



Keystone Oaks Middle School
Program of Studies
2024-2025

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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. If you have questions, please feel free to contact any of the staff members listed below:

Keystone Oaks Middle School Administration/Staff

Dr. Jeffrey Kattan, Principal	412-571-6146
Mr. Scott Mizikar, Assistant Principal	412-571-6137
Mrs. Bonnie Lawrence, Secretary	412-571-6148
Ms. Alexa Dines, School Counselor	412-571-6502
Mrs. Sharissa Shatten, School Counselor	412-571-6025
Ms. Carly Devine, MHT	412-571-6037
Ms. Gabrielle Martin, Nurse	412-571-6073
Dr. 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 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 counselors fulfill a vital role in helping students to meet their personal, social, 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 counselors work 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. 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.

Honors ELA, Advanced Math, History, and Science Courses

The middle school encourages all students to stretch their academic potential and take the most rigorous courses possible. Honors courses provide such opportunities. While encouraging students to stretch their academic potential, we also want to ensure that they are successful; therefore, teacher recommendations, and sometimes qualifying tests, are a necessary part of the process to take an honors course. 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.

Honors English/Language Arts Program

The goal of the Honors Language Arts Program at the Middle School is to accelerate the development of 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 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 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 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 qualified 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 be prepared 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.

6th Grade Courses

Sixth Grade Fundamentals of English/Language Arts

Course #: 61101

2 Period Block Daily

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

2 Period Block Daily

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 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 Honors English/Language Arts

Course #: 03110

2 Period Block Daily

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.

Prerequisites: Pre-course testing, sample writing assignment, and prior classroom performance.

Fundamentals of Math 6

Course # 62101

2 Period Block Daily

This course 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.

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.

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: Qualifying score on the Orleans Hanna Algebra Readiness Exam

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 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

5 Periods Per Week

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.

6th Grade Orchestra

Course #: 65108

Year, 3 Day Rotation Schedule

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 for students who are interested in beginning a new musical experience 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 reading and 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 practice and prepare outside of class for rehearsals, including practicing at home. Class grades are divided into three categories: participation, assessments, and concerts and playing tests. Students are evaluated on growth over time in each area as well as traditional assessment. Students are required to participate in all performances and dress rehearsals.

Art 6

Course #: 03170

One quarter, 5 Periods Per Week

Students in this course will obtain a foundation 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

Year, 3 Day Rotation Schedule

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

Year, 3 Day Rotation Schedule

Any sixth-grade student may elect to take part in the chorus. Vocalists will focus heavily on building proper vocal technique and learning to perform as an ensemble. During class students will also perform music of various cultures throughout history, learn about vocal production and singing technique, sing in unison and 2-

part harmony, and sing in languages other than English. Throughout the year 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. Students are also expected to practice their concert repertoire outside of class, which includes practicing at home. Class grades are divided into three categories: Participation, Assessments, Concerts, and Singing Tests. Students are evaluated on growth over time in each area as well as traditional assessment. Chorus members' participation is mandatory in two (2) concerts and (2) dress rehearsals during the school year.

Digital Literacy and Communication

Course #: 03151

One 7 Week Term, 5 Periods Per Week

In this course, students will learn the foundations of digital literacy, including computer basics, internet safety, and responsible online behavior. Students will explore the world of technology. The curriculum emphasizes critical thinking, empowering students to evaluate online information critically and differentiate between reliable sources and misinformation. Students will dive into the fundamentals of coding, fostering problem-solving skills through interactive programming activities. Understand basic cybersecurity and online ethics. Students will learn how to protect themselves and their digital footprint online. Additionally, students will explore digital communication tools, honing their abilities to collaborate effectively and present ideas using multimedia platforms. Through a blend of interactive lessons, hands-on projects, and discussions, students will gain the confidence to navigate the digital landscape responsibly and creatively, setting a strong foundation for their future digital endeavors.

FCS 6

Course #: 65102

One 7 Week Term, 5 Periods Per Week

FCS 6 is a seven-week exploration course. This course will develop students' knowledge of kitchen safety, food safety, and basic food preparation skills. Students will participate in activities related to first aid and child development. Character development, money management, study skills, and clothing care will also be explored.

General Music 6

Course #: 06926

Year, 3 Day Rotation Schedule

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

One 7 Week Term, 5 Periods Per Week

Sixth Grade library helps students to gain a better understanding of where to find information in the 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.

Physical Education/Health 6

Course #: 03171

All Year/Three Day Rotation Schedule

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

One 7 Week Term, 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. The students will also spend time block coding, both individually and with a partner.

Example —Sixth Grade Schedule

<u>First 7 Weeks</u>	<u>Second 7 Weeks</u>	<u>Third 7 Weeks</u>	<u>Fourth 7 Weeks</u>	<u>Fifth 7 Weeks</u>
Period 1: Access/PE/Mus	Period 1: Access/PE/Mus	Period 1: Access/PE/Mus	Period 1: Access/PE/Mus	Period 1: Access/PE/Mus
Period 2: Digital Literacy	Period 2: Library	Period 2: Art	Period 2: STEM 6	Period FCS 6
Period 3: ELA	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 3: ELA
Period 5: Math	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 6: Math
Period 7: Science	Period 7: Science	Period 7: Science	Period 7: Science	Period 7: Science
Period 8: Social Stud	Period 8: Social Stud	Period 8: Social Stud	Period 8 Social Stud	Period 8: Social Stud

7th Grade Courses

Seventh Grade Fundamentals of English/Language Arts

Course #: 71101

2 Period Block Daily

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 recommendation**

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 while adhering to the PA Core Standards.

Seventh Grade Honors English/Language Arts

Course #: 04110

2 Period Block Daily

The goal of Honors 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 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 6th grade ELA teacher.

Fundamentals of Math 7

Course #: 72101

2 Period Block Daily

This course 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 displays, 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 will include operations with rational numbers, expressions, equations and inequalities, ratios and proportions, percents, probability, statistics, geometric shapes and angles, surface area, and volume.

Prerequisites: C or above in Math 6

Accelerated Math 7

Course #: 72103

2 Period Block Daily

This rigorous course for the elite math student will prepare students for Algebra I in 8th grade and AP Calculus in 12th grade. The topics will include equations, transformations, angles and triangles, graphing and writing linear equations, systems of linear equations, data analysis and displays, functions, exponents and scientific notation, real numbers and the Pythagorean Theorem, volume and similar solids, equations and inequalities, probability, statistics, geometric shapes and angles, surface area, and volume.

Prerequisites: 6th grade teacher recommendation

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 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

5 Periods Per Week

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.

7th Grade Introduction to World Language

Course #: 75109

One 7 Week Term, 5 Periods Per Week

This seven-week class will introduce students to French and Spanish language and culture. Students will explore the French and Spanish speaking worlds with a variety of activities including games, projects, music, and more. This class is an opportunity for 7th grade students to gain exposure to language learning before choosing a language to study in high school.

7th Grade Introduction to Technology Education

Course #: 04174

One 7 Week Term, 5 Periods Per Week

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.

7th Grade Orchestra

Course #: 75108

Year, 3 Day Rotation Schedule

This course is a continuation from the previous 6th Grade Orchestra course. This course is also available for students who are interested in beginning a new musical experience 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 reading and 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 practice and prepare outside of class for rehearsals; this includes practicing at home. Class grades are divided into three categories: participation, assessments, and concerts and playing tests. Students are evaluated on growth over time in each area as well as traditional assessment. Students are required to participate in all performances and dress rehearsals.

Art 7

Course #: 04170

One quarter, 5 Periods Per Week

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

Year, 3 Day Rotation Schedule

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, 16th 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

Year, 3 Day Rotation Schedule

This course is a continuation of 6th grade chorus but any seventh grader who is interested in singing may elect to join chorus. The course content for seventh grade chorus includes performing music of various cultures throughout history, learning about vocal production and technique, singing in unison, 2-part, and 3-part harmony, and singing in foreign languages. Throughout the year 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. Students are also expected to practice their concert repertoire outside of class, which includes practicing at home. Class grades are divided into three categories: Participation, Assessments, Concerts, and Singing Tests. Students are evaluated on growth over time in each area as well as traditional assessment. All chorus members' participation is mandatory in two (2) concerts and two (2) dress rehearsals during the school year.

Digital Skills and Innovation

Course #: 04169

One 7 Week Term, 5 Periods Per Week

In this innovative class, students will explore the cutting-edge world of digital technology, diving into various aspects of digital skills and innovation. They will develop essential skills in computer programming, learning languages like Scratch and JavaScript to create interactive digital projects. Emphasizing problem-solving and creativity, students will engage in hands-on activities to design games, animations, and digital stories. The curriculum also focuses on understanding the digital landscape, covering internet safety, review of cybersecurity, and responsible online behavior. Students will explore emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, web design, and simple coding games, gaining insight into their real-world applications. Collaboration and teamwork will be encouraged through interactive group projects, fostering a spirit of innovation. By the end of the course, students will be skillful at utilizing digital tools for creative expression and problem-solving, preparing them to navigate the digital future with confidence.

Family and Consumer Science 7

Course #: 04172

One 7 Week Term, 5 periods per week

FCS 7 is an exploration course designed to help students develop real-world skills. The FCS career pathways will be explored. Pathways include hospitality and food production, education and human services, and visual arts and design. Students will acquire fundamental knowledge and skills necessary for success in any of the career pathways. Students will successfully integrate their own interests and develop leadership skills through their exploration.

General Music 7

Course #: 07921

All Year/Three Day Rotation Schedule

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

One 7 Week Term, 5 Periods Per Week

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.

Physical Education/Health 7

Course #: 04150

All Year/Three Day Rotation Schedule

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.

Example — Seventh Grade Schedule

<u>First 7 Weeks</u>	<u>Second 7 Weeks</u>	<u>Third 7 Weeks</u>	<u>Fourth 7 Weeks</u>	<u>Fifth 7 Weeks</u>
Period 1: ELA	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 2: ELA
Period 3: Access/PE/Mus	Period 3: Access/PE/Mus	Period 3: Access/PE/Mus	Period 3: Access/PE/Mus	Period 3: Access/PE/Mus
Period 4: Digital Skills	Period 4: World Lan	Period 4: Art	Period 4: TechEd	Period 4: FCS 7
Period 5: Math	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 6: Math
Period 7: Science	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	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

2 Period Block Daily

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 recommendation**

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 Honors English/Language Arts

Course #: 05904

2 Period Block Daily

The 8th-grade Honors 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 7th grade ELA teacher

Fundamentals of Math 8

Course # 82101

2 Period Block Daily

This course 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**

Math 8

Course#: 82102

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 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

2 Period Block Daily

This is a rigorous and fast-paced course designed for a future elite 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.

Prerequisites: Accelerated Math 7 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 7th 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

5 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 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

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 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 that require more developed math skills than the regular 8th grade Science.

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation

Art 8: Visual Arts 2D/3D

Course #: 85102

One quarter, 5 Periods Per Week

During this course students will embark upon strengthening their drawing and painting ability using a variety of materials, creating two-dimensional compositions. Also in this class, students will have the opportunity to experiment and refine their 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

One quarter, 5 Periods Per Week

In digital arts, students 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

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

Chorus 8

Course #: 05995

Year, 5 Period Per Week

The concert choir is designed as a continuation of 7th grade Chorus but is also available to anyone interested in singing. 8th grade chorus provides opportunities for students to continue to learn and grow as vocalists and also prepares them for participation in High School Chorus.

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 in two mandatory concerts and two mandatory dress rehearsals throughout the course of the school year. In addition to the mandatory dress rehearsals and concerts students also have the ability to perform outside of the community and participate in local field trips. Specific concert attire is required, and all choir members are expected to participate.

Digital Marketing and Social Media Promotion

Course #: 05980

One quarter, 5 Periods Per Week

In this course, students embark on an exciting journey into the dynamic world of online marketing. Students will explore the fundamental concepts and strategies that drive successful digital marketing campaigns. Through interactive lessons, hands-on projects, and real-world applications, students will learn about digital citizenship and ethical practices in the online landscape. They will implement various digital platforms, gaining practical knowledge of social media marketing, search engine optimization (SEO), content creation, email marketing, and online advertising techniques. With a focus on website development basics, students will learn to create user-friendly content, understand design principles, and optimize content for mobile devices. The course emphasizes the importance of data analysis and introduces students to tools for measuring digital marketing success, enabling them to make data-driven decisions. Students will also engage in collaborative projects, allowing them to apply their knowledge to solve real marketing challenges. By the end of the course, students will emerge with a deep understanding of digital marketing strategies, practical skills in using various online tools, and the ability to craft effective marketing campaigns. Through this class, students will not only become proficient in digital marketing but also develop critical thinking, creativity, and teamwork skills essential for their future endeavors in the digital age.

Emerging Entrepreneurs: The Startup Challenge

Course #: 85106

Semester, 5 Periods Per Week

In this course, students will embark on a hands-on journey to understand the fundamentals of starting and managing a business. Through engaging discussions, interactive activities, and real-world projects, students will learn about business models, market research, financial planning, and effective communication. They will dive into the entrepreneurial mindset, discovering how creativity, problem-solving, and adaptability drive successful ventures. From ideation to business planning, students will develop their unique business concepts and present

them in creative pitches, honing their presentation skills. Collaborative teamwork and critical thinking will be encouraged as students work on innovative projects, fostering an entrepreneurial spirit within the classroom. By the end of the class, students will have the knowledge and confidence to transform their ideas into viable business ventures.

Exploring French

Course #: 85110

Semester, 5 Periods per Week

This semester course introduces students to useful vocabulary, basic grammatical skills, and active conversation in the modern French-speaking world. Students will explore language learning through a variety of activities involving culture, music, movies, digital learning, print, games, and much more! Exploring French is designed to give students a positive French Language experience that will enhance their secondary school language learning and put them on the path to fluency.

Exploring Spanish

Course #: 85109

Semester, 5 Periods per Week

This semester course introduces students to useful vocabulary, basic grammatical skills and active conversation in the modern Spanish-speaking world. Students will explore language learning through a variety of activities involving culture, music, movies, digital learning, print, games, and much more! Exploring Spanish is designed to give students a positive Spanish Language experience that will enhance their secondary school language learning and put them on the path to fluency.

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. Working together as a team will be an essential skill developed throughout the course.

8th Grade Orchestra

Course #: 85111

Year, 5 Periods per

week

This course is designed as a continuation from 7th Grade Orchestra. This course is offered for 8th grade students interested in continuing their growth and development as string musicians and to prepare them for the High School Orchestra course. Students in the class may choose from violin, viola, cello, or double bass. Course content includes technique and skill development related to playing each instrument, music literacy and reading skills, building musical connections by experiencing music from other cultures, and a deepening understanding of musical concepts. Students will be required to prepare and perform music, selected by the director, at an appropriate level of difficulty for developing musicians. Students are expected to practice and prepare the repertoire outside of class, including practicing at home. Class grades are divided into three categories: participation, assessments, and concerts and playing tests. Students are evaluated on growth over time in each

area as well as traditional assessment. Students are required to participate in all performances and dress rehearsals.

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 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.

Piano I

Course #: 85111

One Quarter*, 5 Periods Per Week

Piano I is a nine-week long course that is offered to students who are interested in learning how to play the piano. The class is designed so any student may register for the class, whether they have experience playing the piano or not. The course will teach students basic skills such as note reading and technique. Students will learn how to play one-handed melodies, one and two hand chords, chordal accompaniments to songs, solo pieces and duets. The course will culminate in students learning an appropriate solo selected together with the instructor, within an intermediate level.

*Students who enroll in the first section of Piano I may schedule the class twice in order to further their piano learning and development. Students who schedule the class for the entire semester will have an individualized curriculum in order to learn more advanced skills and play more advanced music, appropriate for their level of development.

Pixel Perfect: An Art of Middle School Graphic Designing & Video Editing

Course #: 85103

One quarter, 5 Periods Per Week

In this course, students will learn the art and science of video production using Adobe's industry-standard editing tools. Through hands-on tutorials and engaging projects, students will master the basics of Adobe Premiere Pro, gaining expertise in video importing, editing, transitions, effects, and audio manipulation. They will explore advanced techniques such as color grading, motion graphics, and special effects, transforming their videos into professional-grade productions. Along the way, students will develop critical skills in storyboarding, cinematography, and video composition, enhancing their ability to convey compelling narratives visually. Collaborative projects encourage teamwork and creativity, allowing students to apply their skills to real-world scenarios. By the end of the course, students will have created a portfolio of edited videos, showcasing their creativity and technical proficiency. Whether aspiring filmmakers or content creators, students will leave this class with the expertise to bring their ideas to life through the power of digital video editing using Adobe software.

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 Ed Transportation 8

Course #: 85103

One quarter, 5 Periods Per Week

This nine-week course in Transportation Engineering for 8th grade students will focus on the planning, design, construction, management, and performance of transportation systems. These systems consist of facilities, vehicles, data, control mechanisms, new technologies, and policies that combine to permit the efficient transit of people and freight. Students will study the areas of land, water, and air transportation. Projects will be Pinewood Racers, Hot Air Balloons, Speed Boats, and Monster Trucks.

Technology Ed Engineering 8

Course #: 85104

One quarter, 5 Periods Per Week

This nine-week course provides a solid foundation in fundamental skills needed for 8th grade students to academically succeed and prepare them for challenges within the disciplines of Engineering and Technology Management. The project-based assignments will provide students with opportunities to apply mathematics to solve engineering problems, acquire team working skills, practice written and verbal communication skills, and enhance problem solving and design skills. Students will study the areas of wood production, balsa engineering and use the design software Tinker CAD. Student projects will be Balsa Structures, Custom Wood Projects, and 3D Printing.

Teen Living

Course #: 85107

One quarter, 5 Periods per week

Teen Living is a 9-week course. In this course, students will engage in self-exploration through topics related to goal setting, study skills, career planning, personal finance, time management, organization techniques, and managing daily living. Students will examine their rights and responsibilities as consumers and citizens.

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: Honors Science	Period 1: Honors Science	Period 1: Honors Science	Period 1: Honors Science
Period 2: Honors History	Period 2: Honors History	Period 2: Honors History	Period 2: Honors 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 8: Digital Art	Period 7: Teen Living
Period 8: Explore Spanish	Period 8: Explore Spanish	Period 8: Explore French	Period 8: Explore 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: TE Transpor	Period 7: Foods 8	Period 7: Art 8: 2D/3D	Period 7: Pixel Perfect
Period 8: PE	Period 8: PE	Period 8: Emerging Entrepreneurs	Period 8: Emerging Entrepreneurs

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: TE Engineer	Period 8: Art 8: 2D/3D