



Keystone Oaks Middle School  
Program of Studies  
2021-2022

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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 counselors 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. When selecting courses, students should consider their interests, strengths, and plans for the future. 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
Lauren Harvilla, School Counselor .....	412-571-6037
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Beth Brandy, Nurse .....	412-571-6073
Allyson Hepler, 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 that 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 a semester and nine-week classes, which helps students to identify their interests/passions and pursue them. Additionally, eighth-grade students have the opportunity to schedule an introductory course into the world languages of French and Spanish.

The Middle School staff will continue to suggest the course a student should take for the next school year. This is their professional responsibility and is based on the analysis of the student’s work over the past year. As a part of the District’s Strategic Plan, which encourages personalized learning, competency-based learning, and project-based learning, parents and students have the option of challenging themselves with a different course than what is recommended by the teacher; parents and students will need to complete a waiver form. When requesting an accelerated course, there is the potential of also having to complete some summer work in order to be prepared for the accelerated course and to eliminate the potential for gaps in the students’ knowledge. The District will also provide opportunities/supports for students who wish to challenge themselves but who may be limited in certain areas of content. A meeting should be scheduled with the school counselor to discuss this and to provide the waiver form.

### **Counseling Services**

The counselors fulfill a vital role in helping students to meet their personal, social, emotional, educational, and career needs. The school counselors use their expertise to provide counseling, instruction, consultation, prevention, and intervention services in order to help students make informed, positive choices. The middle school counselors play an important role in the Bullying Prevention Program. The preparation of the eighth-grade students for high school through the scheduling process is another important role fulfilled by our counselors. 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 the PSSA tests in the spring of each school year. Keystone Exams are also used as end-of-course tests and are also given in the spring of each school year. 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. Eighth-grade students enrolled in Honors Algebra I will take the Keystone Algebra I exam at the conclusion of taking the course. At various grade levels in high school, students will also take Keystone exams in Biology and Literature. As the testing window approaches, more information will be provided.

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

We encourage all students to stretch their academic potential and take the most rigorous courses possible. Accelerated courses provide such opportunities. While encouraging students to stretch their academic potential, we also want to ensure that they are successful; therefore, teacher's suggestion for future course work and sometimes qualifying tests, are a part of the process of exploring accelerated course work. If parents believe their son or daughter can be successful in a more rigorous level of a course, parents may sign a waiver. The appropriate form can be obtained from the counselor's office.

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

The goal of the Accelerated Language Arts Program at the Middle School is to accelerate the development of reading and writing skills in students so that they will be better prepared for potential opportunities in the future. This is a rigorous program that requires a high degree of commitment, effort, and time from the students who choose such a course. 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 that involve reading of selected novels and completion of any assigned work
- A greater number of written interpretations of literary 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 Accelerated Math Program at the middle school is to accelerate the development of math skills in students so that they will be better prepared for future opportunities.

This is a rigorous program that requires a high degree of commitment, effort, and time from the students who choose to participate. Students who are committed to excelling in the area of mathematics will experience high-level assignments (which are sometimes completed outside of class) and a larger number of assigned problems and projects. The nature of the course requires more demands of the students in the following areas:

- A greater number of higher-level math problems
- Vocabulary development as demonstrated through usage in both written and oral expression
- Development of problem-solving skills and critical thinking
- A positive attitude, by demonstrating the following:
  - A willingness to work 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
  - A love for problem-solving

### **Science Program**

The goal of the Keystone Oaks Middle School Science Department is to prepare students to become scientifically literate members of society. Students will be exposed to all three branches of sciences-Life Science, Physical Science, and Earth/Space Science- during their three years at the Middle School. Emphasis is placed on student inquiry and design that aligns with the curriculum set by the PA State Standards. During the 8th-grade year, students will take the PSSA in Science and will begin the preparation for the Keystone Biology test in 9th grade.

### **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.

### **World Language Department**

The goal of the World Language Department is to provide a comprehensive program through which students can achieve proficiency in the target language. With a combination of immersion in the target language, creative projects, skill development, and cultural activities, teachers guide students through the course, preparing them to continue their study in high school and to become engaged members of the global community. In order for students to acquire both linguistic and cultural empathy, world language learning occurs in a non-threatening and student-centered environment. The instructional strategies involve students in a creative and authentic use of the target language. Cultural activities emphasize similarities and differences that unite the world, community and languages. Language courses are implemented in a sequential and articulated program.

# 6th Grade Courses

## Sixth Grade Fundamentals of English/Language Arts

Course #: 61101

This course is designed for students who may not have been proficient on the 5th Grade ELA PSSA or who may need additional support and remediation. The units of study will use both fiction and nonfiction text to facilitate knowledge of literary devices. Within these units, students will study vocabulary, practice fluency, read independently, and demonstrate comprehension and text analysis. Students will write using standard writing conventions. Novels will be used to reinforce literacy skills. Students will also be asked to participate in class discussion, take notes, and read independently. Some or all of these skills will be adapted based on the student's needs in this fundamentals class.

## Sixth Grade English/ Language Arts

Course #: 03113

This course focuses on literature, grammar, writing, and vocabulary. It is designed for the student to practice and reinforce previously learned skills and to be introduced to new concepts. Students read a variety of fiction and nonfiction including novels, short stories, dramas, poetry, and essays. The units of study will use both nonfiction and fiction texts to facilitate knowledge of literary devices. This will include but not be limited to novels, short stories, articles, drama, and poetry. Within these units, students will study vocabulary, practice fluency, read independently, demonstrate comprehension, and use evidence to analyze text. Students will also be asked to participate in class discussions, take notes, demonstrate knowledge of grammar skills, and read independently. Students will write using the conventions of English in different writing styles.

## Sixth Grade Accelerated English/Language Arts

Course #: 03110

This course focuses on the student's development of reading and writing skills to better prepare for future advanced placement opportunities. This course addresses higher-level literacy skills, writing, poetry, grammar, and vocabulary. The units of study will use both nonfiction and fiction texts to facilitate knowledge of literary devices. Within these units, students will analyze novels and complete writing-based projects. There will also be a poetry enrichment component that reinforces skills taught through literature. Students will participate in class discussions, write essays, complete out of class assignments, and read independently. **Pre-course testing, sample writing assignment, and prior classroom performance may be used as evidence for suggested teacher recommendation.**

### **Fundamentals of Math 6**

Course # 62101

This course is designed for students who may not have been 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.

### **Math 6**

Course # 62102

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.

### **Accelerated Math 6**

Course # 62103

This rigorous course is designed to prepare students for Algebra I in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. 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. **The Orleans Hanna Algebra Readiness Exam may be administered as data for the teacher suggested recommendation.**

### **Social Studies 6**

Course #: 03130

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 are intended 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

The course will be an introduction to several main Earth Science topics focusing on the structure of Earth, rocks and minerals, weather, and space science. Students will be assessed through a variety of methods including labs, quizzes, tests, projects, homework, and classwork.

### **Art 6**

Course #: 03170

9 Weeks

Students in this course will obtain a foundational knowledge with a series of different artistic mediums. Both 2D and 3D works will be explored, and students will complete a number of projects that follow detailed steps, familiarizing them with techniques that will be used in higher-level art classes. Grading in this course focuses on project completion and time management skills more so than the aesthetic quality of the work, which becomes a larger focus in higher-level classes.

### **Band 6**

Course #: 03178

All Year

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. Students are required to participate in all performances and dress rehearsals.

### **Chorus 6**

Course #: 03176

9 Weeks

Sixth-grade students may elect to take part in the chorus. Vocalists will perform music of various cultures throughout history, while learning about vocal production, singing in unison, 2-part harmony and singing in languages other than English. Chorus students will have written and singing assessments throughout the course. These assessments will be used to help the students improve note reading, singing, and general musicality. Chorus members' participation is mandatory in two (2) concerts during the school year.

### **Keyboarding/Google Slides 6**

Course #: 03151

9 Weeks

Keyboarding/Google Slides 6 is a project-oriented course where students apply 21st-century skills. Students will develop basic keyboarding and computer skills that will enable them to thrive in a complex, highly technological and competitive global economy. Hands-on activities will be used to explore the following topics: digital citizenship, Internet safety, web-based research, document design, and multimedia presentation. Digital citizenship will be incorporated as an important aspect of how students utilize computers to represent themselves in a connected world.

### **General Music 6**

Course #: 06926

Full Year

Students will explore ways and purposes for which music is created, experienced, and performed. 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 and principles of music including meter, melody, harmony, form, intensity, and timbre. Appropriate examples of theory, history, and notation will be used to encourage and develop an awareness of formal techniques in music. Students will be provided with opportunities to apply concepts, terms, and symbols in collaborative and creative projects. These concepts and projects will develop in maturity and complexity as students progress from 6th grade to 7th grade.

### **Library 6**

Course #: 65101

9 Weeks

Sixth grade library helps students to gain a better understanding of where to find information in our modern world. Digital Citizenship also plays a significant role in the course, as students learn to navigate safely on the web. The library program is focused on developing lifelong learners who can navigate both the digital and print worlds.

### **6th Grade Orchestra**

Course #: 65108

Full Year

This course is offered for students interested in further growth and development as string musicians, both as an individual and as part of an ensemble. This course is also available to students who are interested in pursuing a new music choice in middle school involving string instruments. The instruments that are available are violin, viola, cello, and upright bass. Course content includes bow hand development, left-hand development, phrasing techniques, articulation styles, shifting, refined intonation and tone production, and an expanded vocabulary and use of expressive terms and symbols in standard notation. Music literacy will be a major focus as well. Students will prepare and perform orchestral 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. Class grades will be provided based on criteria including growth, participation, rehearsal etiquette, as well as performance and theory assessments. Students are required to participate in all performances and dress rehearsals.

### **Physical Education/Health 6**

Course #: 03171

Full Year

Sixth 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. One nine weeks will be devoted to Health topics 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.

### **STEM 6**

Course #: 65107

9 Weeks

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. The students will also spend time block coding, both individually and with a partner.

### **Example —Sixth Grade Schedule**

**First 9 Weeks**

Period 1: Access/PE/Music  
 Period 2: Computers  
 Period 3: ELA  
 Period 4: ELA  
 Period 5: Math  
 Period 6: Math  
 Period 7: Science  
 Period 8: Social Studies

**Second 9 Weeks**

Period 1: Access/PE/Music  
 Period 2: Library  
 Period 3: ELA  
 Period 4: ELA  
 Period 5: Math  
 Period 6: Math  
 Period 7: Science  
 Period 8: Social Studies

**Third 9 Weeks**

Period 1: Access/PE/Music  
 Period 2: Art  
 Period 3: ELA  
 Period 4: ELA  
 Period 5: Math  
 Period 6: Math  
 Period 7: Science  
 Period 8: Social Studies

**Fourth 9 Weeks**

Period 1: Access/PE/Mus  
 Period 2: STEM 6  
 Period 3: ELA  
 Period 4: ELA  
 Period 5: Math  
 Period 6: Math  
 Period 7: Science  
 Period 8 Social Studies

Periods 1 and 2 - The rotation classes and electives are subject to different periods and order based on computer scheduling and balancing of sections.

# 7th Grade Courses

## Seventh Grade Fundamentals of English/Language Arts

Course #: 71101

This course is designed for students that may not have been proficient on the 6th Grade ELA PSSA or who may need additional support and remediation. The units of study will use both fiction and nonfiction text to facilitate knowledge of literary devices. Within these units, students will study vocabulary, practice fluency, read independently, and demonstrate comprehension and text analysis. Students will write using standard writing conventions. Novels will be used to reinforce literacy skills. Students will also be asked to participate in class discussion, take notes, and read independently. Some or all of these skills will be adapted based on the student's needs in this fundamentals class. **Prerequisites: 6th-grade teacher suggested recommendation**

## Seventh Grade English/Language Arts

Course #: 04113

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 while adhering to the PA Core Standards.

## Seventh Grade Accelerated English/Language Arts

Course #: 04110

The goal of Accelerated English Language Arts 7 is to further develop students' reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. 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 while adhering to the PA Core Standards.

**Prerequisites: 6th-grade teacher suggested recommendation**

## Fundamentals of Math 7

Course #: 72101

This course is designed for students who may not have been 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 displays, data analysis, plane geometry, perimeter, area, and volume, ratios, similarity, percentages, probability, graphing lines, sequences, and functions. **Prerequisites: 6th-grade teacher suggested recommendation**

### **Math 7**

Course #: 72102

This course will prepare students to meet grade-level standards. Topics will include integers, rational numbers, expressions, equations, inequalities, ratios, proportions, percents, constructions, scale drawings, circles, area, surface area, volume, probability, and statistics.

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

### **Accelerated Math 7**

Course #: 72103

This rigorous course is designed to prepare students for Algebra I in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The topics will include equations, transformations, angles, triangles, graphing linear equations, writing linear equations, systems of linear equations, functions, real numbers, Pythagorean Theorem, volume, similar solids, data analysis, displays, exponents, scientific notation, inequalities, constructions and scale drawings, circles, area, surface area, volume, probability, and statistics.

**Prerequisites: 6th grade teacher suggested recommendation**

### **United States History 7**

Course #: 04131

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 battles, people, and outcomes. 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

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

### **Art 7**

Course #: 04170

9 Weeks

Students will build upon their foundational knowledge of sixth-grade art in order to nurture a balance between logical and intuitive thinking essential to the changing world. This program enhances self-awareness and an understanding of thought processes and feelings. Creating art at this level provides an opportunity for personal self-satisfaction, building self-esteem, and a sense of accomplishment for students. Students in this course will have fun creating a variety of projects that they can be proud of while simultaneously learning valuable aspects of creativity and art.

### **Band 7**

Course #: 04178

Full Year

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. Students are required to participate in all performances and dress rehearsals.

### **Chorus 7**

Course #: 04176

Full Year

Seventh grade students may elect to take part in the chorus. Vocalists will perform music of various cultures throughout history, while learning about vocal production, singing in unison, 2-part, and 3-part harmony, and singing in languages other than English. Chorus students will have written and singing assessments throughout the course. These assessments will be used to help the students improve note reading, singing, and general musicality. Chorus members' participation is mandatory in two (2) concerts during the school year.

### **General Music 7**

Course #: 07921

Full Year

Students will explore ways and purposes for which music is created, experienced, and performed. 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 and principles of music including meter, melody, harmony, form, intensity, and timbre. Appropriate examples of theory, history, and notation will be used to encourage and develop an awareness of formal techniques in music. Students will be provided with opportunities to apply concepts, terms, and symbols in collaborative and creative projects. These concepts and projects will develop in maturity and complexity as students progress from 6th grade to 7th grade.

### **Library 7**

Course #: 75101

9 Weeks

The 7th-grade research course is a library program designed to help students learn about the research process. During the year, students will learn the step-by-step process of how to research, something that will help them throughout the rest of their academic journey. This class is also designed to develop lifelong learners and students that can navigate both the digital and print world.

### **Microsoft Word 7**

Course #: 04169

9 Weeks

This course is designed to prepare students to utilize the Microsoft Office Suite and Google applications.

### **7th Grade Orchestra**

Course #: 75108

Full year

This course is offered for students interested in further growth and development as string musicians, both as an individual and as part of an ensemble. This course is meant to be a continuation of 6th grade orchestra. The instruments that are available are violin, viola, cello, and upright bass. Course content includes bow hand development, left hand development, phrasing techniques, articulation styles, shifting, refined intonation and tone production, and an expanded vocabulary and use of expressive terms and symbols in standard notation. Music literacy will be a major focus as well. Students will prepare and perform orchestral 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. Class grades will be provided based on criteria including growth, participation, rehearsal etiquette, as well as performance and theory assessments. Students are required to participate in all performances and dress rehearsals.

### **Physical Education/Health 7**

Course #: 04150

Semester

Seventh 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. One nine weeks will be devoted to health topics 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.

### **7th Grade Introduction to Technology Education**

Course #: 04174

9

Weeks

Seventh 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 Mousetrap Racer production.

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

#### **First 9 Weeks**

Period 1: ELA  
Period 2: ELA  
Period 3: Access/PE/Music  
Period 4: Computers  
Period 5: Math  
Period 6: Math  
Period 7: Science  
Period 8: U.S History

#### **Second 9 Weeks**

Period 1: ELA  
Period 2: ELA  
Period 3: Access/PE/Music  
Period 4: Library  
Period 5: Math  
Period 6: Math  
Period 7: Science  
Period 8: U.S History

#### **Third 9 Weeks**

Period 1: ELA  
Period 2: ELA  
Period 3: Access/PE/Music  
Period 4: Art  
Period 5: Math  
Period 6: Math  
Period 7: Science  
Period 8: U.S History

#### **Fourth 9 Weeks**

Period 1: ELA  
Period 2: ELA  
Period 3: Access/PE/Mus  
Period 4: TechEd  
Period 5: Math  
Period 6: Math  
Period 7: Science  
Period 8 U.S History

Periods 3 and 4 - The rotation classes and electives are 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

This course is designed for students that may not have been proficient on the 7th Grade ELA PSSA or who may need additional support and remediation. The units of study will use both fiction and nonfiction text to facilitate knowledge of literary devices. Within these units, students will study vocabulary, practice fluency, read independently, and demonstrate comprehension and text analysis. Students will write using standard writing conventions. Novels will be used to reinforce literacy skills. Students will also be asked to participate in class discussion, take notes, and read independently. Some or all of these skills will be adapted based on the student's needs in this fundamentals class. **Prerequisites: 7th-grade teacher suggested recommendation**

## 8th Grade English/Language Arts

Course #: 05903

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

The goal of Accelerated English Language Arts 8 is to further develop students' reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. 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: 7th-grade teacher suggested recommendation**

## Fundamentals of Math 8

Course # 82101

This course is designed for students who may not have been 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 suggested recommendation**

## Math 8

Course#: 82102

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 displays, data analysis, plane geometry, perimeter, area and volume, ratios, similarity, percentages, probability, graphing lines, sequences, and functions.

**Prerequisites: C or above in Math 7**

## 8th Grade Honors Algebra I

Course # 82103

This is a rigorous and fast-paced course. 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.

**Prerequisites: 7th-grade teacher suggested recommendation**

## 8th Grade United States History

Course #: 05910

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 the 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

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 suggested recommendation**

### **8th Grade Science**

Course #: 05930

The course will be an introduction to several main life science topics focusing on the kingdoms of life, cells, genetics and ecology. Students will be assessed through a variety of methods including labs, quizzes, tests, projects, homework, and classwork.

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

Course #: 05931

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 several main life science topics focusing on the kingdoms of life, cells, genetics and ecology. 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.

**Prerequisites: Teacher suggested recommendation**

### **Art 8: Visual Arts 2D/3D**

Course #: 85102

9 Weeks

During this course you will embark upon strengthening your drawing and painting ability using a variety of materials, creating two-dimensional compositions. Also, in this class, you will have the opportunity to experiment and refine your skills with age-appropriate concepts while creating three-dimensional artwork. Elements and principles of design will be emphasized in each lesson, as well as higher-order critical thinking skills and problem-solving.

### **Art 8: Digital Arts**

Course #: 85105

9 Weeks

Have you ever dreamed of creating art with the touch of a mouse? In digital arts, we will be experimenting with an open-source program for creating and editing digital images. This course will begin with basic photo manipulation procedures, simple drawing, and selection techniques, then proceeding to more advanced concepts such as layer masks, color adjustment, and blending modes.

### **Band 8**

Course #: 05596

Full Year

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

attire is required and students must also participate in all performances and dress rehearsals.

### **Chorus 8**

Course #: 05995

Full Year

The concert choir is a group of students with vocal abilities. 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 winter holidays and in the spring. Important consideration includes the ability to sing, commitment within the group, and positive individual contributions. Specific concert attire is required, and all choir members are expected to participate.

### **8th Grade Orchestra**

Course #: 85108

Full year

This course is offered for students interested in further growth and development as string musicians, both as an individual and as part of an ensemble. This course is meant to be a continuation of 7th grade Orchestra. The instruments that are available are violin, viola, cello, and upright bass. Course content includes bow hand development, left hand development, phrasing techniques, articulation styles, shifting, refined intonation and tone production, and an expanded vocabulary and use of expressive terms and symbols in standard notation. Music literacy will be a major focus as well. Students will prepare and perform orchestral 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. Class grades will be provided based on criteria including growth, participation, rehearsal etiquette, as well as performance and theory assessments. Students are required to participate in all performances and dress rehearsals.

### **Computational Thinking and Computer Programming**

Course #: 85101

9 Weeks

Computational thinking is a way of solving problems, designing systems, and understanding human behavior that draws on concepts fundamental to computer science. To flourish in today's world, computational thinking has to be a fundamental part of the way people think and understand the world. This course builds on the four themes: break problems into parts; find patterns; develop steps to solve a problem; find the rule or principle. This course helps students recognize there is more than one way to solve a problem and the many resources that can be used. This course is the first step in understanding the design elements of computer programming.

### **Foods 8**

Course #: 05970

9 Weeks

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.

## **French 1**

Course #: 5991

Full Year

French 1 is an introductory course for beginners. It focuses on the four key areas of World Language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Simple vocabulary and grammatical structures are practiced in innovative and interesting ways with a variety of learning styles in mind. Students will also learn about the geography and culture of French speaking countries including France, Canada, Belgium, Senegal, and more. Students will develop their communication skills by speaking French in class and by participating in a variety of interactive practice activities, games, group work and projects. Learning a language is fun and a great way to prepare for high school, college, and careers.

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

Course #: 05980

9 Weeks

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.

## **Modern Music**

Course #: 85107

9 Weeks

In this class, students will examine modern music styles and artists. Topics may include elements of Hip Hop, Broadway musicals and styles, the convergence of music and social issues, and current popular music and artists. Students will complete projects focused on different artists or genres, prepare for class debates about different songs within specific genres, and listen to music each day.

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

Course #: 85106

9 Weeks

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 stock markets.

## **Physical Education 8**

Course #: 05940

Semester

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 the 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.**

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

Course #: 05970

Semester

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.

### **Spanish 1**

Course #: 5990

Full Year

Spanish I is designed as an introductory course for beginners. Students will establish a strong foundation of the language and promote future success in Spanish learning as they move through the high school courses. Students will be expected to use the target language extensively in class to enhance their communicative skills. The detailed practice and accompanying drills will strongly develop the four essential skills of learning Spanish: understanding, speaking, reading, and writing. This course features interesting cultural activities, the use of interactive digital resources, games, group work, and a lot of talking!!! It will be fun mixed in with some work.

### **Technology Education 8**

Course #: 05960

Semester

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.

### **Theory, Composition, and Performance**

Course #: 85108

Semester

In this class, students will learn music theory and specifically delve into harmonic structures, chord progressions, and song forms. Students will focus on improving their ability to read music notation, including reading treble and bass clef, identifying key signatures, recognizing chords, and determining tonalities. Students will choose to focus on song composition or piano performance to apply their theory knowledge to music of their own. Students have the option to focus on guitar or ukulele if they own their own instrument. This class is designed for students who want to learn more about how music is constructed and want to create music of their own. Students will be

assessed on their ability to analyze music notation, compose music, and perform on their chosen instrument.

### Example #1—Eighth Grade Schedule

#### First 9 Weeks

Period 1: Acc. Science  
Period 2: Acc. History  
Period 3: English  
Period 4: English  
Period 5: Math  
Period 6: Math  
Period 7: PE  
Period 8: French I

#### Second 9 Weeks

Period 1: Acc. Science  
Period 2: Acc. History  
Period 3: English  
Period 4: English  
Period 5: Math  
Period 6: Math  
Period 7: PE  
Period 8: French I

#### Third 9 Weeks

Period 1: Acc. Science  
Period 2: Acc. History  
Period 3: English  
Period 4: English  
Period 5: Math  
Period 6: Math  
Period 7: Art 8: Digital Art  
Period 8: French I

#### Fourth 9 Weeks

Period 1: Acc. Science  
Period 2: Acc. History  
Period 3: English  
Period 4: English  
Period 5: Math  
Period 6: Math  
Period 7: Personal Fin  
Period 8: French I

### Example #2—Eighth Grade Schedule

#### First 9 Weeks

Period 1: Science  
Period 2: History  
Period 3: English  
Period 4: English  
Period 5: Math  
Period 6: Math  
Period 7: Google Apps  
Period 8: PE

#### Second 9 Weeks

Period 1: Science  
Period 2: History  
Period 3: English  
Period 4: English  
Period 5: Math  
Period 6: Math  
Period 7: Foods 8  
Period 8: PE

#### Third 9 Weeks

Period 1: Science  
Period 2: History  
Period 3: English  
Period 4: English  
Period 5: Math  
Period 6: Math  
Period 7: Art 8: 2D/3D  
Period 8: Tech Lab

#### Fourth 9 Weeks

Period 1: Science  
Period 2: History  
Period 3: English  
Period 4: English  
Period 5: Math  
Period 6: Math  
Period 7: Personal Fin  
Period 8: Tech Lab

### Example #3—Eighth Grade Schedule

#### First 9 Weeks

Period 1: History  
Period 2: Science  
Period 3: English  
Period 4: English  
Period 5: Math  
Period 6: Math  
Period 8: Band  
Period 7: PE

#### Second 9 Weeks

Period 1: History  
Period 2: Science  
Period 3: English  
Period 4: English  
Period 5: Math  
Period 6: Math  
Period 7: Band  
Period 8: PE

#### Third 9 Weeks

Period 1: History  
Period 2: Science  
Period 3: English  
Period 4: English  
Period 5: Math  
Period 6: Math  
Period 7: Band  
Period 8: Personal Fin

#### Fourth 9 Weeks

Period 1: History  
Period 2: Science  
Period 3: English  
Period 4: English  
Period 5: Math  
Period 6: Math  
Period 7: Band  
Period 8: Art 8: 2D/3D