced performance).

Discovering Literature is designed for the 7th grade student who has either qualified for a Gifted Individualized Education Plan through district testing or has met the above mentioned prerequisites. It will replace Reading 7 in the student's schedule. Many of the assigned readings will require the abilities of a mature reader. The students will read a variety of genres, each relating to a particular theme. Through their reading, students will develop insight concerning interpersonal relationships and world events. Emphasis will be placed on class discussion, writing, research, technology use, and interdisciplinary extension activities. Curriculum is aligned with the PA Core Standards for Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening.

180 - ENGLISH - GRADE 8 Full Year - 1 Period

English 8 is designed to expand previously learned skills and develop new skills and concepts in the areas of grammar, vocabulary, and writing. Students will be required to write narrative, informative and argumentative essays as well as text-dependent analyses while utilizing and enhancing vocabulary and grammar skills. Oral requirements will include at least one formal class presentation and daily class participation. Basic literary concepts will be introduced and reinforced through the novel The Outsiders. The curriculum is aligned to PA Core Standards.

1180 - ADVANCED ENGLISH GRADE 8 Full Year - 1 Period

Prerequisite: Teacher Signature (recommendation from 7th grade English teacher)

Criteria taken into consideration when placing students into Advanced English 8:

- * 85% average or higher in English 7
- * Proficient or Advanced on 6th grade ELA PSSA
- * Evaluation of English 7 writing assignments
- * Strong understanding and skill base regarding grammar, writing, and literary concepts
- * Ability to grasp concepts with ease and independence
- * Strong work ethic and assignment completion, including responsibility and accountability

Advanced English 8 is designed to replace English 8 in the student's schedule for those who have met the prerequisites above. This course will increase the rigor in expanding previously learned skills and developing new skills and concepts in the areas of grammar, vocabulary, and writing. Students will be required to write narrative, informative, and argumentative essays as well as text-dependent analyses while utilizing and enhancing vocabulary and grammar skills. Students will also develop speaking skills, which will be utilized throughout their high school years and beyond and will help them feel comfortable in various speaking situations, both formal and informal. Higher level literary concepts will be reinforced through the novel The Outsiders. The curriculum is aligned to PA Core Standards.

181 - READING - GRADE 8 Full Year - 1 Period

Reading 8 is designed to continue the development of reading skills with an emphasis on comprehending, interpreting, and analyzing literature. Students will read a variety of genres which include poetry, short stories, plays, nonfiction, and novels. In addition to reading a variety of genres, students will explore Edgar Allan Poe and the horror story, Anne Frank and World War II, Ray Bradbury and science fiction, the Great Depression and the novel Bud, Not Buddy. Course objectives are aligned to PA Core Standards.

182 - DISCOVERING LITERATURE - GRADE 8 Full Year - 1 Period – Prerequisite: Student must qualify for the Gifted Program in the area of reading through district testing, or have above 96% in his/her previous reading class (81% or higher is required in Discovering Literature 7) and score advanced on the PSSA Reading 7 test at the 82nd percentile or higher to be placed in Discovering Literature 8. Seventh grade Reading Benchmark Assessments will also be taken into consideration (preferred advanced performance).

Discovering Literature 8 is designed for the 8th grade student who has either qualified for a Gifted Individualized Education Plan through district testing or has met the above mentioned prerequisites. It will replace Reading 8 in the student's schedule. Students will read a variety of materials relating to particular themes. Emphasis will be placed on class discussion, research, writing, technology use, and interdisciplinary extension activities. The curriculum is aligned to the PA Core Standards for Reading, Speaking, and Listening.

270 – WESTERN WORLD - GRADE 7 Full Year - 1 Period

Western World is a required social studies course for all students in seventh grade. Presented as an introduction to world cultures in a historical format, Western World integrates standard-based content and research-based reading instruction, offering students support so they understand and remember what they learn. Western World also fosters geographic literacy and helps students discover the world they live in today. All course objectives are aligned to the Pennsylvania State Standards for history.

280 - AMERICAN HISTORY - GRADE 8 Full Year - 1 Period

The course of study follows the Pennsylvania Standards, beginning with the Early Civilizations of the America's through Western Expansion of the United States. The focus of this course content is the creation of the 13 English Colonies, the American Revolution, and the creation of the United States through civics. The course will then conclude with the Western Expansion of the United States.

370 - MATHEMATICS - GRADE 7 Full Year - 1 Period

This course is designed for 7th grade students who intend on taking Pre-Algebra in their 8th grade year. The topics addressed in this course are aligned to the 7th grade PA Core Standards and will prepare students for a Pre-Algebra course the following year. The first portion of the course is designated towards review of basic operations and mathematical concepts. Fundamental Algebraic concepts such as solving one-step and multi-step equations are introduced. Additional concepts aligned with the PA Core Standards include ratios and proportions, geometry, probability and statistics, and data analysis. Students will apply their knowledge and skills by solving real-world applications throughout each section.

371 - PRE-ALGEBRA - GRADE 6 OR 7 Full Year - 1 Period

Prerequisite: Updates to follow

This course is designed for 6th or 7th grade students who are accelerated to a degree and who intend to complete Algebra 1 the following year. Fundamental Algebraic concepts such as solving one-step/multi-step equations with whole or rational numbers and writing/graphing inequalities are emphasized. Additional concepts aligned with the PA Core Standards include ratios and proportions, geometry, probability and statistics, and data analysis. Students will apply their knowledge and skills by solving real-world applications throughout each section.

375 – FUNDAMENTALS OF MATH 7 Semester– Day 1/Day 2

This semester course is designed for all 7th grade students. The topics addressed in this course are aligned to the PA Core 7th grade math standards, and will provide students with a strong mathematical foundation. A portion of this course will be devoted to addressing commonly challenging mathematics skills including but not limited to; fractions, decimals, mixed numbers, integers, and rational numbers. The other portion of this course will provide practice of concepts and skills in the areas of numbers and operations, algebraic concepts, geometry, measurement, data, and probability, in addition to students' daily mathematics course.

384 – GEOMETRY – GRADE 8 Full Year – 1 Period

Prerequisite: Students must have taken Algebra I and passed with an 81%.

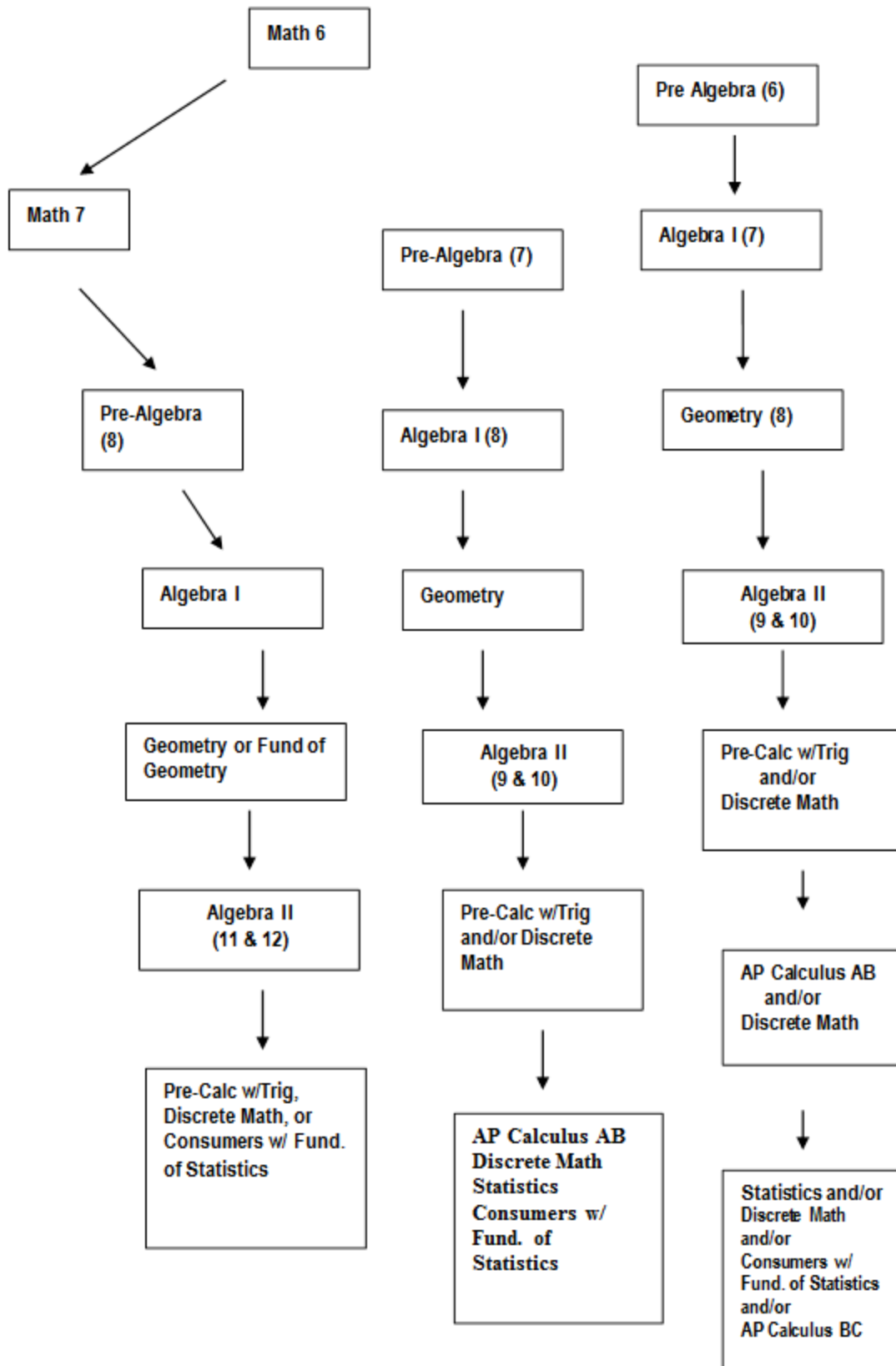
As indicated above, Geometry 8 is designed for the student who had Algebra I in seventh grade. The basic structure (undefined terms, definitions, postulates, theorems) of geometry is studied in detail. Deductive reasoning, logical thinking, and analytical skills are used extensively throughout the course. Direct proofs and indirect proofs will be used to validate conjectures. Properties of congruent triangles, similar triangles, and quadrilaterals will be used to geometrically model, formulate, and solve problems. Some of the aims of the Geometry 8 course include the improvement of the student's planar and spatial visualization, organization of thought, and precision of language. The curriculum is aligned to the PA Core Standards.

381 - PRE-ALGEBRA - GRADE 8 Full Year - 1 Period

This course is designed for 8th grade students who intend on taking Algebra 1 in the 9th grade year. The topics addressed in this course area aligned to the 8th grade PA Core Standards and will prepare students for an Algebra 1 course the following year. Fundamental Algebraic concepts such as solving one-step and multi-step equations, graphing and writing linear equations, systems of linear equations, and functions are emphasized. Additional PA Core Standards topics include transformations of figures, angles and triangles, real numbers and the Pythagorean Theorem, volume, and data analysis. Students will apply their knowledge and skills by solving real-world applications throughout each section.

382 - ALGEBRA I - GRADE 7 & 8 Full Year - 1 Period - Prerequisite: 81% in previous math course.

This course reviews number concepts and the fundamental processes of Mathematics. It aims to develop a mastery of the meaning and use of formulas and equations. It emphasizes the acquisition of skills using literal numbers, formulas, equations, signed numbers, functional relations, graphs, factoring, and fractions. Problem solving is emphasized. The curriculum is aligned to the PA Core Standards.



470 – LIFE SCIENCE – GRADE 7 Semester – 1 Period

Semester course that focuses on the cell-the basic unit of life, and many of the cell’s processes including cell division, photosynthesis and cellular respiration. Basic genetics, the history of life on earth, and all of the kingdoms of living things are also covered in this course.

471 – EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCE – GRADE 7 Semester – 1 Period

Semester course that focuses on Earth’s resources, the formation and destruction of land-forms, the movement of tectonic plates, an understanding of the universe, our solar system, and how the Sun-Earth-Moon system plays a role in our lives.

480 - SCIENCE - GRADE 8 Full Year - 1 Period

Eighth grade science is a one-year course. The course consists of the following modules: Introduction to Matter, Interactions of Matter, Forces-Motion-Energy, and Environmental Science. Lab activities, projects, class discussions and technology enhance the curriculum, which are aligned to the Pennsylvania and National Science Education Standards.

481 - IPS SCIENCE - GRADE 8 Full Year - 1 Period – Prerequisites*

Introductory Physical Science (IPS) is a fabulous course designed to develop inductive reasoning and conclusive science skills based on a planned scheme of inquiry. Students gain confidence, knowledge, and writing skills through hands on investigation of scientific principles.

*Prerequisites for IPS 8

- 92% Average for 3 marking periods of 7th grade science.
- 92% Average in Pre-Algebra (7th Grade).
- 85% Average in Algebra I (7th Grade).
- 7th Grade Science teacher recommendation.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Learning Support Services are available to students diagnosed as exceptional and in need of special education services. The purpose of Learning Support is to educate to their maximum achievement those children who cannot fully benefit from the regular curriculum.

- 774 - LEARNING SUPPORT ENGLISH 7**
- 874 - LEARNING SUPPORT ENGLISH 8**
- 775 - LEARNING SUPPORT MATH 7**
- 876 - LEARNING SUPPORT MATH 8**
- 776 - LEARNING SUPPORT READING 7**
- 879 - LEARNING SUPPORT READING 8**
- 880 - LEARNING SUPPORT RESOURCE ROOM 6-7-8**

Emotional Support Services are available to students that qualify for this program. These services are deemed appropriate by each I.E.P. team.

LEARNING SUPPORT RESOURCE ROOM

The Learning Support Resource Room is available for students diagnosed as exceptional and in need of special education services. Students receive support service as needed to assist them in all areas of the curriculum. This may be accomplished through techniques such as additional instruction, individual help on assignments, and oral testing. This program may offer direct instruction in Social Studies, Science, Math, Reading, and English when regular curriculum courses are deemed not appropriate by the I.E.P. team.

COMPUTER COURSES – GRADES 7 & 8

All students will be scheduled into the grade appropriate computer class.

571 – COMPUTER APPLICATIONS – GRADE 7

In the Computer Applications course, students will use Dell Computers and the Microsoft Office applications to refine keyboarding skills, enhance word processing skills, and create spreadsheets used to calculate. Students will also learn advanced PowerPoint presentation skills. In Publisher, students will learn how to create and edit different document templates. Students will create movies in Windows moviemaker and design a website using web authoring software. Students will also use the GAFE accounts to create a variety of Google Docs and learn how to use the other G-Suite Apps. (PA Standards 1.1.8E, 1.2.8A, 1.5.8A, 1.6.8E, 1.6.8F, 1.8.8A, 1.8.8B, 1.8.8C, 3.6.10B, 3.7.7C, 3.7.7D, 3.7.7E)

590 - INTRODUCTION TO PROGRAMMING - GRADE 8

Students will be introduced to the basic fundamentals of computer programming. Students will design, write, execute and debug computer programs and provide a foundation of computer programming logic and sequence. Variables, conditional statements, looping and output will all be covered as part of the course curriculum.

Experience will be gained in a variety of programming environments that will include interactive/drag-and-drop programming environments (Scratch) as well as a traditional programming environment.

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

7823 (Male) / 7824 (Female) - PHYSICAL EDUCATION - GRADES 7 & 8

Physical Education is a semester long course which consists of a mix of seventh and eighth grade students in a co-education classroom environment. The curriculum is designed to encourage vigorous activity, foster co-operation and creativity, emphasize safety, and stimulate desirable social development while promoting lifetime participation to improve one's overall wellness. Students will be encouraged to become intrinsically motivated to continue doing fitness activities once the class is over on their own time. The focus of the class will be fitness based activities that will improve one's cardiovascular and overall body strength along with co-operative games, team sport and lifetime/leisure activities.

570 - HEALTH - GRADE 7

Middle School Health is a semester long course. The curriculum will consist of the following: instruction on the body systems, emphasized instruction in avoiding risk behaviors such as the use of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs, abstaining from engaging in sexual activity, inadequate physical activity, unhealthy eating, understanding the need to get help with thoughts and behaviors that may result in intentional or unintentional injuries. This class will also promote character education (respect, responsibility, citizenship, caring, honesty, trustworthiness, and empathy for others) by encouraging students to become healthy, caring citizens.

SEMESTER ELECTIVE CLASSES – GRADES 7 & 8

The following elective classes will be 18 weeks (one semester) in length. The elective classes will consist of mixed groups of 7th and 8th graders. Students will need to select two elective classes for each open period in their schedule.

In the area of English/Language Arts

7825 – GREEK AND ROMAN MYTHOLOGY

This course will introduce students to the myths of ancient Greece—stories about gods, heroes, and monsters that people used to explain their relationships to the world around them and the ways in which images and ideas from ancient myths and texts shape later literary traditions. In addition, students will actively participate in discussions of the mythology of the Greeks, the relationship between Greek and World myths, and the influence of classical mythology on later literature, art, and philosophy. Some of the topics for discussion include the oral tradition, the Creation myth, the Trojan War, the Olympians and the Titans, the Epic Hero Cycle, and heroes such as Hercules, Jason and the Argonauts, and other famous gods and goddesses. Modern day heroes found in pop culture will be compared to the ancient Greek and Roman figures. This class will focus on reading myths from the textbook along with teacher-supplemented materials. This course will challenge students with writing assignments, group projects and oral presentations.

Prerequisite for Mythology

- Students must have at least a C average in both English and Reading class.

In the area of Family Consumer Sciences:

7801 – CAREER CONNECTIONS

This is a fun and interactive hands-on course where students learn about the world of food, fashion design, interior design, and child development. Students will learn about the food groups and how to cook and eat healthy meals. They will learn element and design principles for both fashion and interior design through project based units. They will also learn how children grow and develop through the study of childcare.

7802 – FOOD AND FINANCES

This class is designed for the young adult to learn basic skills for survival in today's society. Through a food science and nutrition unit they will learn how to live healthy lifestyles. For the first nine weeks, they will learn about nutrients and how they work in the body. Through cooking and preparing meals they will learn how to make and select healthful foods. Through the second nine weeks, they will explore careers and what the job process entails. They will also learn about Consumerism through making informed choices, managing their money, building financial security, and making wise spending decisions.

7803 – CHILD DEVELOPMENT

This one semester course will prepare students to meet the responsibilities of childcare and/or a career working with young children. The students will learn about the ages and stages of child development from infancy up to school-age. They will learn how children develop socially, emotionally, physically, intellectually, and morally. As part of this course, students will get to experience assisting in the high school preschool program working with the preschoolers. (No additional cost for the course.)

In the area of General Music:

7806 - WORLD PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

This class will be a hands on percussion ensemble class. Students will have an opportunity to perform on various world percussion instruments. They will learn various musical literatures found throughout the world. Students will also get the opportunity to write their own compositions. At the end of the semester they will demonstrate their hard work through a live **mandatory** performance. This class may be taken more than once since it is an ensemble class.

7807 – MEDIA ARTS I (Currently Stem Music, proposed course change)

Introduction to multimedia. Students learn the laws in regards to copyright laws and using music and video that is copyright protected. Students explore various Fine Arts Fields via a research project giving them an idea of the vast number of job possibilities in the Fine Arts/Media Arts Field. Through project based learning, students demonstrate their comprehension of recording, mixing and sequencing audio and video. They use many platforms in completing their projects, including audio and video software programs such as Mixcraft 8 and Finale.

7808 – MEDIA ARTS II (Currently Stem Music, proposed course change)

This is a continuation of Media Arts I. Students build upon the fundamentals learned in Media Arts I and complete more advanced projects demonstrating competency. They explore use of the video camera, web camera, iPad and their smartphone in recording video and taking photographs. They learn to use programs in the Adobe suite, such as Premiere, Audition, Photoshop, Animate, Character Animator, Adobe Spark, and others.

In the area of Art:

7812 - CARTOONING

This course introduces 7th and 8th grade students to different aspects and basic techniques of cartooning and animation drawing. Three genres of cartooning are explored. The course encompasses an in-depth study of advertisement, illustrative, and political editorial cartoons. Instruction includes the historical study of specific types of cartoons. Styles of cartoons, thematic types, and construction of cartoon character for the technique of animation and communication are hand drawn, painted, and inked. This course is 18 weeks long and designed to enrich the students' drawing skills and promote understand of cartooning and animation.

7813 - DRAWING AND PAINTING

This course introduces 7th and 8th grade students to the materials and basic drawing and painting techniques of a variety of two dimensional materials. Students will focus on developing individual drawing ideas that will be sketched, drawn, and rendered in two dimensional materials. These drawing and painting techniques will be combined to create an original work of art. This course will introduce students to realistic two dimensional drawing and painting.

7814 - THE ART OF CLAY AND WIRE SCULPTURE

This course introduces 7th & 8th grade students to the materials and basic building techniques of ceramics and wire. Students will focus on developing individual sculptural ideas that will be sketched, drawn, and rendered in these three dimensional materials. These building techniques will be modeling, molding, and assemblage. Sculptural pieces will be enhanced and finished with individual ornamentation. This course will introduce students to three dimensional sculpting.

In the area of Technology Education:

7818 - MANUFACTURING THROUGH INDUSTRIAL MATERIALS

During this course, students will develop safety awareness and also a working knowledge of the use and care of hand tools and basic power equipment. Through the construction of teacher generated required projects the students will experience organizing, designing, and engineering of a manufactured product.

7819 - EXPERIENCING MODERN TECHNOLOGY/ROBOTICS

Experiencing Modern Technology class will provide the students with a fun and informative experience investigating three content areas loaded with new and interesting developments. During class, students will enjoy a hands on exploratory experience learning about and applying structural engineering principles. Students will then get acquainted with the field of visual communications/graphic design by designing and creating a tee shirt graphic. Finally, the class will develop a basic understanding of robotics technology utilizing the Lego NXT Robotics kits.

7820 – GTT DESIGN & MODELING (PLTW GATEWAY)

Students are introduced to the design process and how it relates to creativity in developing new products and innovations. They will work individually and collaboratively throughout the course. Measurement, dimensioning, and multi view drawings will be utilized with the design process in creating a puzzle cube. The CAD program 123dDesign™ will be utilized to create 3D models.

7822 – AUTOMATION AND ROBOTICS (PLTW GATEWAY)

Students learn about engineering careers, product invention, and innovation. Using Vex Robotic kits, a hands on exploration of simple machines, complex machines, and gear ratios will add to the adventure of building robots. Many challenges will be incorporated in the building, operation, and programming of the VEX Robotics kits. Students will work and problem solve individually and collaboratively throughout the course.

7821 - FLIGHT & SPACE

The exciting world of aerospace comes alive through Flight and Space. Students explore the science behind aeronautics and use their knowledge to design, build, and test an airfoil. Custom-built simulation software allows students to experience space travel.

FULL YEAR ELECTIVE COURSES – GRADES 7 & 8

580 - Spanish 1 - GRADE 8 Full Year - 5 Periods/Week - Prerequisite: Must have scored advanced or proficient on the 7th grade PSSA Reading test and have counselor recommendation.

Spanish 8 is an introduction to the language and culture of the Hispanic world. Listening, speaking, reading, and writing of Spanish are all explored, with a great emphasis on listening and speaking. Students will learn basic vocabulary and expressions and should be able to communicate their thoughts in an everyday social situation. Various activities will be used to reinforce concepts learned in class.

* If you schedule band/chorus/orchestra and a foreign language, and did not score proficient on the PSSA math and/or reading in grade 7, you will meet with your counselor to determine your grade 8 electives.

581 - German 1 - GRADE 8 Full Year - 5 Periods/Week - Prerequisite: Must have scored advanced or proficient on the 7th grade PSSA Reading test and have counselor recommendation.

The first year of language instruction emphasizes the sounds of the language and basic sentence structures. The students learn the alphabet and listen to native speakers on CD's to develop their listening and speaking skills. The mastery of these skills will be accomplished by practicing short dialogs. Basic vocabulary about school and subjects, home and family, sports and recreation, food, and the weather will be taught through listening and speaking opportunities. In addition, students also read and write about each topic in the unit. Time will be devoted to learning various folk songs and customs. There will be opportunities for independent learning through the making of projects and internet activities.

881- ORCHESTRA - GRADE 7 No beginning Orchestra Students should enroll in this class without prior approval of Orchestra Instructor.

The seventh grade string student continues study of their instruments in this orchestra as they begin to work on more advanced technique and repertoire. String technique is the main focus of this course; therefore only violin, viola, cello and bass are accepted into this ensemble. The orchestra is designed to further develop the physical and mental skills of musicianship through orchestral literature.

872 - BAND - GRADE 7 No beginning Band Students should enroll in this class without prior approval of Band Instructor.

The Middle School Band work is divided into three groups - sixth grade band, seventh grade band and eighth grade band. The student joins the seventh grade band to continue the study of his/her instrument. Effort is made to keep a proper balance of instrumentation.

The band groups are designed to develop further the physical and mental skills and musicianship through use of moderately difficult music. The three bands are the preparatory organizations for students seeking admission into the senior high band and afford an opportunity to learn the principles of senior band discipline and performance.

873 - CHORUS - GRADE 7

The Seventh Grade Chorus curriculum continues developing the skills required for proper vocal technique, choral technique, and musicianship, which are the basis of all studies throughout the middle school and high school choral programs. The changing voice is emphasized as the students begin to expand their vocal ranges. The difficulty of music increases as the students begin to study as a soprano, alto, and baritone chorus.

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882 - ORCHESTRA - GRADE 8 No beginning Orchestra students should enroll without prior approval of the Orchestra Instructor.

The eighth grade string student continues study of their instrument in this orchestra as they advance their technique. String technique is the main focus of this course therefore only violin, viola, cello and bass are accepted into this ensemble. The orchestra is designed to further develop the physical and mental skills of musicianship through orchestral literature. This class also helps students prepare for an effortless transition into the high school orchestra program.

883 - BAND - GRADE 8 No beginning Band students should enroll in this class without prior approval of Band Instructor.

The Middle School Band work is divided into three groups - sixth grade band, seventh grade band and eighth grade band. The student joins the eighth grade band to continue the study of his/her instrument. Effort is made to keep a proper balance of instrumentation.

The band groups are designed to develop further the physical and mental skills and musicianship through use of moderately difficult music. The three bands are the preparatory organizations for students seeking admission into the senior high band and afford an opportunity to learn the principles of senior band discipline and performance.

884 - CHORUS - GRADE 8

The Eighth Grade Chorus curriculum continues developing the skills required for proper vocal technique, choral technique, and musicianship, which are the basis of all studies throughout the middle school and high school choral programs. This class also helps students to prepare for an effortless transition into the high school choral program.

885 – JAZZ BAND – GRADE 7-8

Middle School Jazz Band is open to students who will be in 7th or 8th Grade. Enrollment in Jazz Band is based on an audition that happens in the spring semester of the previous year. Students in Middle School Jazz Band will begin to explore the style, technique, and various elements of jazz music. In addition to their jazz band music, students will be required to perform with the 7th & 8th Grade Concert Band. It is highly recommended that all students take private lessons in order to have a successful audition and maintain their individual progress. Additional rehearsal time after school may be required. The Middle School Jazz Band performs at school concerts and other public performances throughout the year.

SUPPORT/LIBRARY USAGE

The Middle School Library is open to all sixth, seventh and eighth grade students during regular school hours and after school activity hours.

**** The information contained within this manual is subject to change without notice. ****

