Program of Study

2024-2025

Wilmington Area Middle School

Grades 5 - 8

Foreword

This Program of Study has been prepared by the faculty, the school counselor, and the WASD administration. Its purpose is to provide a comprehensive presentation of the programs of study available to Wilmington Area students at the middle school level. An overall understanding of the curricula enables the students, together with the parents, school counselor, and teachers, to set goals and objectives that can be met through the thoughtful selection of courses.

The Wilmington Area Middle School Counseling Department focuses on the academic, career, and personal/social developmental needs of our students. Every student is valuable, and their differences are important and embraced. Each student has unique needs and goals; thus, programs and activities are varied. Parental involvement is always encouraged and appreciated!

Non-Discrimination Policy

In accordance with applicable federal statutes and regulations, it is the policy of the Wilmington Area School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, age, sex, or handicap in employment or in the administration of any of its educational programs and activities in accordance with applicable federal statutes and regulations. For information about your rights and grievance procedures or for information concerning the full range of opportunities available in Vocational Education, location of services, activities, and facilities that are accessible to and usable by handicapped persons, contact Mr. Brandon Phillian, Title IX Coordinator, or Dr. Michael O'Donovan section 504 Coordinator, Wilmington Area School District, 300 Wood Street, New Wilmington, PA 16142 (724) 656-8866, ext. 6101.

The Curriculum

The curriculum of the Wilmington Area Middle School has been designed to help students progress toward the achievement of high academic standards. Instructional services are both comprehensive and varied: comprehensive to meet the educational demands common to all youth and varied to provide for the wide range of interests and abilities found among students of a comprehensive middle school. Because Wilmington Area students are looking forward to a variety of careers and post-secondary educational opportunities, the curriculum is organized to meet the needs of those who expect to enter an institution of higher learning as well as those who expect to enter directly into the world of work.

College and Career Readiness Pathways

The goal of our academic standards for career education and development is to drive the academic curriculum, the social-emotional well-being, and the student's career goals based on the American School Counseling Association (ASCA) model and the college and career readiness standards as mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) in Chapter 339.

Academic standards for career education and work

- Career awareness and preparation
- Career acquisition (Getting a job)
- Career retention and advancement
- Entrepreneurship

The comprehensive program is reported under the career readiness indicator in the PA Future Ready Index

The students will be able to:

- demonstrate engagement in career exploration and preparation by the end of 5th-grade
- create an individualized career plan and participate in career preparation activities aligned to the standards by the end of 8th-grade

Smart Futures will be used to implement these lessons. Students in each grade will be required to complete each of the lessons and required tasks in each grade as part of their graduation requirements.

Procedure for Course Selection

At an appropriate time each year, students, after discussions with parents, teachers, the counselor, and administration, will make course selections appropriate to their educational goals. In making course selections, students must meet the minimum standards for each grade level, including required subjects and special rotations.

Middle School Credits will appear on a student's transcript but will not count toward the required 27 high school credits.

1. Students should review the entire Program of Study booklet with their parents/guardians before choosing advanced or elective courses.

2. Students must schedule all course and career standards necessary to meet grade level requirements.

3. A minimum of 35 class periods of instruction per week must be scheduled and maintained by each student.

4. Where "elective" is designated in each "block," a course must be chosen from the provided list of electives. In order to schedule an elective, prerequisites must be met.

5. Any deviation or change in the student's schedule must have the approval of the counselor and administration. These will be based on the needs of the student as identified by the staff.

6. **In repeating courses**, the following guidelines must be met:

    a. A student must repeat a required core course that he/she fails. This student must attend summer school or repeat the course the following school year.

    b. It is not educationally sound to schedule a required sequential course before the preceding course is passed. Therefore, when there is a failure, the course should be repeated and passed before the next course in the sequence may be scheduled.

Schedule Change Guidelines

All requests for course changes must be initiated in writing using the proper form through the School Counseling Office. ***The last day to request a schedule change is May 30, 2024***. Students are responsible for completing the required form and must include all necessary teacher and parent signatures. Approval of any requests will be made based on the advice of teachers, counselor, and principal.

Incomplete Grades

A student who receives a quarter grade of "I" has a maximum of ten(10) school days after the date of the end of the quarter to fulfill the requirements.

- If the student does not satisfy the requirements, the teacher will change all incomplete assignments to a zero.
- If the student does satisfy the requirements, the teacher will change the quarter grade to the earned value and replace the "I" with a percentage grade.

Monitoring Students' Academic Success

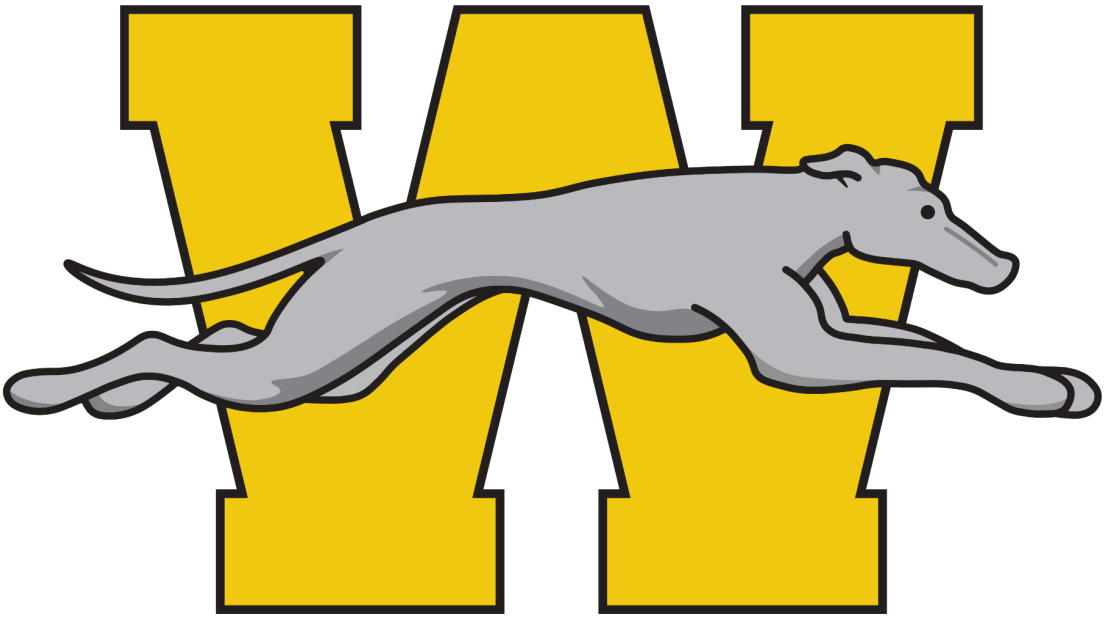
Parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to take an active role in their child's education. The Wilmington Area School District utilizes the ALMA student information system for parents/guardians to view their child's grades and attendance. This can be accessed by logging onto **https://wahs.getalma.com/.** Parents can view weekly agendas and monitor assignments through their child's Google Classroom.

For information on how to access your child's Alma SIS account, please contact Director of Educational Services Brandon Phillan at phillian@wasd.school or 724-656-8866 x6600 or the Technology Department at 724-656-8866 x6542.

Example of Student Schedule by Grade Level

	5th	6th	7th	8th
Period 1	Rotation	Core Class 1	Elective(s)	Elective(s)
Period 2	Core Class 1	Rotation	Core Class	Core Class
Period 3	Core Class 1	Core Class 1	Rotation	Elective(s)
Period 4	Core Class 2	Core Class 2	Core Class	Core Class
Period 5	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Math/PE
Period 6	Core Class 2	Core Class 2	Rotation	Lunch
Period 7	Core Class 3	Core Class 3	Core Class	Rotation
Period 8	Core Class 4	Core Class 4	Math/PE	Core Class
Period 9	Elective(s)	Elective(s)	Core Class	Core Class

Course Descriptions



Language Arts

Courses

- English Language Arts Grade 5
- English Language Arts Grade 6
- English Language Arts Grade 7
- English Language Arts Grade 8

English Language Arts Grade 5

Materials: *Wonders*, McGraw Hill, 2023, *Simple Solutions: Common Core English Grammar & Mechanics 5*, Bright Ideas Press, 2014, various novels

English Language Arts 5 focuses on the arts of the English language: reading, writing, spelling, grammar, speaking, and listening. This is accomplished by studying various genres of literature and utilizing many various skills to foster comprehension. Grammar and spelling are addressed on a weekly basis as well as while reading. Writing, speaking, and listening are addressed through a variety of activities in response to the literature. Novels read include *Number the Stars* and *Shiloh*.

English Language Arts Grade 6

Materials: *Wonders*, McGraw Hill, 2023*, various novels*

In ELA 6, emphasis is placed on reading literature in various genres, accompanied by complementary writing. Grammar lessons are given throughout the year. Spelling addresses common word parts and roots as a means of decoding difficult words and increasing fluency. An emphasis is placed on sentence patterns and the use and identification of figurative language. Poetry, an introduction to research writing, and persuasive, narrative, and expository writings are written, critiqued, and shared with a peer audience. Reading selections include *The Whipping Boy, Loser, Tuck Everlasting, Zane and the Hurricane, My Side of the Mountain,* and various literature pieces from the *Holt* text.

English Language Arts Grade 7

Materials: *Pictures of Hollis Woods, The Westing Game, Things Not Seen, and various other short pieces of fiction and nonfiction.*

Throughout this course, students will engage in literary analysis of short stories, poetry, drama, novels, and nonfiction. The course focuses on the interpretation of literary works and the development of oral and written communication skills. In doing so, there are four areas of focus: Literature, Composition, Grammar Usage and Mechanics, and Vocabulary. English 7 sharpens reading comprehension skills, engages readers in literary analysis, and offers a variety of literature.

English Language Arts Grade 8

Materials: *Elements of Literature 2nd Course*, Holt
Novels: *Frederick Douglass, Outsiders, The Watsons Go To Birmingham, Ghost Boys, Freak the Mighty*

In English eight, emphasis is placed on reading literature in various genres, accompanied by complementary writing. Grammar lessons are given throughout the year. Vocabulary lessons will accompany literature and poetry. Reading selections include *Frederick Douglass, The Outsiders, Ghost Boys, Freak the Mighty,* and short stories.

Mathematics

Courses

- Math Grade 5
- Math Plus Grade 5
- Math Grade 6
- Math Plus Grade 6
- Math Grade 7
- Math Foundations 7
- Math Grade 8
- Math Foundations 8
- Pre-Algebra
- Algebra I with Lab

Math Grade 5

Materials: *Glencoe Math 5*, McGraw-Hill

In this course, students will attain the foundational skills necessary for Place Value, Base Ten Operations with Whole Numbers, Operations in conjunction with Decimals, Fractions and Mixed Numbers, Expressions and Patterns, Basic Conversions, and Introduction to Geometry. An emphasis on decimals and fractions and their relation together will further assist students in future math courses.

Math Plus Grade 5

Materials: *Glencoe Math 5*, McGraw-Hill, *Simple Solutions Math 5*
Criteria for Consideration: *Student's grade in previous math class, teacher recommendation, applicable scores from PSSA and CDT tests*

In this course, students will attain the foundational skills necessary for Place Value, Base Ten Operations with Whole Numbers, Operations in conjunction with Decimals, Fractions and Mixed Numbers, Expressions and Patterns, Basic Conversions, and Introduction to Geometry. An emphasis on decimals and fractions and their relation together will further assist students in future math courses. In addition, the Math Plus course will have an emphasized focus on problem-solving and application. Students will be given higher depth of knowledge assessments that provide the opportunity to apply learned skills to problem-solving applications.

Math Grade 6

Materials: *ATA Math 6 Curriculum*, *Glencoe Math Course 1*, and *Glencoe Math Course 2*

In Math 6, students will continue to build foundational knowledge in preparation for higher-level high school math courses. Specifically, students will learn to calculate area, volume, and surface area of two and three-dimensional figures in geometry. They will learn to follow the correct steps to solve one-step equations in algebraic concepts. In numbers and operations, students will revisit adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions and decimals in order to prepare them for using proportional reasoning of numbers to solve higher level thinking problems. Finally, they will learn the basic foundations of graphing using slope.

Math Plus Grade 6

Materials: *ATA Math 6 Curriculum*, *Glencoe Math Course 1*, and *Glencoe Math Course 2*
Criteria for Consideration: *Student's grade in previous math class, teacher recommendation, applicable scores from PSSA and CDT tests*

In Math 6 Plus, students will continue to build foundational knowledge in preparation for higher-level high school math courses, but they will do it with more of a focus on problem-solving and at a faster pace than in the general math 6 class. Just as in Math 6, this class will focus on area and volume in geometry, introduce proportional reasoning of numbers, review the four operations with fractions and decimals, and introduce slope. However, once the topics have been taught, they will be practiced and tested using questions requiring a deeper level of thinking. The pace of this class will also be such that all sixth-grade content has been covered by PSSA testing time with the intention of beginning pre-algebraic concepts in the last month and a half.

Math Grade 7

Materials: *ATA Math 7 Curriculum, Carnegie Learning MSMS Course 2, 4th Ed. Text and MATHia*

Math 7 is a course that presents all of the basic concepts and skills to prepare students for the study of Algebra and Geometry at the high school level. Students learn to understand and apply different methods and properties used to solve problems dealing with numbers and operations, geometry, measurement, algebra, and statistics.

Math Foundations Grade 7

Materials: *ATA Math 7 Curriculum, Carnegie Learning MSMS Course 2, 4th Ed. Text and MATHia*

There will be a focus on strengthening skills required for success on the PSSA exam. Diagnostic testing is administered throughout the course. PSSA-eligible content is covered in this course. Using a systematic approach, eligible content is covered separately in some cases and covered jointly in others.

Math Grade 8

Materials: *McGraw-Hill, 2000-2014; ATA Pre-Algebra Curriculum*

In this course, students will be introduced to the foundational skills necessary for algebra; decimal, fraction, and integer operations as well as coordinate plane point plotting are practiced, and accompanying vocabulary is reinforced. Students will be introduced to the distributive property, expansion of expressions, and combining like terms to prepare skills to be able to efficiently and effectively solve multi-step equations and inequalities. This course will also emphasize the key geometry concepts found within the 8th-grade content standards for the PSSA.

Math Foundations Grade 8

Materials: *ATA Pre-Algebra Curriculum, Carnegie Learning MSMS Course 2, 4th Ed. Text and MATHia*

There will be a focus on strengthening skills required for success on the PSSA exam. Diagnostic testing is administered throughout the course. PSSA-eligible content is covered in this course. Using a systematic approach, eligible content is covered separately in some cases and covered jointly in others.

Pre-Algebra

Materials: *ATA Pre-Algebra Curriculum 2016 with yearly updates*
Criteria for Consideration: *Student's grade in previous math class, teacher recommendation, applicable scores from PSSA and CDT tests*

In this course, students will attain the foundational skills necessary for algebra; decimal, fraction, and integer operations, as well as coordinate plane point plotting are practiced and accompanying vocabulary is reinforced. Students will apply the distributive property to expand expressions and combine like terms to prepare skills to be able to efficiently and effectively solve multi-step equations and inequalities. An emphasis on functions, relations, domain, range, slope, rate of change, and linear functions will assist students in having a firm basis for future math courses. This course will also emphasize the key geometry concepts found within the 8th-grade content standards.

Algebra I with Lab
(NCAA Approved Course - Algebra I only)

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Pre-Algebra
Materials: *Glencoe Algebra I, McGraw-Hill, 2014; ATA Algebra 1 Curriculum, TI 84+ graphing calculators*
Criteria for Consideration: *Students grade in previous math class, teacher recommendation, applicable scores from PSSA and CDT tests*

In this course, the concepts of algebra are taught first at the rudimentary skill level and then practiced with real-life, application-based problems. This course is built on the idea that students develop a better conceptual understanding of mathematics when solving real-life problems. Throughout this course, students will be challenged to develop 21st-century skills such as critical thinking and creative problem solving while engaging with exciting careers within Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) related fields. Teaching fundamental algebraic methods and properties is a focal point of this course. Graphing of equations and inequalities, as well as teaching properties and relationships of linear equations is the most heavily covered material in this course. The TI-84 graphics calculator will be introduced in this course and used to aid students in problem-solving.

There will be a focus on strengthening skills required for success on the Keystone Algebra 1 exam. Diagnostic testing is administered throughout the course. Keystone Algebra 1 eligible content is covered in this course. Using a systematic approach, eligible content is covered separately in some cases and covered jointly in others. Students will participate in the Algebra I Keystone Exam at the end of this course.

Students enrolled in the course will receive one credit while receiving an additional half credit for the lab portion. Students will be enrolled in both the course and the lab unless extenuating circumstances occur.

Social Studies

Courses

- Social Studies Grade 5
- World Geography Grade 6
- Ancient World History Grade 7
- U.S. History Grade 8

Social Studies Grade 5

Materials: *My World Social Studies, Building Our Country*, Pearson, Boston, Massachusetts. 2013

The course will cover the following topics: The First Americans, Age of Exploration, Settlements Take Root (concentration of North America), Life in the Colonies, The American Revolution, A New Nation, The Young Nation Grows, Moving West, Civil War and Reconstruction. This program is designed to work in a Backward Design by using an essential question at the beginning of each lesson. Each essential question is designed to help the students see the Big Idea for each chapter. Each question will activate prior knowledge and enable students to connect topics to each lesson.

World Geography Grade 6

Materials: *Discovering World Geography*, McGraw Hill, 2018

World Geography gives today's students a firm foundation for understanding global issues in the context of physical and human geography. Students will explore the role of social media, refugees, immigration, trade issues, the effects of aging populations, energy resources, and indigenous rights. Maps will be an integral part of the course.

Ancient World History Grade 7

Materials: *Discovering Our World: A History of Our Past*, McGraw-Hill, *The Breadwinner*

Ancient World History is a designed course that creates opportunities for students to expand their knowledge and understanding of the ancient world and its impact on our modern society. As a result, students will focus their attention on world history as it relates to economics, geography, civics and government, contributions from individuals and groups, historical documents, continuity and change, and conflict and cooperation. Students will utilize these core concepts as they investigate the impact of the Roman Empire, the development of the world's largest three religions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam), contributions of the Asian societies, and the changes and developments of Medieval Europe. Lastly, students will discover relevance in Ancient World History as they compare and contrast the United States and the core concepts that they learned about throughout this historical course.

U.S. History Grade 8

Materials: *Discovering Our Past: A History of the United States, Early Years*, McGraw-Hill, 2014

U.S. History 8 focuses on the period of American History that begins with the first Americans and development of the 13 Colonies and proceeds through the growth of the United States to the 1840s. This course utilizes a variety of primary source documents and supplemental readings. It is designed to give students an understanding and appreciation for how events of the past impact and shape their lives today. The curriculum was designed in accordance with the Pennsylvania Standards for Civics and Government, Economics, History, and Geography.

Science

Courses

- Science Grade 5
- Science Grade 6
- Science Grade 7
- Science Grade 8

Science Grade 5

Materials: *General Science-Science Fusion*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 2017

The General Science curriculum is designed to continue the investigation of the general sciences begun in earlier grades. The General Science course will provide an extensive knowledge base and a foundation for continued study of science, particularly tailored to meet the needs of 5th-grade students. The investigations will be approached in a qualitative and quantitative manner in keeping with the developing mathematical skills of the students. The curriculum will integrate, introduce, and develop topics from chemistry, physics, earth science, and STEM skills activities. The topics will include the following: How Scientists Work, The Engineering Process, Cells to Body Systems, How Living Things Grow and Reproduce, Ecosystems, Energy and Ecosystems, Natural Resources, Changes to Earth's Surface, The Rock Cycle, Fossils, Earth's Oceans, The Solar System, Matter, Light and Sound, Forces and Motion.

Science Grade 6

Materials: *Integrated Science Course One*

Integrated Science Course 1 introduces basic concepts and key ideas while providing opportunities for students to learn reasoning skills and a new way of thinking about their environment. The course blends life, earth, and physical science topics. Units include Exploring Earth, Exploring Life, Understanding Matter, and Understanding Energy.

Science Grade 7

Materials: *Integrated Science Course Two*

Integrated Science Course 2 focuses on scientific explanations and covers topics in life, earth, and physical science. Units include Life: Structure and Function, Life: Changes and Interactions, Energy and Matter, Earth: A Dynamic Planet, and Exploring the Universe. It continues to introduce basic concepts and key ideas while providing opportunities for students to learn reasoning skills and a new way of thinking about their environment.

Science Grade 8

Materials: *Integrated Science Course Three*

Integrated Science Course 3 focuses on scientific problem solving and covers topics in life, earth, and physical science. Units include Motion and Energy, Interactions of Matter, Understanding the Universe, Earth and Geologic Change, Exploring Ecology, and Heredity and Human Body Systems. Course 3 continues to introduce basic concepts and key ideas while providing opportunities for students to learn reasoning skills and a new way of thinking about their environment.

Grade Level Rotations

Rotations are subject to change

Grade 5 Rotation

Courses

- Art
- Music
- Library
- Physical Education

Art 5

Materials: *Various Art supplies, computers, iPads, and smart TV*

In this course, students will have the opportunity to continue to develop and explore various visual art forms and techniques. Students will achieve this by using many different forms of media to create both three-dimensional and two-dimensional works of art.

Music 5

Materials: *Various Instruments*

5th and 6th grade music is an extension of the music classes taught in elementary school. The students will learn about music through singing, dancing, playing instruments, and projects. This is not a performance-based class.

Library 5

Materials: *Follette's Destiny Online Catalog, Power Library via Access PA, Kahoot, Accelerated Reader, Books*

Students will be introduced to materials suitable for their reading level, review proper library behavior, library procedures, and book care. They will continue to learn about various genres and the famous authors in various genres. They will review the location of various call numbers in the library. They will be introduced to the reference section and the use of various types of reference materials, both print and digital. The library will support the 5th grade ELA teacher and students in the Accelerated Reader program and stress digital citizenship.

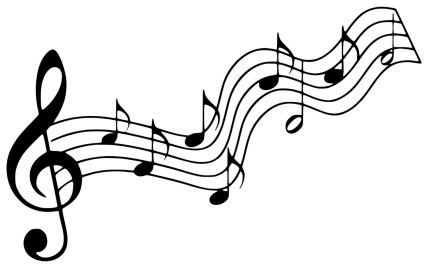
Physical Education 5

Materials: *Athletic shoes and appropriate clothing for physical activities*

This course allows for the continuation of what the students have learned at the elementary level. The students at the elementary level learned fundamental skills that will now be applied to games and activities in middle school. The activities students will be learning are target heart rate, cardiovascular activities, and team sports. Other activities may be included in the program. Grading consists of participation, being prepared for class, and sportsmanship.

Grade 6 Rotation

Courses



- Art 6
- Music 6
- Library 6
- Physical Education 6

Art 6

Materials: *Various Art supplies, computers, iPads, and smart TV*

In this course, students will have the opportunity to continue to develop and explore various visual art forms and techniques. Students will achieve this by using many different forms of media to create both three-dimensional and two-dimensional works of art.

Music 6

Materials: *Various Instruments*

5th and 6th grade music is an extension of the music classes taught in elementary school. The students will learn about music through singing, dancing, playing instruments, and projects. This is not a performance-based class.

Library 6

Materials: *Follette's Destiny Online Catalog, Power Library via Access PA, Kahoot, Accelerated Reader, Books*

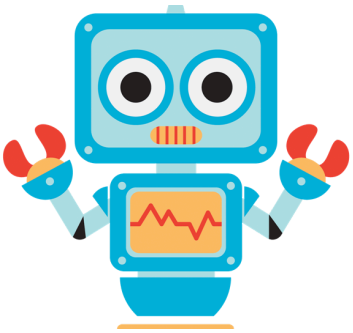
Students will review proper library behavior, procedures, and book care. Students will learn basic search strategies to locate information within the library's online catalog and electronic databases such as Gale in Context, evaluate the quality of a source for a specific use/purpose, and be able to cite sources using required information and proper formatting. Students will also continue to work on recognizing the various types and characteristics of different genres, which will tie into the library support of the Accelerated Reader program. Digital citizenship will continue to be stressed.

Physical Education 6

Materials: *Athletic shoes and appropriate clothing for physical activities*

This course allows for the continuation of what the students have learned at the elementary level. The students at the elementary level learned fundamental skills that will now be applied to games and activities in middle school. The activities students will be learning are target heart rate, cardiovascular activities, and team sports. Other activities may be included in the program. Grading consists of participation, being prepared for class, and sportsmanship.

Grade 7 Rotation



Courses

- General Music Appreciation 7
- Physical Education 7
- Health 7
- Spanish 7
- French 7
- Tools and Technology 7
- Introduction to Technology 7
- Coding 7
- Exploring Business 7
- Computer Applications 7

General Music Appreciation 7

Materials: *Folder or binder, notebook paper, Chromebook, pencil*

During this nine weeks, seventh-grade students will learn about many different topics in music. We will cover Western music history, modern-day music, music theory, performing, music theater, careers, and world instruments. Students will need to be able to have a positive and mature attitude and a willingness to work hard to be successful in this class.

Physical Education 7

Materials: *School gym uniform (t-shirt provided) and athletic shoes*

This course is designed to promote an active lifestyle and help build the foundation for determining what activities best suit each student's needs and teach the basic principles of conditioning, the body systems and their reaction to activity, and their relationship to exercise. Evaluation is objective, based on participation and sportsmanship. Students are required to wear appropriate attire during PE classes. The activities include, but are not limited to, flexibility, cardiovascular activities, and team sports.

Health 7

Materials: *Human Body Systems by Pearson* (Interactive Science): 2011

We will cover five units of instruction in this course.
Unit 1 (Systems, Skeletal, Muscular, Skin)
Unit 2 (Digestion, Cardio, Blood, Blood Vessels)
Unit 3 (Nutrition, Respiration, Smoking, Excretory)
Unit 4 (Nervous System, Sight, Smell Taste and Touch, Drugs)
Unit 5 (Infectious and noninfectious diseases)
All assignments and tests will be completed online via google classroom.

Spanish 7

Materials: *Teacher-created resources and lessons*

This course is designed to give students an introduction to Spanish vocabulary used in the full-year Spanish 1 course. Students will read, write, and speak basic, high-frequency words in the target language. Students will play games and complete projects in order to master the vocabulary. Student learning will be assessed through a variety of games and activities. This course is designed as a precursor to Spanish 1.

French 7

Materials: *Teacher-created resources and lessons*

This course is designed to give students an introduction to French vocabulary used in the full-year French 1 course. Students will cover topics such as food, family members, colors, objects, sports, and varying expressions. They will be assessed through listening, spoken, and written means. Additionally, student learning will be assessed through a variety of games and activities.

Tools and Technology 7

Materials: *Wood, Safety glasses, Workshop equipment*

Tools and Technology consists of demonstrations and hands-on activities pertaining to basic woodworking techniques. Throughout this course, a variety of hand, portable power, and stationary machines will be used, with a strong emphasis on safety. The emphasis of this course is placed on processes by which products/projects are developed. The project will be decided on by the instructor for the entire class to individually construct. The project will be at a beginner level, with safety emphasized. The class will also participate in a variety of STEM activities that the students will be engaged in. Students will explore multiple areas and build connections in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields.

Introduction to Technology 7

Material: *Materials are provided in the Technology classroom*

This is a course of study designed to enable seventh and eighth-grade students to dive deeper into the various technologies related to design in the technology education classroom. Emphasis will be focused on robotic programming, 3d design and printing, laser engraving and cutting, and vinyl sticker design. Students will also complete design briefs and be poised with real-world problem-solving situations. This course of study has been developed with the expectation that instruction will be provided through hands-on, laboratory-based activity. The major outcome of this portion of the technology program is the ability for students to synthesize and apply their new technological literacy to the solution of problems through the design, development, operation, and maintenance in each of these aspects of technology.

Introduction to Coding 7

Materials: *Carnegie Mellon University Computer Science Academy (CMU0)*

Computer Science and computational problem solving are fundamental skills for engaging the 21st-century marketplace of ideas and economies. During this nine-week course, students will have the opportunity to learn these skills as they will likely use them throughout their high school classes and in whatever career they pursue. This course will guide students from the basics of drawing images to creating animation through the use of Python.

Exploring Business 7

Materials: Greene, Cynthia L., *Entrepreneurship Ideas in Action 6e*, South-Western Cengage Learning, 2017; EVERFI Online Courses; and Ryan, Joan S., *Managing Your Personal Finances 6e*, South-Western Cengage Learning, 2010.

Exploring Business Grade 7 is a course designed to introduce students to many general aspects of business, including entrepreneurship, business concepts, and financial literacy. Through hands-on, interactive game playing, students will learn how to start and operate a small business and manage their money, savings, and investments to start building future personal wealth and financial security.

Computer Applications 7

Materials: Google Suite, 1:1 Device

Computer Applications is a course designed for students to use integrated software applications, focusing on word processing, spreadsheet applications, presentation design, email usage, and documents. Computer Applications is designed for students to develop professionalism and the necessary skills to be successful in the world of technology. Students will learn the necessary features of Google Drive, Google Email, Google Docs, Google Sheets, and Google Slides. Using these tools, students will develop the 21st-century skills of collaboration, communication, creativity and innovation, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

Grade 8 Rotation

Courses

- Art 8
- Physical Education 8
- Introduction to Agriculture 8
- Smart Futures 8
- Robotics 8

Art 8

Materials: *Acrylic and tempera paint in a wide variety of colors, Crayola watercolor paint in basic and mixing sets, colored pencils, Crayola crayons, thick and thin water-based markers, printmaking ink, Soft Cut/foam board, Elmer's glue gallons, glue sticks, scissors, thin Aluminum wire, pliers and wire cutters, tissue paper, Sharpie markers (fine, extra fine, metallic and colored), 90lb. Drawing Paper, Watercolor Paper, Mod Podge gallon, Clay, clay tools, glaze, kiln, India Ink, Art History Prints, computer, and Promethean Board*

This course will serve as an artistic link between middle school and high school. Through various projects and media, students will be introduced to new skills and techniques. The elements of art and principles of design, the PA art standards, plus the student's creativity will be the catalyst for the completion of two and three-dimensional artwork. Areas of study will include drawing, painting, sculpture and mixed media, and art history. Students will also review and practice proper care and clean up of art materials and studio space. Assessment will be based on criteria specific to individual assignments…never natural born talent.

Physical Education 8

Materials: *School gym uniform (t-shirt provided) and athletic shoes*

This course is designed to promote an active lifestyle and help build the foundation for determining what activities best suit each student's needs, and teach the basic principles of conditioning, the body systems and their reaction to activity, and their relationship to exercise. Evaluation is objective, based on participation and sportsmanship.
Students are required to wear appropriate attire during PE classes. The activities include, but are not limited to, flexibility, cardiovascular activities, and team sports.

Intro to Agriculture 8

Materials: *Bureau of Career and Technical Education for Agriculture Education, AgEd net*

The class is an introduction to agriculture and its importance to our everyday lives. Students will be introduced to a variety of topics, including but not limited to animal science, plant science, food science, wildlife and natural resources, forestry, and careers in agriculture. The objective is that students will have a basic understanding of what the agriculture industry entails and how it is important to understand its effects on our economy and world.

Smart Futures 8

Materials: *Smart Futures Online Program*

Smart Futures 7/8 is a combination of career exploration activities that are designed to help students explore interests and potential career paths for life before, through, and after high school. Students will complete assessments and engage with peers to develop the necessary skills needed in life/career planning.

Robotics 8

Materials: VEX IQ Movement and Structure Kits, VEX IQ Curriculum, and the VexCode app

Robotics Grade 8 is a course designed to introduce students to the world of robotics and block-based coding. In this course, students will build, control, and autonomously navigate a sensored driving bot that uses a robotic arm and claw to pick up and move objects. As the course progresses, students will be asked to modify the arm and claw to accommodate a variety of objects and iterate code to accomplish real-life tasks.

Grade 5 Electives

Courses

- Study Skills 5
- Choir 5
- Beginning Band 5
- Introduction to Technology 5/6
- Intramurals 5/6

Study Skills 5

Materials: *TBD*

The course will focus on organization and study strategies for use in school and home. Students will have the opportunity to develop tools for review and skills development.

Choir 5

Materials: *1-inch black three-ring binder, notebook paper, pencil*

Students should possess an ability to sing, a willingness to work hard, and the attitude necessary to be in a musical group. This beginning choir will teach the fundamental skills of being in a choral ensemble, such as music reading and proper singing technique. Students will also develop sight-reading and aural skills while preparing for performances. Discipline and positive attitudes are needed for outstanding performance. Opportunities for performing include school productions and evening concerts. Students are required to attend all performances as part of the nine-week grade. This class is held every other day throughout the school year.

Beginning Band 5

Materials: *Musical instrument & band method book*

Students enrolled in 5th grade Band Class will be taught to develop instrumental music skills and to prepare for multiple performance opportunities, which may include but are not limited to a winter concert in early December, a mid-winter concert in February, and a final spring concert in May. During this full-year course, 5th-grade students will be provided individualized weekly group lessons as well as participation in a full ensemble class setting each week in order to continually improve their individual and ensemble skills. This course will focus on the following content areas: tone quality, correct posture, balance, blend, intonation, attacks, releases, phrasing, rhythm, cooperation, respect, and self-discipline. Furthermore, a variety of music representative of varying styles, composers, and historical periods will be selected for the purpose of teaching and reinforcing musical concepts and instrumental techniques needed to achieve proficiency on an instrument.

Introduction to Technology 5

Materials:

This course is designed to enable fifth and sixth-grade students to explore the various technologies related to design in the technology education classroom. Emphasis will be focused on 3d design and printing, laser engraving and cutting, and vinyl sticker design. Students will also complete design briefs and be poised with real-world problem-solving situations. This course of study has been developed with the expectation that instruction will be provided through hands-on, laboratory-based activity. The major outcome of this portion of the technology program is the ability for students to synthesize and apply their new technological literacy to the solution of problems through the design, development, operation, and maintenance of each of these aspects of technology.

Intramurals 5/6

Materials: Athletic shoes and appropriate clothing for physical activities

This course is an extension of the physical education instructional program, including the development of movement skills, health-related fitness, and personal and social responsibility. It also allows for friendly competition among peers. This course would provide students with a variety of interesting, diverse, and challenging activities to accommodate differing levels of need, skills, readiness, and interest while promoting knowledge of various sports opportunities. Other activities may be included in the program. Grading consists of participation, being prepared for class, and sportsmanship. This is a companion course with Study Skills, and students are required to maintain passing grades. Grade-level teams will ensure that all students are receiving academic support and enrichment as needed.

Grade 6 Electives

Courses

- Study Skills 6
- Choir 6
- Band 6
- Introduction to Technology 5/6
- Intramurals 5/6

Study Skills 6

Materials: *TBD*

The course will focus on organization and study strategies for use in school and home. Students will have the opportunity to develop tools for review and skills development.

Choir 6

Materials: *1-inch black three-ring binder, notebook paper, pencil*

Students should possess an ability to sing, a willingness to work hard, and the attitude necessary to be in a musical group. This beginning choir will teach the fundamental skills of being in a choral ensemble, such as music reading and proper singing technique. Students will also develop sight-reading and aural skills while preparing for performances. Discipline and positive attitudes are needed for outstanding performance. Opportunities for performing include school productions and evening concerts. Students are required to attend all performances as part of the nine-week grade. This class is held every other day throughout the school year.

Band 6

Materials: *Musical instrument & band method book*

Students enrolled in 6th grade Band Class will be taught to develop instrumental music skills and to prepare for multiple performance opportunities, which may include but are not limited to, a winter concert in early December, a mid-winter concert in February, and a final spring concert in May. During this full-year course, 6th-grade students will be provided individualized weekly group lessons as well as participation in a full ensemble class setting each week in order to continually improve their individual and ensemble skills. This course will focus on the following content areas: tone quality, correct posture, balance, blend, intonation, attacks, releases, phrasing, rhythm, cooperation, respect, and self-discipline. Furthermore, a variety of music representative of varying styles, composers, and historical periods will be selected for the purpose of teaching and reinforcing musical concepts and instrumental techniques needed to achieve proficiency on an instrument.

Introduction to Technology 5/6

Materials:

This course is designed to enable fifth and sixth-grade students to explore the various technologies related to design in the technology education classroom. Emphasis will be focused on 3d design and printing, laser engraving and cutting, and vinyl sticker design. Students will also complete design briefs and be poised with real-world problem-solving situations. This course of study has been developed with the expectation that instruction will be provided through hands-on, laboratory-based activity. The major outcome of this portion of the technology program is the ability for students to synthesize and apply their new technological literacy to the solution of problems through the design, development, operation, and maintenance of each of these aspects of technology.

Intramurals 5/6

Materials: Athletic shoes and appropriate clothing for physical activities

This course is an extension of the physical education instructional program, including the development of movement skills, health-related fitness, and personal and social responsibility. It also allows for friendly competition among peers. This course would provide students with a variety of interesting, diverse, and challenging activities to accommodate differing levels of need, skills, readiness, and interest while promoting knowledge of various sports opportunities. Other activities may be included in the program. Grading consists of participation, being prepared for class, and sportsmanship. This is a companion course with Study Skills, and students are required to maintain passing grades. Grade-level teams will ensure that all students are receiving academic support and enrichment as needed.

Grade 7 Electives

Courses

- Concert Choir 7
- Concert Band 7
- Introduction to Technology 7
- Intramurals 7/8

Concert Choir 7

Materials: *1-inch black three-ring binder, notebook paper, and pencil*

Students should possess an ability to sing, willingness to work hard, and attitude necessary to be in an outstanding musical group. This choir seeks to further develop those musical skills begun in elementary school. Students will develop sight-reading skills, aural skills, and proper vocal technique while preparing for performances. Musicianship, discipline, and attitudes needed for outstanding performance are stressed. Opportunities for performing include school productions and evening concerts. Students are required to attend all performances as part of the nine-week grade. This class is held either every other day throughout the school year or every day throughout the year.

Concert Band 7

Materials: *Musical instrument*

Students enrolled in 7th/8th grade Band Class will be taught and continue to develop instrumental music skills following 5th and/or 6th-grade beginning band class. This course will work to prepare students for multiple performance opportunities, which may include but are not limited to, a winter concert in early December, a mid-winter concert in February, and a final spring concert in May. During this full-year course, 7th/8th-grade students will be taught in a full ensemble class setting each week in order to continually improve both individual and ensemble skills. This course will focus on the following content areas: tone quality, correct posture, balance, blend, intonation, attacks, releases, phrasing, rhythm, cooperation, respect, and self-discipline. Furthermore, a variety of music representative of varying styles, composers, and historical periods will be selected for the purpose of teaching and reinforcing musical concepts and instrumental techniques needed to achieve proficiency on an instrument. *Students will be required to attend all performances, which count as graded musical assessments.

Introduction to Technology 7

Material: *Materials are provided in the Technology classroom*

This is a course of study designed to enable seventh and eighth-grade students to dive deeper into the various technologies related to design in the technology education classroom. Emphasis will be focused on robotic programming, 3d design and printing, laser engraving and cutting, and vinyl sticker design. Students will also complete design briefs and be poised with real-world problem-solving situations. This course of study has been developed with the expectation that instruction will be provided through hands-on, laboratory-based activity. The major outcome of this portion of the technology program is the ability for students to synthesize and apply their new technological literacy to the solution of problems through the design, development, operation, and maintenance of each of these aspects of technology.

Intramurals 7/8

Materials: Athletic shoes and appropriate clothing for physical activities

This course is an extension of the physical education instructional program, including the development of movement skills, health-related fitness, and personal and social responsibility. It also allows for friendly competition among peers. This course would provide students with a variety of interesting, diverse, and challenging activities to accommodate differing levels of need, skills, readiness, and interest while promoting knowledge of various sports opportunities. Other activities may be included in the program. Grading consists of participation, being prepared for class, and sportsmanship. This is a companion course with Support Study Hall, and students are required to maintain passing grades. Grade-level teams will ensure that all students are receiving academic support and enrichment as needed.

Grade 8 Electives

Courses

- Concert Choir 8
- Concert Band 8
- Introduction to Technology 8
- Intramurals 7/8
- Culture Smart 8
- Spanish 1
- French 1

Concert Choir 8

Materials: *1-inch black three-ring binder, notebook paper, pencil*

Students should possess an ability to sing, willingness to work hard, and attitude necessary to be in an outstanding musical group. This choir seeks to further develop those musical skills begun in elementary school. Students will develop sight-reading skills, aural skills, and proper vocal technique while preparing for performances. Musicianship, discipline, and attitudes needed for outstanding performance are stressed. Opportunities for performing include school productions and evening concerts. Students are required to attend all performances as part of the nine-week grade. This class is held either every other day throughout the school year or every day throughout the year.

Concert Band 8

Materials: *Musical instrument*

Students enrolled in 7th/8th grade Band Class will be taught and continue to develop instrumental music skills following 5th and/or 6th-grade beginning band class. This course will work to prepare students for multiple performance opportunities, which may include but are not limited to, a winter concert in early December, a mid-winter concert in February, and a final spring concert in May. During this full-year course, 7th/8th-grade students will be taught in a full ensemble class setting each week in order to continually improve both individual and ensemble skills. This course will focus on the following content areas: tone quality, correct posture, balance, blend, intonation, attacks, releases, phrasing, rhythm, cooperation, respect, and self-discipline. Furthermore, a variety of music representative of varying styles, composers, and historical periods will be selected for the purpose of teaching and reinforcing musical concepts and instrumental techniques needed to achieve proficiency on an instrument. *Students will be required to attend all performances, which count as graded musical assessments.

Introduction to Technology 8

Materials: *Safety glasses, hand tools, power tools, and safety guides. Materials are provided in the Technology classroom.*

This is a course of study designed to enable seventh and eighth-grade students to dive deeper into the various technologies related to design in the technology education classroom. Emphasis will be focused on robotic programming, 3d design and printing, laser engraving and cutting, and vinyl sticker design. Students will also complete design briefs and be poised with real-world problem-solving situations. This course of study has been developed with the expectation that instruction will be provided through hands-on, laboratory-based activity. The major outcome of this portion of the technology program is an ability for students to synthesize and apply their new technological literacy to the solution of problems through the design, development, operation, and maintenance in each of these aspects of Technology.

Intramurals 7/8

Materials: Athletic shoes and appropriate clothing for physical activities

This course is an extension of the physical education instructional program, including the development of movement skills, health-related fitness, and personal and social responsibility. It also allows for friendly competition among peers. This course would provide students with a variety of interesting, diverse, and challenging activities to accommodate differing levels of need, skills, readiness, and interest while promoting knowledge of various sports opportunities. Other activities may be included in the program. Grading consists of participation, being prepared for class, and sportsmanship. This is a companion course with Support Study Hall, and students are required to maintain passing grades. Grade-level teams will ensure that all students are receiving academic support and enrichment as needed.

Culture Smart 8

Materials: textbook

Get a glimpse into unique perspectives and quirks from other cultures. Learn tips and tricks to help you interact more appropriately with people from other countries. This course will boost your cultural competencies and get you ready to be a well-rounded, globally-minded citizen.

Spanish 1 (LAS1)
(NCAA Approved Course)

Grade Level: Eight through Twelve
Credit: One
Materials: *Paso a Paso 1*, Scott Foresman, 2000

Spanish 1 introduces students to basic vocabulary and grammar structure which helps develop reading, writing, speaking, and understanding of simple phrases and sentences. Aural activities with tapes and videos are incorporated into the course. Culture is also explored. Conversations are used to help the student become more confident in the oral use of the language. Students also use Spanish in projects, such as creating greeting cards, clothing catalogs, house plans, family trees, and picture games.

French 1 (LAF1)
(NCAA Approved Course)

Grade Level: Eight through Twelve
Credit: One
Materials: *C'est a toi*, level 1 EMC Paradigm publishing

In French 1, students learn the basics of reading, writing, and speaking in French. The focus is on elementary vocabulary and essential verb conjugations in the present and near future tense, as well as correct pronunciation. Students are assessed through listening, speaking, and written means. Additionally, students gain insight into French customs.