COURSE OF STUDIES
2015-2016

Seventh Grade Courses

ENGLISH

English 7th Grade (36 Weeks)
The primary aim of this course is to lay the foundation for writing and communicating by stressing the following areas: grammar, usage, mechanics, sentence structure, vocabulary, and spelling skills. There is continuing development of the writing process: prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and sharing; and considerable emphasis is placed on paragraph development. Basic speech skills are taught, and the novel is explored through adolescent literature.

MATHEMATICS

Math 1 – 7th Grade (36 Weeks)
This course is designed for students who earned an 80% or lower in sixth grade math. Topics covered are as follows: decimals, patterns, variables, number theory, fractions, ratios, proportions, percents, data and graphs, geometry, measurement, integers, probability, equations, and inequalities. Students who successfully complete this course will take Math 3 or Pre-Algebra next year as 8th graders.

Math 2 – 7th Grade (36 Weeks)
This course is designed for students who earned an 81% or higher in sixth grade math. Topics covered are as follows: decimals, integers, equations, inequalities, exponents, factors, fractions, ratios, proportions, percents, geometry, measurement, graphing in the coordinate plane, analyzing data, and using probability. Students who successfully complete this course may take either Pre-Algebra or Algebra I in eighth grade.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education 7th/8th Grade (18 weeks)
The physical education program provides students with the knowledge and skills that will enable them to achieve and maintain physically active and healthful lifestyles. The 7th and 8th grade curricula follow a progression based upon the fundamental knowledge and skills learned in the elementary program. Students are expected to participate regularly in physical activity, achieve personal fitness and activity goals, learn skills necessary to perform a variety of physical activities, know the implications and benefits from involvement in physical activities, and value physical activity and its contributions to a healthful lifestyle.

READING

Accelerated Reading 7th Grade (18 Weeks)
PREREQUISITE: PSSA Scores from grades 3, 4, and 5 (90%) and 6th grade Reading and English grades average (10%)
Course minimums – PSSA Scores of **Advanced**, 6th grade Reading and English grade averages no less than **90%/A-**
This course is designed for the student who is reading two (2) years above grade placement and is capable of organizing and completing assignments independently. Reading selections are developed through the use of context clues, main ideas, details, inferences, foreshadowing, and reader's knowledge of material, character role-playing and other critical reading skills. Literary techniques and story elements are discussed with each selection. Silent reading techniques such as Preview, Question, Relate, Read, Review, and Demonstrate are discussed and modeled with each selection.

Reading 7th Grade (18 Weeks)
PREREQUISITE: PSSA Scores from grades 3, 4, and 5 (90%) and 6th grade Reading and English grades average (10%)
Course minimum – PSSA Scores of **Proficient**, 6th grade Reading and English grade average no less than **70%/ C-**
This course is designed to meet the needs of those students who are reading at grade placement. Students will be introduced to the active reading strategies of: questioning, making connections, predicting, reviewing and evaluating. Students will use writing techniques that foster deeper thinking about what they have read by: annotating passages, "talking to the text", and "thinking through the pencil". Vocabulary development and close reading for comprehension and of literary elements and devices within the text are the focus of this course.

Developmental Reading 7th Grade (36 Weeks)
PREREQUISITE: PSSA /TEACHER RECOMMENDATION
This course is designed for the student who tests two (2) years below grade level and who requires more time to complete work satisfactorily. The reading strategies of QUESTION, PREDICT, REVIEW, CONNECT, and EVALUATE are used in textbook and supplemental reading. The goal of this class is to reinforce skills necessary to successfully read grade-appropriate material.

PSSA Reading – 7th & 8th Grade (18 Weeks)
PREREQUISITE: PSSA READING SCORES of Basic or Below Basic/TEACHER RECOMMENDATION

THIS IS A REMEDIATION COURSE
Individual student weaknesses will be identified through the PSSA. Weaknesses in reading will be remediated and drilled through daily instruction. Vocabulary will be expanded through activities involving words with multiple-meanings, synonyms, antonyms, forms of words (affixes), as well as deriving word meaning through use of context clues. Reading comprehension will be supported through work in making inferences, drawing conclusions, making generalizations, explaining main ideas and supporting details, as well as summarizing a work of writing as a whole. Interpretation and analysis of literary elements (character, setting, plot, and theme), figurative language (personification, simile, metaphor, hyperbole, etc.), point of view, and fact vs. opinion will be studied within and between reading passages.

SCIENCE

Science 7th Grade (36 Weeks)
This course will have a curriculum focused on the integrated sciences (physics, chemistry, biology, Earth, and environmental sciences). The course will provide students with instruction on the nature of science, using a discovery process to teach the scientific method, and the use of metric measurements in scientific

Students who take 7th grade Honors Science and who earn an 85% average through all terms of the course may

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies 7th Grade (36 Weeks)

This course explores the countries and people of the Eastern and Western Hemispheres. Map-reading skills are used extensively to chart geographical data such as topography, resources, and climate. Historical information is studied to gain insight into cultural differences and their influence on present-day customs. Current issues relating to economics, industry, commerce, and democracy are also introduced. Library research and various hands-on activities are structured so that students can further explore and experience cultural diversities. Study of Pennsylvania history from colonial days thru the industrial revolution.

SEVENTH GRADE HONORS COURSES

Sixth Grade students interested in seventh grade honors classes should acquire application information and guidelines from their sixth grade homeroom teacher. Student must apply, complete, and pass all of the requirements in order to be considered for admission.

Note: Honors class size is limited due to the number of seats, classes and instructors. Gifted students do not automatically qualify for all honors classes.

Honor English – 7th Grade (36) Weeks

PREREQUISITES: GIFTED IDENTIFICATION OR 92% MINIMUM CUMULATIVE AVERAGE IN LANGUAGE ARTS AND SPELLING, TEACHER RECOMMENDATION, SIXTH GRADE PLACEMENT ESSAY.

Seventh Grade Honors English is an optional course designed to challenge those students who have excelled in language arts and spelling and who have demonstrated a willingness to aspire to higher academic standards. The curriculum of this course will emphasize conventions and vocabulary study, as well as composition and the exploration of mature literature. Critical thinking and memorization are integral to this course.

Honors Math – 7th Grade (36 Weeks)

PREREQUISTES: 6TH GRADE TEACHER RECOMMENDATION, ADVANCED PROFICIENCY ON THE MATH BENCHMARK TEST, AND 90% CUMULATIVE 1ST SEMESTER GRADE IN MATH CLASS.

This course is designed for students who are advanced in mathematics and are planning a post-secondary education. Topics covered are as follows: integers, equations, inequalities, graphing, real numbers, proportions, percents, exponents, powers, geometry, measurements, probability, and algebraic relationships. Honors Math students will be required to participate in the Math Counts competition. Students who successfully complete this course should take Honors Algebra or Algebra 1 in 8th grade based on teacher recommendation.

Honors Science – 7th Grade (36 Weeks)

PREREQUISTES: 6TH GRADE TEACHER RECOMMENDATION, ADVANCED PROFICIENCY ON BENCHMARK SCIENCE TEST, AND HIGH PROFICIENCY IN SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS.

The Science Honors 7 course curriculum will challenge students at a higher level and at an accelerated pace by offering advanced topics related to Science 7. This course helps students see, appreciate, and understand their physical environment by including principles of earth, life, and physical sciences. Emphasis will be placed on developing problem solving, critical thinking, and data analysis skills. The course is designed to challenge students and enrich students through presentations, demonstrations, and lab activities. Topics covered include the following: measurements, scientific method, force, motion, energy, sound, electricity, magnetism, adaptation, biodiversity, and ecosystem. Computer use for virtual lab reports is strongly recommended. Students who take 7th grade Honors Science and who earn an 85% average through all terms of the course may advance to 8th grade Honors Science.

Honors Social Studies – 7th Grade (36 Weeks)
PREREQUISITES: PLACEMENT EXAM, TEACHER RECOMMENDATION.
In this honors course, we will be discussing and learning how each region of the world is interconnected. This course will present advanced topics related to Geography 7. It will develop map-reading skills that will be used extensively to interpret geographical information such as topography and location. We will explore the countries and people of both the Eastern and Western Hemispheres, using historical information to envision cultural differences as they influence present-day customs. Current issues relating to economics, industry, commerce and government are integrated in order to gain a complete understanding of diverse cultures. Library research and various hands-on activities are structured so that students can acquire an in-depth understanding and can experience cultural diversities. Study of Pennsylvania history from colonial days thru the industrial revolution.

ROTATION COURSE – 7TH GRADE
(Students will take two courses)

Computers 7th Grade (18 Weeks)
This course is designed to familiarize students with the computer and its uses. The students will be introduced to a variety of Microsoft Office software, including but not limited too; Word, Excel, Publisher, and PowerPoint. Student will be encouraged to use correct keyboarding techniques. Students will be graded on in-class assignments, projects, written tests, and computerized assessments.

Health 7th Grade (18 Weeks)
This course presents information about puberty, specifically body image, physical changes, emotional changes, relationship changes, and behavioral changes. This course strongly promotes the student's decision to say "NO." The techniques of assertive training, alternative choices, and decision-making are presented. AIDS education is also included in this course. Drug and alcohol education focuses on decision-making and problem-solving skills. Students also build self-confidence and learn how to handle real peer pressure situations.

ELECTIVES:
(ONE (1) Elective **must** be in music)

Band 7th Grade (36 Weeks)
PREREQUISITE: ELEMENTARY MUSIC TEACHER RECOMMENDATION
The 7th grade band is divided into 2 classes: Woodwinds and Brass/Percussion. All musical terms, scales, style, ear training and proper rehearsal and performance techniques will be covered. This class will put particular emphasis on improving individual instrument technique and musical literacy skills. The above will be the basis for public performances throughout the year. These performances will showcase the ensemble experience and performance skills. This class meets 5 days per week.

Chorus 7th Grade (36 Weeks)
PREREQUISITE: ELEMENTARY MUSIC TEACHER RECOMMENDATION
The students will sing in two-part harmony using various styles. Rehearsals include warm-ups, vocal techniques, part-singing, vocal production and style, basic fundamentals, and music reading skills. Performance skills are emphasized on a daily basis. There are two (2) public concerts that are required for the year. This class meets 5 days per week.

Guitar I 7th Grades (18 Weeks)
This course is designed for the beginning guitar player. The students will learn basic music theory, guitar parts identification, 1st position notes, beginning chords, blues progressions, tablature, accompaniment styles, and picking patterns. Students will demonstrate examples representing musical styles ranging from folk to rock music. Performance skills are emphasized on a daily basis.

Keyboard 7th Grade (18 Weeks)
Keyboard will provide students the opportunity to apply previously learned musical knowledge and skills to keyboards through performing and creating. Emphasis will be placed on knowledge of lines and spaces, note names, and key identification. Musical literacy will further be explored through visual, aural, and tactile modes. Opportunity for individual practice will be offered through individualized and large group instruction. Performance is built into every lesson.

Newspaper – 7th Grade (18 Weeks and 36 Weeks)
PREREQUISITES: TEACHER RECOMMENDATION and WRITING SAMPLE ARE REQUIRED.
This course introduces students to the fundamentals of news writing and publishing a school newspaper. Techniques for interviewing, writing leads, news story patterns, proofreading, and layout designs are introduced. The qualifications for this course are good writing, proofreading, and computer skills.

PSSA Math – 7th & 8th Grade (18 Weeks)
PREREQUISITE: PSSA SCORES/TEACHER RECOMMENDATION.
This course is designed to provide additional support in math concepts for students who have identified weaknesses in math as determined by PSSA and/or 4Sight Benchmark testing. Individual student improvement will be achieved through individual and computer-aided instruction. This class will be taken in addition to the student's regular math class.

PSSA/ELA Reading – 7th & 8th Grade (18 Weeks)
PREREQUISITE: PSSA SCORES/TEACHER RECOMMENDATION.
Individual student weaknesses will be identified through the PSSA Test. Individual student areas of weakness in reading will be remediated and drilled through daily instruction. Vocabulary will be expanded through activities involving words with multiple-meanings, synonyms, antonyms, forms of words (affixes), as well as by deriving word meaning through use of context clues. Reading comprehension will be supported through work in making inferences, drawing conclusions, making generalizations, explaining main ideas and supporting details, as well as summarizing a work of writing as a whole. Interpretation and analysis of literary elements (character, setting, plot, and theme), figurative language (personification, simile, metaphor, hyperbole, etc.), point of view, and fact vs. opinion will be studied within and between reading passages.

Jazz Band – 18 Week Class
Prerequisite – Performance ability on jazz band instrumentation.
Class Limit – Not to exceed 30
Description – Jazz Band is a course that meets daily for 1 semester. Students will be introduced to the history of jazz and will identify characteristics from each jazz genre. Students will learn and demonstrate basic improvisational skills. Students will perform various jazz ensemble pieces. The jazz band will perform at the Winter Concert. This class will act as a feeder into the High School Jazz Ensemble.

Drum Line – 18 Week Class
Prerequisite – Percussion instrumentalist
Class Limit – Not to exceed 30
Descriptions – Drum line is a course that meets daily for 1 semester. Students will be introduced to marching percussion instruments including snare, tenor, bass, and auxiliary percussion. Students will learn to read marching percussion scores and will demonstrate this skill while performing drum line music. Students will be introduced to drum line choreography. The drum line will perform at the Spring Concert and the Memorial Day Parade in Baden, PA. This class will act as a feed into the new High School Indoor Drum Line.

GUIDANCE SERVICES

The Guidance Counselor helps students realize and reach their academic goals by coordinating the efforts of students, parents, and teachers. Services would involve proper selection of subject-matter courses, as well as help with academic needs, organizational skills, and adjustment to the junior high school environment. The Guidance Counselor processes referrals from teachers and parents for special education or gifted placement and refers parents to local agencies when concerns regarding their children lie outside the realm of guidance. The counselor also assists in the coordination of district and state-related testing requirements and procedures throughout the school year.

LEARNING SUPPORT/EMOTIONAL SUPPORT/LIFE SKILLS PROGRAMS

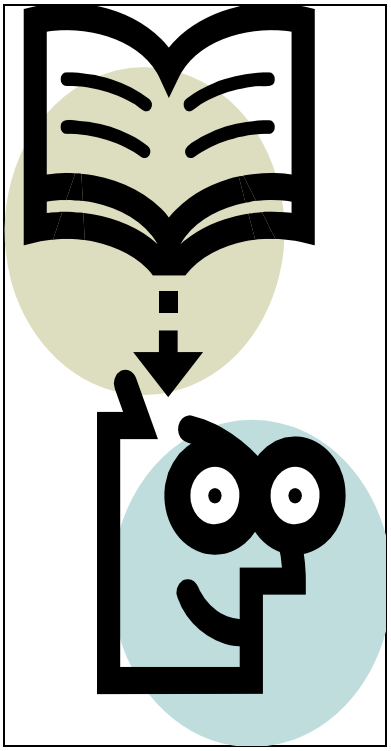
Learning Support/Emotional Support/Life Skills Programs 7th Grade (36 Weeks)

Students who qualify for special education services (Learning Support/Emotional Support/Life Skills) will receive academic support through the appropriate program. They may receive assistance with regular education courses, or they may receive direct instruction in a modified course provided by the special education faculty. Inclusion classes are also available in the regular education programs. These classes include the certified subject teacher and a member of the special education staff. Each student's program is based on specific needs as developed through the yearly Individual Education Plan (IEP).

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE SUPPORT PROGRAM

Speech and Language Support Program 7th Grade (36 Weeks)

Services are provided to students who have communication disorders such as impaired language, voice, fluency, and articulation to such a degree that it affects their academic achievement.



Eighth Grade CourseS

ART

Art 8th Grade (Semester Course) this is mandatory for all 8th grade students not enrolled in a world language course.
This course emphasizes the development of basic skills and techniques. Units in drawing, painting, ceramics, color theory, color and design, and art history enrich each student's experience. Both two-and three-dimensional projects will be undertaken in this semester course.

ENGLISH

English 8th Grade (36 Weeks)
This communications course builds upon the foundations established in the 7th grade English class and prepares the students for their freshman year. Grammar, usage, and mechanics, along with vocabulary development, will continue to be stressed. The steps of the writing process will be followed as students prepare paragraphs and compositions. Also, students will present speeches, complete library research activities, and explore literature through novels and plays.

MATHEMATICS

Math 3 – 8th Grade (36 Weeks)
This course is designed for the eighth grade student who has difficulty in mathematics. Topics covered are as follows: decimals, integers, equations, inequalities, exponents, factors, fractions, ratios, proportions, percents, geometry, measurement, graphing in the coordinate plane, analyzing data, and using probability. Students who successfully complete this course should take Algebra 1 or Algebra 1A in ninth grade based upon teacher recommendation.

Pre-Algebra – 8th Grade (36 Weeks)
This course is designed for those eighth grade students who are not quite ready for Algebra I. Topics covered are as follows: integers, equations, inequalities, graphing, real numbers, proportions, percents, exponents, powers, geometry, measurement, probability, and algebraic relationships. Students who successfully complete this course should take Algebra I in ninth grade.

Algebra I - 8th Grade (36 Weeks)
PREREQUISITE: TEACHER RECOMMENDAITON
82% or higher in Math 2 – 7th Grade
This course is designed for those students who are good in mathematics and are planning a post-secondary education. The course consists of solving and graphing linear equations, inequalities, factoring, the quadratic formula, numerous word problems, functions, radicals, and an introduction to basic trigonometry. Students who successfully complete this course should take Algebra II or Geometry in 9th grade. Homework assignments will be given almost daily.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education 8th Grade (18 weeks)
The physical education program provides students with the knowledge and skills that will enable them to achieve and maintain physically active and healthful lifestyles. The 7th and 8th grade curricula follow a progression based upon the fundamental knowledge and skills learned in the elementary program. Students are expected to participate regularly in physical activity, achieve personal fitness and activity goals, learn skills necessary to perform a variety of physical activities, know the implications and benefits from involvement in physical activities, and value physical activity and its contributions to a healthful lifestyle.

READING

Accelerated Reading 8th Grade (18 Weeks)
PREREQUISITE: PSSA Scores from grade 6 (60%) and 7th grade Reading and English grades average (40%)
Course minimums – PSSA Scores of **Advanced,** 7th grade Reading and English grade averages no less than **90%/A-**
Critical and creative thinking skills, along with identification and usage of literary devices, literary elements, and strategies are emphasized by reading and analyzing biographies, essays, short stories, novels, poetry, plays, and myths. Students are required to read independently and respond to their readings through various projects and activities.

Reading 8th Grade (18 Weeks)
PREREQUISITE: PSSA Scores from grade 6 (60%) and 7th grade Reading and English grades average (40%)
Course minimums – PSSA Scores of **Proficient**, 7th grade Reading and English grade averages no less than **70%/C-**
The course is designed to meet the needs of those students who are reading at grade placement. The goals of this course are to increase comprehension skills and vocabulary development and make the student an organized, independent reader and learner. Reading selections are developed through the use of context clues, main ideas, details, inferences, foreshadowing, and reader's knowledge of material. Literary techniques and story elements are discussed with each selection.

Developmental Reading 8th Grade (36 Weeks)
PREREQUISITE: PSSA /TEACHER RECOMMENDATION
This is a continuation of the 7th Grade Developmental Reading course. All previously introduced skills are practiced. Special focus is placed on strengthening and mastering the skills so that the student works independently at grade level.

SCIENCE

Science 8th Grade Integrated (36 Weeks)
In 8th grade science we utilize the Glencoe Integrated Science Level Blue textbook. Level Blue provides students with online access and accurate comprehensive coverage of Life, Earth, and Physical Science. The strong content coverage integrates a wide range of hands-on experiences, critical-thinking opportunities, and real-world applications. This course includes the unit study of Humans & Heredity; Ecology; Earth's Changes over Time; Earth's Place in the Universe; Chemistry & Matter; Motion, Forces, & Energy; and Physical Interaction. There is also a heavy concentration on Biology and the cells, cell structure and function. Students who receive an overall 90% (A) average will be recommended for Honors Biology in 9th grade.

SOCIAL STUDIES

American Civics 8th Grade (36 Weeks)
This course is an in-depth study of the government on the federal, state, and local level. Students use the textbook, periodicals, newspapers, and other media to help them explore and follow legislative procedures and political processes. Citizenship and responsibility to our democracy are covered in detail

EIGHTH GRADE HONORS COURSES

Prerequisites, approval and signature required prior to enrolling in any Honors Course

Note: **Honors class size is limited due to the number of seats, classes and instructors.**
Gifted students do not automatically qualify for all honors classes.

Honors American Civics - 8th Grade (36 Weeks)
PREREQUISTE: TEACHER RECOMMENDATION – TOP 25 - 7TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES
This is a challenging course with an in-depth study of the government on a federal, state, and local level. Students will use the textbook, periodicals, newspaper, and other media to explore and follow legislative procedures and political processes. Topics covered include a detailed study of rights, responsibilities, and the duties of citizenship, the different forms of government, and the structure of our own government. The course is similar to American civics but will cover topics in greater detail. The class will use advanced learning techniques to challenge the students. For example; the students will be expected to actively discuss, debate, and critically analyze different issues involving our government and current social ideas.

Honors English – 8th Grade (36 Weeks)
PREREQUISITE: 81% CUMULATIVE AVERAGE IN SEVENTH GRADE HONORS ENGLISH OR 92% MINIMUM CUMULATIVE AVERAGE IN SEVENTH GRADE REGULAR ENGLISH, TEACHER RECOMMENDATION, SEVENTH GRADE PLACEMENT ESSAY.
The curriculum of this course is accelerated and advanced. It will emphasize diction through specialized and SAT preparation vocabulary study and the refinement of composition through homework essays, on-demand classroom responses to prompts, and a mini research paper. Memorization will be integral to success in this course. Mastery of essential grammar skills will be stressed. Critical and creative thinking and the exploration of mature literature are furthered in this course.

Honors Science - 8th Grade (36 Weeks)
PREREQUISITE: 7TH GRADE TEACHER RECOMMENDATION.
Honors Science 8 is a highly intensified study of the Integrated Science 8 curriculum and Environment & Ecology for Pennsylvania: Meeting the Standards curriculum. The level of course work is designed for students with a strong work ethic and a keen interest and ability in science. The course is designed to be enriching, challenging, and motivating to those students who work well independently. Completing an individual or team science fair research project for competition in the Annual 8th Grade Science Fair and Pittsburgh Science Fair as well as a Spring Stream Study, are major parts of the course curriculum. Students must achieve an overall 80% (B) average to be recommended for Honors Biology in 9th grade.

Honors Algebra - 8th Grade (36 Weeks)
PREREQUISITE: TEACHER RECOMMENDATION AND MINIMUM OF 83% IN HONORS 7TH.
This course is recommended for those students who excel in mathematics. The course is similar to Algebra I, but it will cover the topics in more detail. Honors Algebra students will be required to participate in the Math Counts competition. Challenging assignments, which require extra time, will be given on a regular basis.

ROTATION COURSE – 8TH GRADE
(Students will take two courses)

Family & Consumer Science 8th Grade (18 Weeks)
Student's time will be divided between the areas of foods and nutrition, personal finance, leadership development and exploring child development. Leadership development allows students to build communication and cooperation skills while developing a positive self-image. This will develop a strong base for class discussions and interactions. Personal finance provides the students with a basic foundation of financial skills needed for future financial stability and independence. The foundational focus of this unit will be on career development, savings, banking and credit. The food and nutrition unit will stress healthy food choices. The students will study basic nutrition and how to achieve and healthy lifestyle. They will learn basic cooking skills while preparing nutritious foods. Child development is the final unit covered: it stresses the importance of safety while caring for a child. The students will gain a better understanding of how children grow and develop from birth to 5 years. Reading and following directions will be stressed throughout the 18 week course, along with respect and responsibility.

Technology Education 8th Grade (18 Weeks)
This is an exploratory course of technology and engineering. Students will have one semester to explore what technology education has to offer inside and outside the classroom. The class is broken up into 5 units: each unit builds on the one before it. Measurement and fractions is the first unit where students master the use of a ruler, next the class will begin mechanical drawing using simple drafting tools and tables to produce simple machine parts. The second half of unit two computer software is added and the students design 3-D models. The third unit is an introduction into the world of robotics and programming. The fourth unit is bridge design: students design, build, and test bridges they make in class. Finally the fifth unit is the cap stone, manufacturing technology were students make a small wood project using machines and tools from industry.

WORLD LANGUAGES

PREREQUISITE: 8TH GRADE ONLY –THIS CLASS IS RESERVED FOR HIGH ACHIEVING ACADEMIC STUDENTS AND BASED ON TEACHER RECOMMENDATION. CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED.

Spanish I
Weeks: 36
Spanish I introduce the principles of grammar and aim to build an active vocabulary. The culture and customs of Spain and Mexico, and South America are given special attention via videos, reading and discussion. Spanish influences in the U.S. are also discussed.

ELECTIVES:
(ONE (1) Elective **must** be in music.)

Band 8th Grade (36 Weeks)
PREREQUISITE: 7TH GRADE BAND OR JUNIOR HIGH MUSIC TEACHER RECOMMENDATION
The 8th grade band will include woodwinds, brass, and percussionists. All musical terms, scales, style, literacy, ear training, and proper rehearsal and performance technique will be covered at a more advanced level at a more advanced level. This class will put particular emphasis on playing as a full ensemble. The above will be the basis for public performances throughout the year. These performances will showcase the ensemble experience and performance skills. This class meets 5 days per week.

Chorus 8th Grade (36 Weeks)
PREREQUISITE: 7th GRADE CHORUS OR JR. HIGH MUSIC TEACHER RECOMMENDATION:
The students will sing in three-part harmony of various styles. Rehearsals include warm ups, vocal techniques, vocal production and style, reading of musical notation and symbols, and sight-reading skills. Performance skills are emphasized on a daily basis. There are two (2) public concerts that are required for the year. This class meets 5 days per week.

Guitar I 8th Grade (18 Weeks)
This course is designed for the beginning guitar player. The students will learn basic music theory, guitar parts identification, 1st position notes, beginning chords, blues progressions, tablature, accompaniment styles, and picking patterns. Students will demonstrate examples representing musical styles ranging from folk to rock music. Performance skills are emphasized on a daily basis.

Guitar II 8th Grade (18 Weeks)
PREREQUISITE: GUITAR I
This course is a continuation of Guitar I. It is designed to further develop music reading skills, guitar tuning, 2nd position notes, tablature, chords, power chords, blues progressions, accompaniment styles, picking patterns, scales, solos, leads, and duet playing. Students will perform on a daily basis using examples representing musical styles from folk to rock music.

Keyboard 8th Grade (18 Weeks)
Keyboard will provide students the opportunity to apply previously learned musical information to keyboards through performing and creating. Emphasis will be placed on knowledge of lines and spaces, note names, and key identification. Musical literacy will be further explored through visual, aural, and tactile modes. Opportunity for individual practice will be offered through individualized and large group instruction. Performance is built into every lesson.

Newspaper – 8th Grade (18 Weeks and 36 Weeks)
PREREQUISITE: TEACHER RECOMMENDATION AND WRITING SAMPLE ARE REQUIRED.
This course introduces students to the fundamentals of news writing and publishing a school newspaper. Techniques for interviewing, writing leads; news-story patterns, proofreading, and layout designs are introduced. The qualifications for this course are good writing, proofreading, and computer skills. Class size is limited.

PSSA Math 7th and 8th Grade (18 Weeks)
PREREQUISITE: PSSA SCORES/TEACHER RECOMMENDATION.
This course is designed to provide additional support in math concepts for students who have identified weaknesses in math as determined by PSSA and/or CDT Benchmark testing. Individual student improvement will be achieved through individual and computer-aided instruction. This class will be taken in addition to the student's regular math class.

PSSA/ELA Reading– 7th and 8th Grade (18 Weeks)
PREREQUISITE: PSSA SCORES/TEACHER RECOMMENDATION.
Individual student weaknesses will be identified through the PSSA Test. Individual student areas of weakness in reading will be remediated and drilled through daily instruction and the use of specially designed computer programs. Vocabulary will be expanded through activities involving words with multiple-meanings, synonyms, antonyms, forms of words (affixes), as well as by deriving word meaning through use of context clues. Reading comprehension will be supported through work in making inferences, drawing conclusions, making generalizations, explaining main ideas and supporting details, as well as summarizing a work of writing as a whole. Interpretation and analysis of literary elements (character, setting, plot, and

theme), figurative language (personification, simile, metaphor, hyperbole, etc.), point of view, and fact vs. opinion will be studied within and between reading passages.

Jazz Band – 18 Week Class
Prerequisite – Performance ability on jazz band instrumentation.
Class Limit – Not to exceed 30
Description – Jazz Band is a course that meets daily for 1 semester. Students will be introduced to the history of jazz and will identify characteristics from each jazz genre. Students will learn and demonstrate basic improvisational skills. Students will perform various jazz ensemble pieces. The jazz band will perform at the Winter Concert. This class will act as a feeder into the High School Jazz Ensemble.

Drum Line – 18 Week Class
Prerequisite – Percussion instrumentalist
Class Limit – Not to exceed 30
Descriptions – Drum line is a course that meets daily for 1 semester. Students will be introduced to marching percussion instruments including snare, tenor, bass, and auxiliary percussion. Students will learn to read marching percussion scores and will demonstrate this skill while performing drum line music. Students will be introduced to drum line choreography. The drum line will perform at the Spring Concert and the Memorial Day Parade in Baden, PA. This class will act as a feed into the new High School Indoor Drum Line.

GUIDANCE SERVICES

The Guidance Counselor helps students realize and reach their academic goals by coordinating the efforts of students, parents, and teachers. Services would involve proper selection of subject-matter courses, as well as help with academic needs, organizational skills, and help in adjusting to the junior high school environment. The Guidance Counselor processes referrals from teachers and parents for special education or gifted placement and refers parents to local agencies when concerns regarding their children lie outside the realm of guidance. The counselor also assists in the coordination of district and state-related testing requirements and procedures throughout the school year.

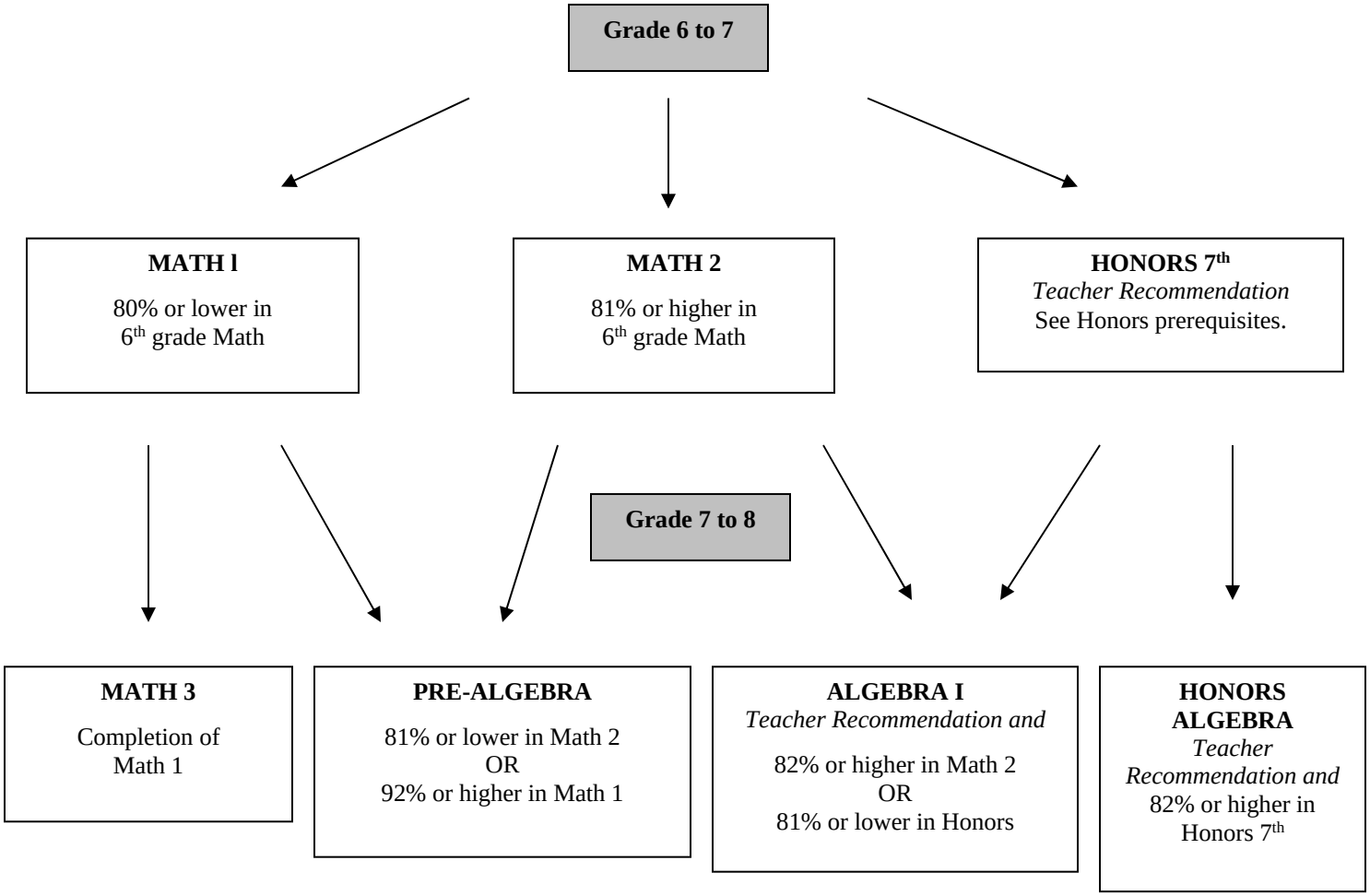
LEARNING SUPPORT/EMOTIONAL SUPPORT/LIFE SKILLS PROGRAMS

Learning Support/Emotional Support/Life Skills Programs 8th Grade (36 Weeks)
Students who qualify for special education services (Learning Support/Emotional Support/Life Skills) will receive academic support through the appropriate program. They may receive assistance with regular education courses, or they may receive direct instruction in a modified course provided by the special education faculty. Inclusion classes are also available in the regular education programs. These classes include the certified subject teacher and a member of the special education staff. Each student's program is based on specific needs as developed through the yearly Individual Education Plan (IEP).

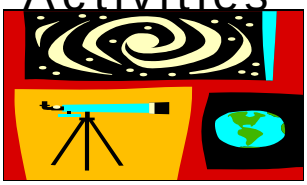
SPEECH AND LANGUAGE SUPPORT PROGRAM

Speech and Language Support Program 8th Grade (36 Weeks)
Services are provided to students who have communication disorders such as impaired language, voice, fluency, and articulation to such a degree that it affects their academic achievement.

AMBRIDGE AREA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
MATH PROGRESSION



Activities



Clubs

NOTE: A fee of $10.00 per student per club is required. All dues must be paid by the second club meeting. ABSOULUTELY NO CASH IS ACCEPTED. All checks or money orders must be made payable to: Ambridge Area School District. Sign-ups for all clubs will occur during activity periods in the first month of school. Students should pay particular attention to school announcements for more information.

Art & Photography Club

The Art and Photography Club are for 8th graders who wish to continue their artistic experience. Students will explore various media, including photography, as to content, expression, modifications and selection of subject matter to create an art form. When possible, local artists will demonstrate their art for the students to learn new techniques through a hands-on experience. School cameras may be used, but it is desirable for students to have the use of their own camera for school activities. Students will have the opportunity to help design displays for school functions and the Art show.

INTERACT

This is a community outreach club that promotes awareness regarding the needs of the community. Some of the activities include Make-A-Difference Day, March of Dimes Walk-A-Thon, Special Olympics (as huggers and timers), plus many more.

Dance Decoration Club

This club is for students who wish to create decorations along with hanging these items for a desirable display. Students will be responsible for ideas for monthly dances through drawing, painting, displaying and take down.

Science Club

The focus of after-school science activities is on enhancing experiences that middle school students have with science. After-school science clubs are one way to incorporate the kinds of learning activities recommended by state and national science standards. The goal of the science club is to help integrate club activities with classroom curriculum. This club uses mini-competitions and labs focusing on Physical Science, Ecology and Environmental concerns while meeting the Pennsylvania Academic Standards. Students will also be able to discuss their concerns and learn about the environment, ecology, conservation, recycling and the preservation of nature to meet State Ecology/Environmental Academic Standards.

Student Council

Student Council meets once a month. Discussion is focused on current problems and student presentation of his/her point of view. Student Council provides guides, ushers, and buddies for special events at the junior high. The club also decorates for special dances and raises funds for special occasions. The club will also have the opportunity to attend conferences to further build their leadership skills. Membership is by election of homeroom representatives and officers.

ACADEMIC – BASED OPPORTUNITIES

Johns Hopkins

Students in grades seven and eight are eligible to participate in CTY Talent Search sponsored by the Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth. The purpose of the Talent Search is to identify and assess the academic abilities of highly able students. Eligibility requirements consist of meeting qualifying scores on the most recent standardized aptitude or achievement tests in mathematics, verbal, or composite score categories. These students will then be given the opportunity to apply and register for the SAT (college placement test) to be taken in December or January. A variety of services and opportunities is available to these students after they test by the Talent Search. More information on CTY can be found by visiting their website: cty.jhu.edu

Math Counts

This is a national coaching and competition program designed to stimulate algebra students' interest and achievement in mathematics. Mathletes begin preparation in the fall for all competitions. (Honors Algebra & 7th Grade Honors)

COMPETITIONS
(Open to all students)

Beaver County Academic Games

AGLOA (ACADEMIC Games League of America) provides a series of competitions in Language Arts, English, History, and Mathematics throughout the nation resulting in a National Championship Tournament. County competitions are held at various local venues.

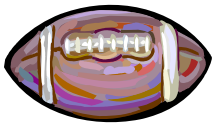
Robotics Club

This after school club is focused on the science of robotics. A select group of students who have interest and previous backgrounds in robotics can join. In this club students will benefit from Carnegie Mellon Robotics' program as well as go on several field trips/competitions to complete against other schools to prove who has the best robots. Students will learn problem solving as well as computer programming to manipulate and move the different motors and features on the robots.

SPORTS

Mr. Glenn Freed
Acting Athletic Director
Phone: 724-266-2833 (Ext. 2235)
High School Fax Number: 724-266-5056

NOTE: A PLAY TO PARTICIPATE FEE OF $50.00 PER ATHLETE PER YEAR IS REQUIRED AND MUST BE PAID BEFORE PLAYING. This is a one-time fee, meaning that a student can participate in as many sports teams as he/she desires but the cost is only a onetime fee of $50.00. THERE IS ALSO A TRANSPORTATION FEE OF $50.00 FOR EACH SPORT A CHILD PLAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. ABSOULUTELY NO CASH IS ACCEPTED. All checks or money orders must be made payable to: Ambridge Area School District.



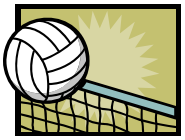
Basketball (Girls)
The girls' basketball season starts at the beginning of school year and runs through mid-November. Players have the opportunity to develop and practice skills while learning similar systems and philosophies used at the high school level.

Cross Country
This program is open to 7th and 8th grade boys and girls. Cross-country requires distance running. Junior high participants generally run between 1.5 and 2 miles. The sport offers the students the opportunity to set and strive toward goals while staying in shape for other activities as well.

Football
The program gives the boys the opportunity to develop and practice skills while learning similar systems and philosophies used at the high school level.

Soccer (Girls)
The girls' soccer season is from the beginning of the school year and runs through October. Players have the opportunity to develop and practice skills while learning similar systems and philosophies used at the high school level.

Soccer (Boys)
The boys' soccer season is from the beginning of the school year and runs through October. Players have the opportunity to develop and practice skills while learning similar systems and philosophies used at the high school level.

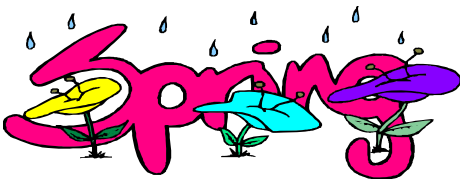


Basketball (Boys)
The boys' basketball season begins in mid-December and runs through mid-February. Players have the opportunity to develop and practice skills while learning similar systems and philosophies used at the high school level.

Volleyball (Girls)
This program is open to 7th and 8th grade girls. The girls learn all aspects of playing volleyball. Tryouts are in late January, and the season runs from mid-February through mid-April.

Weightlifting
The junior high weight-lifting program runs from January until April and is open to 7th and 8th grade students. Proper weight training techniques, positive attitudes, and attendance are emphasized during the program.

Wrestling
This program is open to all 7th and 8th grade boys and girls. It gives them the opportunity to develop and practice skills while learning similar systems and philosophies used at the high school level.



Baseball (Boys)
This program is open to 7th and 8th grade boys. It gives them the opportunity to develop and practice skills while learning similar systems and philosophies used at the high school level.

Softball - Fast Pitch (Girls)
This program gives the 7th and 8th grade girls the opportunity to develop and practice skills while learning similar systems and philosophies used at the high school level.

Track & Field (spring season)
This program is open to 7th and 8th grade boys and girls. Athletes have the opportunity to learn and compete in most of the events sanctioned at the high school level. Track and field offers the opportunity for students to set and strive toward goals while staying in shape for other activities as well.

Volleyball (Boys)
This program is open to 7th and 8th grade boys. The boys learn all aspects of playing volleyball. Tryouts are in early March, and the season runs from March through mid-May.

VOLUNTEERS

Office Aide
Students assist the office personnel by delivering messages or completing minor tasks. The students report to the office with study materials.

P.A. Announcers
These teacher-selected students are responsible for morning and afternoon announcements. Student must be in 8th grade, must be a member of Student Council, and must maintain at least a “B” average. Seventh grade students may try out for announcer at the end of the school year.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS