



Keystone Oaks Middle School  
Program of Studies  
2016-2017

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### **Keystone Oaks Middle School**

Keystone Oaks Middle School is designed specifically to allow all children to transition from childhood into adolescence. During these three years, students will be given opportunities to experience many disciplines taught by a strong core of teachers who work together to integrate their courses. The administrators, teachers, and school counselor will constructively guide and reinforce each student as he or she explores a changing world and self. This Program of Studies provides an overview of the Keystone Oaks Middle School curriculum with brief descriptions of the planned courses for each grade. Please review the following guide. If you have questions, please feel free to contact any of the staff members listed below:

#### **Keystone Oaks Middle School Administration/Staff**

Jeffrey Kattan, Principal .....	412-571-6146
Marsha Herrle, Secretary .....	412-571-6148
Cindy Soberg, School Counselor .....	412-571-6037
Beth Brandy, Nurse .....	412-571-6073
Lainey Resetar, Librarian .....	412-571-6030

#### **The Academic Environment**

The Middle School encompasses grades six, seven, and eight. In all grade levels, the academic teachers employ a team approach. By bringing together several teachers and a common group of students, teaming creates a small, caring family which ensures that no student will go unnoticed. The six academic teachers work together as a team to coordinate curriculum, plan interdisciplinary activities and share insights about the progress and needs of each student. Students also pursue Art, Music, Computer Science, Health, Technology Education, and Physical Education. In the eighth grade, the students will have the opportunity to choose semester and nine week classes, which helps students to identify their passions and pursue them. Additionally, eighth grade students have the opportunity to schedule an introductory course into the world languages of French and Spanish.

#### **Counseling Services**

The Middle School counselor fulfills a vital role in helping students to meet their personal, social, educational, and career needs. The school counselor uses her expertise to provide counseling, instruction, consultation, prevention, and intervention services in order to help students make informed, positive choices. The Middle School counselor plays an important role in the Bullying Prevention Program. Preparation of the eighth grader students for the high school through the scheduling process is another important role fulfilled by our counselor. The counselor works with middle and high school administration to help to create a smooth transition from the Middle School to the High School.

#### **PSSAs and Keystone Exams**

Currently students in grades 3-8 are required to take PSSA tests in the spring of each school year. Keystone Exams are also used as end-of-course tests. Most of the exams are taken at the high school level, but it depends on the year in which the student takes the tested course. Some of our 8th grade students will take the Keystone Algebra I exam at the conclusion of taking the course. At various time in high school the students will also take Keystone exams in Biology and Literature. As the testing window approaches, more information will be provided.

### **Accelerated ELA, Advanced Math, History, and Science Courses**

We encourage all students to stretch and take the most rigorous courses possible. Honors and advanced courses provide such opportunities. While encouraging students to stretch, we also want to ensure that they are successful; therefore teacher recommendations are a necessary part of the process to take an accelerated course. If parents believe their son or daughter can be successful in the more rigorous level of a course, parents may petition the principal to schedule against the recommendation. The appropriate form can be obtained from the counselor's office which will be reviewed by the principal, and a meeting will be scheduled to discuss the recommendation and best option for the student.

### **Accelerated English/Language Arts Program**

The goal of the Accelerated Language Arts Program at the Middle School is to accelerate the development of the reading and writing skills in high-performing students so that they will be better prepared for future advanced placement opportunities.

This is a rigorous program that requires a high degree of commitment, effort, and time from the students who are selected to participate. Students who are committed to excelling in the areas of reading and writing will experience high-level reading assignments (which are sometimes completed outside of class) and a larger number of assigned essays and projects regarding literature.

The nature of the course requires more demands of the students in the following areas:

- Summer requirements which involve reading of selected novels and completion of any assigned work.
- A greater number of written interpretations of literacy selections.
- Vocabulary development as demonstrated through usage in both written and oral expression.
- A positive attitude, by demonstrating the following:
  - A willingness to read outside of class.
  - An interest in studying more challenging material.
  - A high level of responsibility (Work is consistently completed on time)
  - The self-discipline to study independently.

### **Math Program**

The goal of the Middle School Keystone Oaks Mathematics Department is to meet the diverse needs of all students as they prepare to enter a world where mathematical skills are of increasing importance. In the college prep pathway, students will have the opportunity to be proficient on the Keystone Algebra I exam, a graduation requirement. The department also seeks to provide the extra support for students who may need additional help building strong fundamental skills to succeed on the PSSA exams. Throughout all of the department's courses, teachers emphasize the development of problem solving skills. Teacher recommendations are based on a scoring matrix. All classes are aligned with the PA Core Standards.

### **Library/Media Center**

The Mission of the Keystone Oaks Middle School Library/Media Center is to ensure that students are lifelong learners and effective users of ideas and information. The Library/Media Center program allows students to read and appreciate literature by maintaining a diverse collection that supports the educational, informational, and recreational needs of our Middle School students. Our Library/Media Center serves as a learning commons where students come together to collaborate and examine ideas, create new knowledge, and share that knowledge with others. It provides students with 21st century learning skills and encourages them to become independent users of ideas and information. The Librarian and teachers work collaboratively to develop a curriculum that provides the students with opportunities to acquire information literacy skills, and investigate and disseminate current information to enhance District curricula. The Librarian collaborates with teachers, administrators, and students to acquire materials that supplement classroom learning, and partners with other libraries and institutions to expand available resources.

# 6th Grade Courses

## Sixth Grade Fundamentals of English/Language Arts

Course #: 61101

2 Period Block Daily

This course is intended for any student reading two or more years below grade level to help the student to strengthen his/her skills in word identification, spelling, vocabulary, grammar, usage, reading comprehension and writing. The *Read 180* program is used to address all dimensions of literacy mentioned previously. The *Read 180* program supports the PA Core and includes engaging nonfiction texts encompassing science and social studies content, but also addresses literature. The adaptive technology to individualize instruction for students and to provide powerful data for differentiation to teachers is not only motivating but effective. The class sizes are small and grouping is flexible in order to most effectively address students' individual needs.

## Sixth Grade English/ Language Arts

Course #: 03113

2 Period Block Daily

The sixth Grade English/Language Arts course addresses the fundamentals of literature, grammar, writing, and vocabulary. It is designed for the student to practice and reinforce previously learned skills and introduce new concepts to the sixth grade. The units of study will focus on but are not limited to plot, theme, characterization, of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction. Within these units, students will study vocabulary, practice fluency, read independently, and demonstrate comprehension. Students will produce an argumentative, narrative, and explanatory essay. Novels will be used to reinforce literary skills. Students will also be asked to participate in class discussions, take notes, and read independently as a part of the Accelerated Reading program.

## Sixth Grade Accelerated English/Language Arts

Course #: 03110

2 Period Block Daily

The purpose of sixth grade Accelerated Language Arts Program at the Middle School accelerates the development of the reading and writing skills in high-performing students so that they will be better prepared for future advanced placement opportunities. This course addresses higher level literary skills, writing, poetry, and vocabulary. Throughout the course, students will be introduced to concepts such as, but not limited to, plot, theme, characterization of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction. Within these units students will analyze novels and complete writing based projects. There will also be a weekly poetry enrichment component. Students will need to participate in class discussions, write essays, complete out of class assignments, and read independently as a part of the Accelerated Reading program. The requirements for this class are teacher recommendation, a sample writing assignment, and prior classroom performance.

## Fundamentals of Math 6

Course # 62101

2 Period Block Daily

This course, co-taught by math and special education teachers, is designed for students who were not proficient on the 5th grade PSSA, but may include other students who need additional remediation. Topics will include organizing and displaying data, number theory, algebraic reasoning, integers, rational numbers, proportional

reasoning, percent, plane figures, perimeter, circumference, area, volume, surface area, probability, equations, inequalities, graphs, and functions.

**Prerequisites:** 5th grade teacher recommendation

### **Math 6**

Course # 62102

2 Period Block Daily

This course will prepare students to meet grade level standards. Topics will include organizing and displaying data, number theory, algebraic reasoning, integers, rational numbers, proportional reasoning, percentages, plane figures, perimeter, circumference, area, volume, surface area, probability, equations, inequalities, graphs, and functions.

**Prerequisites:** 5th grade teacher recommendation

### **Accelerated Math 6**

Course # 62103

2 Period Block Daily

This rigorous course for the elite math student will prepare students for Algebra I and is designed for a future AP Calculus student. Topics may include equations, inequalities, graphing, integers, exponents, scientific notation, rational numbers, real numbers, data collection, data displaying, data analysis, plane geometry, perimeter, area and volume, ratios, similarity, percentages, probability, graphing lines, sequences, and functions.

**Prerequisites:** 5th grade teacher recommendation

### **Social Studies 6**

Course #: 03130

5 Periods Per Week

The sixth grade social studies course is designed for students to learn about the development of ancient cultures and the legacy they left behind. The goals and structure of lessons intend to inspire all students to develop an interest in the past and its relationship to the present we experience in our lives today. Students will participate in hands-on activities that deepen knowledge of similarities and differences in culture, climate and history; and discover how these factors can improve their decision making skills and the ability to maintain supportive and solid relationships. Basic geography skills, group learning activities, and research projects are used to enhance student learning and to develop critical thinking skills.

### **Science 6**

Course #: 03140

5 Periods Per Week

The main units of study are Water and Weather, Diversity of Life, and Experiments with Plants. Other topics that are covered throughout the year include lab safety, the branches of science, measurement, and the scientific method. Students will be assessed through a variety of methods including labs, quizzes, tests, projects, homework, and their notebook.

### **Art 6**

Course #: 03170

One quarter, 5 Periods Per Week

This is an introductory middle level Art course that will begin to introduce the principles and elements of art in a variety of projects including drawing, painting and a 3D project.

### **Band 6**

Course #: 03178

Year, 3 Periods Per Week

This course is offered for students interested in further growth and development as wind and percussion band musicians, both as an individual and as part of an ensemble. Course content includes expanding upper and lower pitch range, embouchure development, phrasing techniques, articulation styles, refined intonation and tone production, and an expanded vocabulary and use of expressive terms and symbols in standard notation. Students will prepare and perform wind band literature composed at an appropriate level of difficulty for developing musicians. Students are expected to prepare outside of class at least 4 sessions per week and at least 25 minutes per session. Basic scale memorization and counting techniques will be used. Class grades will be provided based on criteria including growth, participation, rehearsal etiquette, as well as performance and theory assessments.

### **General Music 6**

Course #: 06926

One quarter, 5 Periods

Per Week

Students will explore ways and purposes for which music is created, experienced, and performed. The three areas of Music for Moments, Music for Expressions, and Music for Stories will be used as organizing tools to guide study. Various styles, periods, and cultures of music will be experienced and identified. The use of active listening and classroom instruments or voice, will help students develop a deeper understanding of elements of music including meter, melody, harmony, form, intensity, and timbre. Appropriate examples of theory, history, and notation will be used to encourage the development of awareness of formal techniques in music. Students will be provided opportunities to apply concepts, terms, and symbols in creative projects. These concepts and projects will develop in overall maturity and complexity as students progress from 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **Health 6**

Course #: 03158

All Year/Three Day Rotation Schedule

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Health class is designed to inspire all students to develop and maintain healthy relationships throughout their life. Students will learn the important role that relationships play in a balanced and successful lifestyle. The Health class units include: Self-Esteem and Knowing Yourself; Emotions and Emotional Control; Healthy Relationships and Peer Pressure; Effective Communication; Conflict Resolution; and Bullying. These units provide the opportunity for all students to learn basic relationship skills that will help them to succeed and reach their full potential in life. There is an online component to this course using Google Classroom.



## **Keyboarding/PowerPoint 6**

Course #: 03151

One quarter, 5 Periods Per Week

This course is an introduction to the touch typing method of keyboarding. The goal of this course is to help students become proficient in entering information and data into a computer. The students will also learn the basic fundamentals and some advanced concepts of PowerPoint.

## **Physical Education 6**

Course #: 03171

All Year/Three Day Rotation Schedule 6th

Grade physical education provides a well-balanced and diversified learning experience. Students will be introduced to lifelong leisure activities, physical fitness, recreational activities, team sports, and adventure activities. Motor skills will be developed through participation, and a basic understanding of movement principles will be practiced. Students will display cooperative behaviors and attitudes to ensure positive teamwork and sportsmanship; a developed sense of respect and acceptance of individual differences and abilities. Students will need to be responsible for athletic style shoes that tie and athletic apparel for all classes.

## **STEM 6**

Course #: 65107

One quarter, 5 Periods Per Week

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) 6 is a student-centered course that offers participants the opportunity to engage cooperatively in real-world problem solving opportunities. Students work in dynamic cooperative learning groups while engaging in inquiry, focused around the STEM-subjects. Students share ideas with their peers, and reflect upon the problem-solving and decision-making processes.

### **Example —Sixth Grade Schedule**

<b><u>First 9 Weeks</u></b>	<b><u>Second 9 Weeks</u></b>	<b><u>Third 9 Weeks</u></b>	<b><u>Fourth 9 Weeks</u></b>
Period 1: ELA	Period 1: ELA	Period 1: ELA	Period 1: ELA
Period 2: ELA	Period 2: ELA	Period 2: ELA	Period 2: ELA
Period 3: Access/PE	Period 3: Access/PE	Period 3: Access/PE	Period 3: Access/PE
Period 4: Computers	Period 4: General Music	Period 4: Art	Period 4: STEM
Period 5: Math	Period 5: Math	Period 5: Math	Period 5: Math
Period 6: Math	Period 6: Math	Period 6: Math	Period 6: Math
Period 7: Science	Period 7: Science	Period 7: Science	Period 7: Science
Period 8: Social Studies	Period 8: Social Studies	Period 8: Social Studies	Period 8 Social Studies

Periods 3/4, and the order of rotations is subject to different periods and nine week order based on computer scheduling and balancing of sections.

# 7th Grade Courses

## Seventh Grade Fundamentals of English/Language Arts

Course #: 71101

2 Period Block Daily

This course is intended for any student reading two or more years below grade level; helping the student to strengthen their skills in word identification, spelling, vocabulary, grammar, usage, reading comprehension and writing. The *Read 180* program is used to address all dimensions of literacy mentioned previously. The *Read 180* program supports the PA Core, and includes engaging nonfiction texts that encompass science and social studies content, but also addresses literature. The adaptive technology to individualize instruction for students and to provide powerful data for differentiation to teachers, is not only motivating, but effective. The class sizes are small and grouping is flexible in order to most effectively address students' individual needs.

## Seventh Grade English/Language Arts

Course #: 04113

2 Period Block Daily

The goal of the English Language Arts 7 course is to develop students' reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills as they continue through the English curriculum. In this double-period course, students will develop vocabulary, improve grammar usage, and read, discuss, and evaluate various works of literature and informational text. Students will also enhance writing abilities through the composition of informative, argumentative, and narrative texts while adhering to the PA Core Standards.

## Seventh Grade Accelerated English/Language Arts

Course #: 04110

2 Period Block Daily

The goal of Accelerated English Language Arts 7 is to further develop students' reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills as they prepare to continue on in the Honors English track in the upper grades. In this double-period course, students will spend time analyzing and interpreting various forms of narrative and informational texts on a more evaluative level. Students will also develop vocabulary and improve upon grammar skills through the composition of informative, argumentative, and narrative texts including an original drama while adhering to the PA Core Standards.

**Prerequisites: Earn an average of 85% or better in 6th grade Accelerated ELA or 90% or better in 6th Grade ELA and a recommendation from the 6<sup>th</sup> grade ELA teacher.**

## Fundamentals of Math 7

Course #: 72101

2 Period Block Daily

This course, co-taught by math and special education teachers, is designed for students who were not proficient on the 6th grade PSSA, but may include other students who may need additional remediation. Topics may include Equations, Inequalities, Graphing, Integers, Exponents, Scientific Notation, Rational Numbers, Real Numbers, Data collection, Data Displaying, Data Analysis, Plane Geometry, Perimeter, Area, and Volume, Ratios, Similarity, Percentages, Probability, Graphing lines, sequences, and functions. **Prerequisites: 6th grade teacher recommendation**

## Math 7

Course #: 72102

2 Period Block Daily

This course will prepare students to meet grade level standards. Topics may include Equations, Inequalities, Graphing, Integers, Exponents, Scientific Notation, Rational Numbers, Real Numbers, Data collection, Data Displaying, Data Analysis, Plane Geometry, Perimeter, Area, and Volume, Ratios, Similarity, Percentages, Probability, Graphing lines, sequences, and functions.

**Prerequisites: C or above in Math 6**

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Algebra I

Course #: 04120

2 Period Block Daily

Rigorous and fast paced, this course is designed for a future AP Calculus student. Topics include expressions, equations, functions, real number properties, solving, graphing and writing linear equations, functions and inequalities, systems of equations and inequalities, exponents, exponential functions, polynomials and factoring, quadratic equations, quadratic functions, radicals, and geometric connections. All students enrolled in this course must take the Keystone Algebra I Exam in May.

**Prerequisites: B or above in Honors Pre-Algebra**

**Graduation Requirement: “Proficient” on the Algebra I Keystone Exam**

## United States History 7

Course #: 04131

5 Periods Per Week

This course begins the survey of United States history by looking at the question of how and why we arrived in North America and continues with an in-depth look at the development of the relationship between the thirteen colonies and England. From there, the course examines the American Revolution including the battles, people, and outcome. The course then covers topics that include: a look at the growth of the United States as our new country starts out, the War of 1812, and the Westward Expansion. Basic geography skills, group learning activities, current events, and research projects are used to enhance student learning and to develop critical thinking skills.

## Science 7

Course #: 04140

5 Periods Per Week

The course will be an introduction to several main physical science topics including space science, Earth science and chemistry. Students will be assessed through a variety of methods including tests, projects, quizzes, homework and various lab activities.

## Art 7

Course #: 04170

One quarter, 5 Periods Per Week

This is a continuation of Art 6 that will build upon previous skills which focus on the principles and elements of art in a variety of projects including drawing, painting and a 3D project.

### **Band 7**

Course #: 04178

Year, 2 Periods Per Week

This course is offered for students interested in further growth and development as wind & percussion band musicians; as individuals and as part of an ensemble. Students will also be challenged to develop skills including chromaticism, triplet patterns, 16<sup>th</sup> note subdivision, cut time, and a growing variety of tonal centers. The expansion of pitch range, phrasing techniques, refined intonation and tone production, and a refined application of expressive terms and symbols in standard notation will be further developed. Students will prepare and perform wind band literature composed at an appropriate level of difficulty for intermediate musicians. Students are expected to prepare outside of school at least 4 sessions per week and at least 30 minutes per session. Scale memorization and counting techniques will be used. Class grades will be provided based on criteria including growth, participation, rehearsal etiquette, as well as performance and theory assessments.

### **General Music 7**

Course #: 07921

One quarter, 5 Periods Per Week

Students will explore ways and purposes for which music is created, experienced, and performed. The three areas of Music for Moments, Music for Expressions, and Music for Stories will be used as organizing tools to guide study. Various styles, periods, and cultures of music will be experienced and identified. The use of active listening and classroom instruments or voice, will help students develop a deeper understanding of elements of music including meter, melody, harmony, form, intensity, and timbre. Appropriate examples of theory, history, and notation will be used to encourage the development of awareness of formal techniques in music. Students will be provided opportunities to apply concepts, terms, and symbols in creative projects. These concepts and projects will develop in overall maturity and complexity as students' progress from 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **Health 7**

Course #: 04160

All Year/Three Day Rotation Schedule

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Health class is designed to motivate students to be aware of the importance of their choices and decisions as they go through life. Choosing wisely and good decision-making skills can enhance the quality of their health, help them to avoid situations that are too risky, and move them toward goals that are important to a successful life. The Health class units include: Drugs and Alcohol; Sex Education; Mental Health; Personal Safety; and Goal Setting. These units provide the opportunity for all students to learn basic decision-making skills that will help them to succeed and reach their full potential in life. There is an online component to this course using Google Classroom.

### **Microsoft Word 7**

Course #: 04169

One quarter, 5 Periods Per Week

This course is an introduction to Microsoft Word. Although there are other word processing programs, Microsoft Word is the most widespread word processing software used today. The students will learn the basics, such as copy and paste and basic editing, to more advanced document layouts, such as formatting pamphlets and research papers. The goal of this class is to prepare students for any documents they will be required to produce throughout their academic careers.

## Physical Education 7

Course #: 04150

All Year/Three Day Rotation Schedule

7th Grade physical education provides a well-balanced and diversified learning experience. Students will engage in lifelong leisure activities, physical fitness, recreational activities, team sports, and adventure activities. Motor skills will be developed through participation, and a basic understanding of movement principles will be practiced. Students will display cooperative behaviors and attitudes to ensure positive teamwork and sportsmanship, a developed sense of respect, and acceptance of individual differences and abilities. Students will need to be responsible for athletic style shoes that tie and athletic apparel for all classes.

## 7th Grade Introduction to Technology Education

Course #: 04174

One quarter, 5 Periods Per Week

7th Grade Introduction to Technology Education is a course that will examine the fields of communication, transportation, construction, and manufacturing. Students will learn principles and applications through multimedia-based instruction and develop technical knowledge and skills through hands-on activities. Students will study areas of graphic design, robotics, flight simulation, auto exploration, CO2 raceway design, and plastics. Each student will participate in units of Water Rocket design, 10 Cell Kite building, Hovercraft construction, and Mouse Trap Racer production.

### **Example — Seventh Grade Schedule**

<u>First 9 Weeks</u>	<u>Second 9 Weeks</u>	<u>Third 9 Weeks</u>	<u>Fourth 9 Weeks</u>
Period 1: Access/PE	Period 1: Access/PE	Period 1: Access/PE	Period 1: Access/PE
Period 2: Computers	Period 2: General Music	Period 2: Art	Period 2: Tech Ed
Period 3: ELA	Period 3: ELA	Period 3: ELA	Period 3: ELA
Period 4: ELA	Period 4: ELA	Period 4: ELA	Period 4: ELA
Period 5: Math	Period 5: Math	Period 5: Math	Period 5: Math
Period 6: Math	Period 6: Math	Period 6: Math	Period 6: Math
Period 7: Science	Period 7: Science	Period 7: Science	Period 7: Science
Period 8: U.S History	Period 8: U.S History	Period 8: U.S History	Period 8 U.S History

Periods 1/2, and the order of rotations is subject to different periods and order based on computer scheduling and balancing of sections.

# 8th Grade Courses

## 8th Grade Fundamentals of English/Language Arts

Course #: 81101

2 Period Block Daily

This course is intended for any student reading two or more years below grade level; helping the student to strengthen their skills in word identification, spelling, vocabulary, grammar, usage, reading comprehension, and writing. The *Read 180* program is used to address all dimensions of literacy mentioned previously. The *Read 180* program supports the PA Core, and includes engaging non-fiction texts including science and social studies content, but also addresses literature. The adaptive technology to individualize instruction for students and to provide powerful data for differentiation to teachers, is not only motivating, but effective. The class sizes are small and grouping is flexible in order to most effectively address students' individual needs.

## 8th Grade English/Language Arts

Course #: 05903

2 Period Block Daily

In the 8th grade English Language Arts course, students will continue to build upon the skills they have learned in previous grades. To align with the PA Core Standards, 8th grade ELA will include a concentrated writing component that complements the literature studies. Additionally, vocabulary and grammar are examined and the course includes cross-curricular units with other academic classes.

## 8th Grade Accelerated English/Language Arts

Course #: 05904

2 Period Block Daily

The 8th grade Accelerated English course is designed to develop the reading and writing skills of high-performing students in order to prepare them for the Honors English classes at the high school level. Literary units will involve higher-level discussions, including interpretation and analysis. Students will be challenged with advanced vocabulary and will be expected to understand the use of figurative language and symbolism. The fundamental skills of grammar, spelling, and punctuation are reviewed, but the emphasis of the course is on the development of higher level thinking, reading, and writing.

**Prerequisites: Earn an average of 85% or better in 7th grade Accelerated ELA or 90% or better in 7th Grade ELA and a recommendation from the 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELA teacher**

## Fundamentals of Math 8

Course # 82101

2 Period Block Daily

This course, co-taught by math and special education teachers, is designed for students who were not proficient on the 7th grade PSSA, but may include other students who need additional remediation to become "algebra ready." Topics include expressions, equations, functions, real number properties, solving and graphing linear equations, functions and inequalities, systems of equations, exponents, volume of 3D solids, radicals, and geometric connections.

**Prerequisites: 7th grade teacher recommendation**

### **8th Grade Honors Algebra I**

Course# 05922

2 Period Block Daily

Rigorous and fast paced, this course is designed for the college bound student. Topics include expressions, equations, functions, real number properties, solving, graphing and writing linear equations, functions and inequalities, systems of equations and inequalities, exponents, exponential functions, polynomials and factoring, quadratic equations, quadratic functions, radicals, and geometric connections. All students enrolled in this course must take the Keystone Algebra I Exam in May.

**Prerequisites: Basic or below on the Keystone Algebra I Exam in 7th grade or 7th Grade Teacher Recommendation**

**Graduation Requirement: “Proficient” on the Algebra I Keystone Exam**

### **8th Grade Honors Geometry**

Course # 05923

2 Period Block Daily

Rigorous and fast paced, this course is designed for a future AP Calculus student. Topics include essentials of geometry, reasoning and proof, parallel and perpendicular lines, congruent triangles, triangle relationships, similarity, right triangles and trigonometry, quadrilaterals, transformation properties, circle properties, measuring length and area, surface area and volume of solids.

**Prerequisites: Proficient on the Algebra I Keystone Exam, and Honors Algebra Teacher recommendation**

### **8th Grade United States History**

Course #: 05910

5 Periods Per Week

The eighth grade social studies course continues the survey of United States history begun in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. The course begins by looking at the growing divide between the North and the South and continues with an in-depth look at the Civil War and Reconstruction. From there the course examines Westward Movement, the Second Industrial Revolution, and the impact of immigration on the development of the United States. Finishing with a look at the turn of the century Progressive Spirit of Reform and the growth of the United States as a world power, the course focuses on the impact of economics, politics, and social history on the development of the United States. Basic geography skills, group learning activities, and current events are used to enhance student learning and to develop critical thinking skills.

### **8th Grade Honors United States History**

Course #: 05911

Five Periods Per Week

This course examines the political, diplomatic, intellectual, cultural, economic, and social history of the United States beginning with the period of Westward Expansion in the 1840s and ending with the rise of America as a world power in the early 20th century. The course deals extensively with learning how to read, understand, analyze, and interpret a wide variety of both primary and secondary sources together with the maps, graphs, and pictorial materials associated with them. The course also aims to help students to put the knowledge and understanding they are gaining into practice through sharpening their oral and written communication skills. This will be achieved: through regular class discussions and occasional assigned oral presentations or debates and through the writing of essays that require both knowledge and analytical/interpretive skills.

**Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation**

### **8th Grade Science**

Course #: 05930

Five Periods Per Week

The course will be an introduction to physics and a focus on life sciences (ecology along with cells and genetics) prior to high school biology. Students will be assessed through a variety of methods including tests, projects, quizzes, homework, notebook, and various lab activities.

### **8th Grade Honors Science**

Course #: 05931

Five Periods Per Week

Honors science is an option for students who have a personal interest in science and can use this course to fulfill their eighth grade science requirement. The course will be an introduction to physics and a focus on life sciences (ecology along with cells and genetics) prior to high school biology. Students will be assessed through a variety of methods including tests, projects, quizzes, homework, notebook, and various lab activities. The honors section(s) will move at an accelerated pace and will incorporate more discussions and more challenging applications that require more developed math skills than the regular 8th grade Science.

**Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation**

### **Band 8**

Course #: 05596

Year, 5 Period Per Week

The eighth grade band course is designed as a continuation of the instrumental music education program for students who have had previous experience in playing an instrument. This class, unlike the sixth and seventh grade band classes, meets on a daily basis and must be chosen as an elective. All types of quality concert band literature are studied with the goal of expanding each student's level of music appreciation as well as preparing them for playing in the high school bands. Several concerts are scheduled throughout the year and allow students ample performance opportunities while emphasizing the development of a commitment to the group. Assessment will be based on three major areas: playing skills, in-class performance, and public performance. Specific concert clothes are required and students are expected to participate in all performances.

### **Chorus 8**

Course #: 05995

Year, 5 Period Per Week

The concert choir is a group of students with vocal ability. This choir offers the opportunity to participate in an active singing group that contributes to the life of the school and community. The concert choir performs at Christmas time and in the spring. Important consideration includes ability to sing, commitment within the group, and positive individual contributions. Specific concert attire is required, and all choir members are expected to participate.

### **Exploration of the French and Spanish Language**

Course #: 85103

Year, 5 Periods Per Week

Students enrolled in this class will study a semester of French and a semester of Spanish. Students will be introduced to French and Spanish vocabulary, basic phrases along with questions and answers. In addition, students will develop a stronger cultural awareness, which is an essential aspect of learning a language. The



purpose of this program is to establish a foundation in the study of world languages and to help students choose the language that they would like to study at the high school level.

### **Foods 8**

Course #: 05970

One quarter, 5 Periods Per Week

Students will spend the quarter preparing a variety of foods. Basic and intermediate cooking techniques in conjunction with multi-step labs will be used in the instruction of the course. How to work together as a team will be an essential skill developed throughout the course.

### **Google and Web Based Apps 8**

Course #: 05980

One quarter, 5 Periods Per Week

This course is an introduction to the world of Google and other web based apps. The students will explore different web based programs such as Google Docs, Google Sheets, Google Drive, Gmail, Slides, and Extensions. A web-based notebook called Evernote will be introduced, and the students will also complete a unit on Digital Citizenship. The students will look at other futuristic projects such as Google's self driving vehicle project to see how it works.

### **Personal Finance Using Google Sheets and Microsoft Excel**

Course #: 85106

One quarter, 5 Periods Per Week

This course is an introduction to spreadsheets and money management. The students will learn the basics of spreadsheet organization, how to write formulas, and use multiple worksheets. The content of the spreadsheets will focus on personal finance topics such as budgeting, compounding interest, and the stock markets. **Mandatory course for all 8th grade students.**

### **Non-Traditional Art 8**

Course #: 05925

One quarter, 5 Periods Per Week

Students will spend the quarter creating art projects of non-traditional materials (instead of paper and paint). All projects will emphasize hand-eye coordination. Students should only consider this class if they were successful in Art 7 as the projects are more advanced.

### **Physical Education 8**

Course #: 05940

Semester, 5 Periods Per Week

8th Grade physical education provides a well-balanced and diversified learning experience. Students will engage in lifelong leisure activities, physical fitness, recreational activities, team sports, swimming, and adventure activities. Areas of concentration within the course include motor skill development through participation, an applicable understanding of movement principles, and how exercise affects the body to attain a desired fitness level. Students will display cooperative behaviors and attitudes to ensure positive teamwork and sportsmanship; a developed sense of respect and acceptance of individual differences and abilities. Students will need to be responsible for athletic style shoes that tie and athletic apparel for all classes. **Mandatory course for all 8th grade students.**

### Sewing 8

Course #: 05971

One quarter, 5 Periods Per Week

Students will spend the quarter creating multiple sewing projects. They will learn about patterns and markings, basic alterations, and sewing repairs.

### Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Seminar

Course #: 05970

Semester, 5 Periods Per Week

STEM seminar is a student-centered course that offers participants the opportunity to engage cooperatively in real-world problem solving opportunities. Students work in dynamic cooperative learning groups while engaging in inquiry, focused around the STEM-subjects. Students share ideas with their peers, and reflect upon the problem-solving and decision-making processes. Specific learning opportunities include, but are not limited to, computer programming, statistical computations and analyses, technology pertaining to science fiction literature, environmental or “Green” engineering, biomedical engineering, creative design, civil engineering, and robotics.

### Technology Education 8

Course #: 05960

Semester, 5 Periods Per Week

8th Grade Technology Education is a course that will examine the fields of communication, transportation, construction, and manufacturing. Students will learn principles and applications through multimedia-based instruction and develop technical knowledge and skills through hands-on activities. Students will study accelerated areas of graphic design, digital photography, artificial intelligence, flight simulation, auto exploration, CO2 raceway design, plastic and CNC (mill/lathe). Each student will participate in units of Paper Tower design, Balsa Bridge building, Hot Air Balloon construction, and Pinewood Racer production.

### Traditional Art 8

Course #: 05924

One quarter, 5 Periods Per Week

Students will spend the quarter creating projects of traditional materials consisting of paper, pencil and paint. All projects will emphasize color blending with paint and/or colored pencil. Students should only consider this class if they were successful in Art 7 as the projects are more advanced.

## **Example #1—Eighth Grade Schedule**

<u>First 9 Weeks</u>	<u>Second 9 Weeks</u>	<u>Third 9 Weeks</u>	<u>Fourth 9 Weeks</u>
Period 1: Acc. Science	Period 1: Acc. Science	Period 1: Acc. Science	Period 1: Acc. Science
Period 2: Acc. History	Period 2: Acc. History	Period 2: Acc. History	Period 2: Acc. History
Period 3: English	Period 3: English	Period 3: English	Period 3: English
Period 4: English	Period 4: English	Period 4: English	Period 4: English
Period 5: Math	Period 5: Math	Period 5: Math	Period 5: Math
Period 6: Math	Period 6: Math	Period 6: Math	Period 6: Math
Period 7: PE	Period 7: PE	Period 7: Art	Period 7: Personal Fin
Period 8: Exp. Spanish	Period 8: Exp. Spanish	Period 8: Exp. French	Period 8: Exp. French

## Example #2—Eighth Grade Schedule

<u>First 9 Weeks</u>	<u>Second 9 Weeks</u>	<u>Third 9 Weeks</u>	<u>Fourth 9 Weeks</u>
Period 1: Science	Period 1: Science	Period 1: Science	Period 1: Science
Period 2: History	Period 2: History	Period 2: History	Period 2: History
Period 3: English	Period 3: English	Period 3: English	Period 3: English
Period 4: English	Period 4: English	Period 4: English	Period 4: English
Period 5: Math	Period 5: Math	Period 5: Math	Period 5: Math
Period 6: Math	Period 6: Math	Period 6: Math	Period 6: Math
Period 7: Google Apps	Period 7: Foods	Period 7: Art	Period 7: Personal Fin
Period 8: PE	Period 8: PE	Period 8: Tech Lab	Period 8: Tech Lab

## Example #3—Eighth Grade Schedule

<u>First 9 Weeks</u>	<u>Second 9 Weeks</u>	<u>Third 9 Weeks</u>	<u>Fourth 9 Weeks</u>
Period 1: History	Period 1: History	Period 1: History	Period 1: History
Period 2: Science	Period 2: Science	Period 2: Science	Period 2: Science
Period 3: English	Period 3: English	Period 3: English	Period 3: English
Period 4: English	Period 4: English	Period 4: English	Period 4: English
Period 5: Math	Period 5: Math	Period 5: Math	Period 5: Math
Period 6: Math	Period 6: Math	Period 6: Math	Period 6: Math
Period 8: Band	Period 7: Band	Period 7: Band	Period 7: Band
Period 7: PE	Period 8: PE	Period 8: Personal Fin	Period 8: Trad Art