



DELAWARE VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Delaware Valley Middle School &  
Dingman- Delaware Middle School 2018-2019

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Grades 6,7 & 8

# Course Guide

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# LIST OF CURRICULA WITH COURSE DESCRIPTION FOR DINGMAN-DELAWARE MIDDLE SCHOOL DELAWARE VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

## ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS & READING

### Grade 8

#### **English/Language Arts**

This course is designed to prepare students for the rigor of high school classes by challenging them to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills in all areas of English/Language Arts. Students will use specific reading strategies to analyze and critique print and non-print texts selected equally from fiction and nonfiction sources. They will learn to defend a thesis in both argumentative and expository writing modes as well as produce well-developed narrative pieces. Academic and content vocabulary acquisition and use are integrated throughout the curriculum, including strategies such as analysis of context clues, affixes and roots, analogies, figurative language, and connotation. Standard English grammar, usage, and conventions are explored throughout the year and assessed in a cumulative fashion.

Students with diverse learning styles will have the opportunity to use a variety of learning methods to attain mastery of the skills and concepts necessary for success. These methodologies include explicit interaction with text, collaboration with peers, guided inquiry, and direct instruction. Technology is integrated whenever appropriate to support and enhance learning.

#### **Honors English/Language Arts**

This course, which is significantly more challenging than English Language Arts 8, is designed to prepare students for the rigor of honors level and AP high school classes by challenging them to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills in all areas of English/language arts. Students will use specific reading strategies to analyze and critique print and non-print texts selected equally from fiction and nonfiction sources. They will learn to defend a thesis in both argumentative and expository writing modes as well as producing well-developed narrative pieces. Academic and content vocabulary acquisition and use are integrated throughout the curriculum, including strategies such as analysis of context clues, affixes and roots, analogies, figurative language, and connotation.

Students with diverse learning styles will have the opportunity to use a variety of learning methods to attain mastery of the skills and concepts necessary for success. These methodologies include explicit interaction with text, collaboration with peers, guided inquiry, and direct instruction. Technology is integrated whenever appropriate to

support and enhance learning. Students in honors classes are provided with the additional challenges of more extensive and sophisticated activities and assignments in all areas: supplementary independent reading, writing, discussion and presentation, vocabulary, and research.

### **Middle School Literacy**

This course in reading is designed for middle school students to increase and develop reading comprehension skills as well as acquire and expand reading vocabulary. It is organized by marking periods. The course includes comprehensive strategies to accommodate a variety of learning styles. Students will learn specific strategies to improve their independent reading performance and develop methods to aid in text comprehension. The application of these strategies will increase students' ability to read and respond in writing. A variety of texts are used to increase students' reading comprehension. Reading vocabulary will be expanded through learning selected words derived from the reading, analyzing the structure of words and using context clues. The standards the course is based upon are the Pennsylvania Core Standards for English Language Arts. Specific eligible content is addressed throughout the year with a focus on PSSA skills and practice. Instructional methods provide ample time to develop active strategies to meet the needs of individual students and apply these strategies to strengthen vocabulary development, reading fluency and reading comprehension.

### **Language Instruction Educational Program for English Learners (LIEP)**

This course is designed to give direct instruction in English to English Learners (ELs). English will be presented as the language of instruction in the language-intensive setting. Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills (BICS) and Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency (CALP) will be developed. Students will receive quality language instruction in listening, speaking, reading, writing, and critical thinking associated with five content areas. These areas are: English/Language Arts (LA), Math (MA), Science (SC), Social Studies (SS), and Social and Instructional language (SI), which incorporates proficiencies needed to deal with the general language of the classroom and the school.

## **Grade 7**

### **English/Language Arts**

This course is designed to develop critical thinking skills necessary to be sophisticated readers, writers, speakers, and listeners. Students will use diverse reading and learning strategies to analyze and critique print and non-print texts selected equally from fiction and nonfiction sources. They will learn to write original narratives, analyze works of literature, and write persuasive texts. Academic and content vocabulary acquisition and use are integrated throughout the curriculum, including strategies such as using context clues, making inferences, utilizing affixes and roots, interpreting figurative language, connecting fiction and nonfiction texts, developing logical arguments, analyzing literary devices, identifying organizational

structures, and revising texts. Standard English grammar, usage, and conventions are explored throughout the year.

Students with diverse learning styles will have the opportunity to use a variety of learning methods to attain mastery of the skills and concepts necessary for success. These methodologies include explicit interaction with text, collaboration with peers, guided inquiry, and direct instruction. Technology is integrated whenever appropriate to support and enhance learning.

### **Honors English/Language Arts**

This course is designed to prepare students for the rigor of honors and AP level high school classes by challenging them to develop critical thinking skills necessary to be sophisticated readers, writers, speakers, and listeners. It is significantly more challenging than English/Language Arts 7. Students will use diverse reading and learning strategies to analyze and critique print and non-print texts selected equally from fiction and nonfiction sources. They will learn to write original narratives, analyze works of literature, write persuasive texts, and perform effective oral texts. Academic and content vocabulary acquisition and use are integrated throughout the curriculum, including strategies such as using context clues, making inferences, utilizing affixes and roots, interpreting figurative language, connecting fiction and nonfiction texts, developing logical arguments, analyzing literary devices, identifying organizational structures, and revising texts. Standard English grammar, usage, and conventions are explored throughout the year. Supplementary texts and assignments will be integrated to significantly increase the difficulty of the course. Additionally, the course assessments will be more challenging when compared to the assessments of the regular course. Students with diverse learning styles will have the opportunity to use a variety of learning methods to attain mastery of the skills and concepts necessary for success. These methodologies include explicit interaction with text, collaboration with peers, guided inquiry, and direct instruction. Technology is integrated whenever appropriate to support and enhance learning.

### **Middle School Literacy**

This course in reading is designed for middle school students to increase and develop reading comprehension skills as well as acquire and expand reading vocabulary. It is organized by marking periods. The course includes comprehensive strategies to accommodate a variety of learning styles. Students will learn specific strategies to improve their independent reading performance and develop methods to aid in text comprehension. The application of these strategies will increase students' ability to read and respond in writing. A variety of texts are used to increase students' reading comprehension. Reading vocabulary will be expanded through learning selected words derived from the reading, analyzing the structure of words and using context clues. The standards the course is based upon are the Pennsylvania Core Standards for English Language Arts. Specific eligible content is addressed throughout the year with a focus on PSSA skills and practice. Instructional methods provide ample time to develop active strategies to meet the needs of individual

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English/Language Arts (LA), Math (MA), Science (SC), Social Studies (SS), and Social and Instructional language (SI), which incorporates proficiencies needed to deal with the general language of the classroom and the school.

### **Grade 6**

#### **Reading/Language Arts**

This course is designed to help students develop a deep understanding of English Language Arts concepts and their applications. Through the use of multiple learning and instructional strategies, students will acquire the knowledge they need to learn to communicate effectively in real-world situations. Students will use active reading strategies to analyze and critique print and non-print texts selected from both fiction and nonfiction sources. Each unit will be scaffolded with a purposeful sequence in delivery of instruction. Vocabulary and grammar will be integrated with a systematic approach that utilizes 21st Century learning skills. Students will be provided ample opportunities to refine and master strategies that will enhance their ability to understand and analyze any challenging text, to write with clarity and voice, to speak and listen in order to communicate and work effectively with others, and to view media with a critical intelligence.

Students will receive differentiated instruction and will have the opportunity to use a variety of learning methods to attain mastery of the skills and concepts necessary for success. These purposeful learning activities are relevant, rigorous, student centered, engaging, interactive, and collaborative--developing students' skills in evaluating, analyzing, and communicating effectively. Technology is integrated whenever appropriate to support and enhance learning. Students in advanced classes are provided with the additional challenges of more extensive and sophisticated activities in all areas: supplementary independent reading, writing, discussion and presentation, vocabulary, and research.

#### **Honors English/Language Arts**

This course is designed to prepare students for the rigor of honors and AP level high school classes by helping students to develop a deep understanding of English Language Arts concepts and their applications. Through the use of multiple learning and instructional strategies, students will acquire the knowledge they need to learn to communicate effectively in real-world situations. Students will use active reading

strategies to analyze and critique print and non-print texts selected from both fiction and nonfiction sources. Each unit will be supported with scaffolding in a purposeful sequence in delivery of instruction. Vocabulary and grammar will be integrated with a systematic approach that utilizes 21st Century learning skills. Students will be provided ample opportunities to refine and master strategies that will enhance their ability to understand and analyze any challenging text, to write with clarity and voice, to speak and listen in order to communicate and work effectively with others, and to view media with a critical intelligence. Supplementary texts and assignments will be integrated to significantly increase the difficulty of the course. Additionally, the course assessments will be more challenging when compared to the assessments of the regular course.

Students will receive differentiated instruction and will have the opportunity to use a variety of learning methods to attain mastery of the skills and concepts necessary for success. These purposeful learning activities are relevant, rigorous, student centered, engaging, interactive, and collaborative--developing students' skills in evaluating, analyzing, and communicating effectively. Technology is integrated whenever appropriate to support and enhance learning. Students in advanced classes are provided with the additional challenges of more extensive and sophisticated activities in all areas: supplementary independent reading, writing, discussion and presentation, vocabulary, and research.

### **Language Instruction Educational Program for English Learners (LIEP)**

This course is designed to give direct instruction in English to English Learners (ELs). English will be presented as the language of instruction in the language-intensive setting. Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills (BICS) and Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency (CALP) will be developed. Students will receive quality language instruction in listening, speaking, reading, writing, and critical thinking associated with five content areas. These areas are:

English/Language Arts (LA), Math (MA), Science (SC), Social Studies (SS), and Social and Instructional language (SI), which incorporates proficiencies needed to deal with the general language of the classroom and the school.

## **MATHEMATICS**

### **Grade 8**

#### **Math 8**

This course is designed for students who are proficient in arithmetic skills but are not ready for Algebra 1. Only the first half of the Algebra 1 curriculum is covered. This will allow more time to develop both conceptual and procedural understanding of topics for successful completion of Algebra 1. The topics covered include properties of real numbers, solving equations and inequalities, graphing and writing linear equations, graphing linear inequalities, and solving systems of equations and inequalities.

## **Algebra 1**

This academically demanding course provides a strong foundation in algebra for further study in science and mathematics. The course will cover the theoretical aspects of algebra and realistic applications to science and economics. Topics include variables, linear and quadratic equations, systems of equations, and the properties of real numbers.

## **Honors Algebra 1**

This academically demanding course provides a strong foundation in algebra for further study in science and mathematics. The course will cover the theoretical aspects of algebra and realistic applications to science and economics. Topics include variables, linear and quadratic equations, systems of equations, and the properties of real numbers. This course will raise the level of rigor and relevance beyond the standard course for Algebra 1.

## **Grade 7**

### **Pre-Algebra 7**

This course is available to students in grade 7 who have successfully completed Math 6. The curriculum for Pre-Algebra is intended to prepare students for Algebra. In this course, students learn to understand and apply properties of real numbers. Students will explore one variable equations, linear relationships, geometry concepts, and data analysis. Students will develop effective mathematical communication skills including statistical representations.

### **Honors Pre-Algebra 7**

This course is available to students in grade 7 who have successfully completed Advanced Math 6. The curriculum for Honors Pre-Algebra is intended to prepare students for Honors Algebra. In this course, students learn to understand and apply properties of real numbers. Students will explore one variable equations, linear relationships, geometry concepts, and data analysis. Students will develop effective mathematical communication skills including statistical representations.

### **Math 7**

This course is available to students in grade 7 who have successfully completed Math 6. The curriculum for Math 7 is intended to prepare students for Math 8. In this course, students learn to understand and apply properties of real numbers. Students will explore one variable equations, linear relationships, geometry concepts, and data analysis. Students will develop effective mathematical communication skills including statistical representations.

## **Grade 6**

### **Math 6**

This course is available to students in grade 6 who have demonstrated satisfactory performance in 5<sup>th</sup> grade math. The curriculum for Middle School Math 6 is intended to prepare students for Middle School Pre-Algebra. In this course, students learn to describe patterns verbally and mathematically. Students will use number concepts to represent rational numbers in percent's, fractions, improper fractions, and integers. Students will explore operations with numbers, discovering the rules for basic operations and the order of the operations. Students will develop effective mathematic communication skills including geometric relationships, data displays, and linear patterns.

### **Honors Math 6**

This rigorous course of study provides a strong foundation in middle school mathematics, with introductions to algebra and geometry. The course will cover numbers and operations with real numbers, ratios and proportional relationships to include unit rates, units of measurement and percent applications. Algebraic concepts will include writing and solving expressions, equations and inequalities, and exploring and determining quantitative relationships. Geometric concepts covered will include coordinate geometry, area of simple and compound figures, surface area and volume. Statistics and probability will cover such topics as measures of center and variability as well as graphing and interpreting data of various data displays.

## **SCIENCE**

## **Grade 8**

### **General Science**

This course is designed to give students a general understanding of the concepts of Physics, Earth Science and Chemistry. The students will use problem solving skills, data analysis, critical thinking and process skills to solve problems in these scientific areas.

The students will also incorporate Language Arts skills such as reading of technical text, magazine and journal articles, and word dissection to understand complex science vocabulary. They will also incorporate math skills such as graphing, Algebraic equation manipulation, setting up data tables and order of operations.

The students will incorporate technology into the class. Students will use computers to enhance the learning process. They will set up data tables and use them to graph their results. They will also use computers to do research into various topics in science.

## **Honor Science 8**

8<sup>th</sup> grade Honors Science is a course that covers concepts in scientific thinking and problem solving, Physical Science, Chemical Science, Earth Science and Space Science. Each concept that is covered in this course is taught for mastery. The intent of this curriculum is to provide all 8<sup>th</sup> grade honors students with a sound and firm foundations in its topics to better prepare our students to master the concepts that will be presented to them on their 8<sup>th</sup> grade PSSA Science exam as well as in their higher level Science courses, in which they will be working towards the goal of achieving successful scores on Advanced Placement Science exams.

## **Grade 7**

### **Science 7**

7<sup>th</sup> grade life Science is a course that covers concepts in scientific thinking and problem solving, Biological Science and Environmental Science. Each concept that is covered in this course is taught for mastery. The intent of this curriculum is to provide all 7<sup>th</sup> grade students with a sound and firm foundations in its topics to better prepare our students to master the concepts that will be presented to them on their 8<sup>th</sup> grade PSSA Science exam as well as in their higher level Biology courses, in which they will be required to achieve proficiency on a Keystone Biology exam.

### **Honor Science 7**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Life Science is a course that covers concepts in scientific thinking and problem solving, experimental design, data collection and analysis, experimental variables, closed and open loop systems, Human Anatomy, Biological Science and Environmental Science. Each concept that is covered in this course is taught for mastery. The intent of this curriculum is to provide all 7<sup>th</sup> grade students with a sound and firm foundations in its topics to better prepare our students to master the concepts that will be presented to them on their 8<sup>th</sup> grade PSSA Science exam as well as in their higher level Biology courses, in which they will be required to achieve proficiency on a Keystone Biology exam. As an honors level course, students will participate in designing and executing a long term research based project. This project will require all students to produce a technical writing laboratory report and data analysis presentation.

## **Grade 6**

### **General Science**

The sixth grade science course focuses on Earth, it's resources, weather, and space. It is geared for today's middle grades students, with a content of hands-on exploration.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### Grade 8

#### Honors Social Studies

This is a Pre-Advanced Placement course designed to expose honors level students to American history from the British settlement of North America through the Civil War. The learning focus will be on major periods, leaders, and developmental stages in American history. The curriculum has been designed to utilize available technology and cross-curricular activities.

This course will prepare the students for the demands of Honors High School and AP Social Studies classes. It will challenge them to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills. Students will use specific reading strategies to analyze and critique both primary and secondary historical sources. Students will compare individuals and groups that heavily contributed to American exceptionalism on the themes of government, religion, economics, arts and literature, science, technology, education and resources. They will collaborate with their peers, interact with historical text, receive direct instruction, conduct research and utilize technology whenever it benefits their learning.

#### Social Studies

This course is designed to expose students to American history from the British settlement of North America through the Civil War. The learning focus will be on major periods, leaders, and developmental stages in American history. The curriculum has been designed to utilize available technology and cross-curricular activities. This course will prepare the students for the demands of high school social studies classes. It will challenge them to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills. Students will use specific reading strategies to analyze and critique both primary and secondary historical sources. They will collaborate with their peers, interact with historical text, receive direct instruction, conduct research and utilize technology whenever it benefits their learning.

### Grade 7

#### Honors Social Studies

This course is designed to challenge Honors Seventh Grade Social Studies students to learn and apply the lessons of American government, civics, economics and geography. The learning focus of the government and civics units will be on how the United States government functions, the United States Constitution and the role of American citizens. The learning focus of the geography unit will be on physical, cultural, and political geography of the world. The five themes of geography will be implemented throughout the unit. The economics unit will focus on the basic principles of economics and the economy of the United States. The curriculum has been designed to utilize available technology and cross-curricular activities. Students will be exposed to Pre-AP techniques and skills, including Document Based Questions.

## **Social Studies**

This course is designed to challenge Seventh Grade Social Studies students to learn and apply the lessons of American government, civics, economics and geography. The learning focus of the government and civics units will be on how the United States government works, the United States Constitution and the role of American citizens. The learning focus of the geography unit will be on physical, cultural, and political geography of the world. The five themes of geography will be implemented throughout the unit. The economics unit will focus on the basic principles of economics and the economy of the United States. The curriculum has been designed to utilize available technology and cross-curricular activities.

## **Grade 6**

### **Social Studies**

World History covers the history of man from the beginnings of human society to European exploration and expansion. Throughout the course, students will be involved in learning about the common needs of humans and their diverse development. They will learn about the problems that groups have encountered and their attempts to solve those conflicts. Students will focus on the path of development of early civilizations and the connection between groups. Stress will be placed on the recognition of how causes have effects and how these causes and effects of the past still affect the world today. The students will develop an awareness of the world's global community and will identify the relationship between their lives and their environment and the lives and environments of others throughout the regions of the world. The course will focus on the five themes of geography and the effect of geography on the development of a region's economic, political, and social/cultural development. Students with diverse learning styles will have the opportunity to use a variety of learning methods to attain mastery of the skills and concepts necessary for success. These methodologies include explicit interaction with text, collaboration with peers, guided inquiry, and direct instruction. Technology is integrated whenever appropriate to support and enhance learning.

## **WORLD LANGUAGE**

## **Grade 8**

### **French 1**

French 1 is a beginning level course intended for those students who have expressed an interest in learning French or who are already studying a foreign language and wish to pursue French. The instruction and the content of the course will be taught in both English and in French.

The emphasis is placed on several areas:

1. building vocabulary through thematic study and practice
2. developing elementary conversational skills

3. demonstrating basic understanding of various grammatical constructions
4. obtaining a brief overview of France and other French-speaking countries along with their customs and traditions

With the combined conversational, grammatical and cultural study of French, the students embark on a new educational experience that helps to foster an interest in the French language and the people who speak it throughout the world. French 1 is also the basis for preparation into the subsequent levels of French 2, 3, 4 and Advanced Placement French.

### **German 1**

German 1 is a beginning level course intended for those students who have expressed an interest in learning German or who are already studying a foreign language and wish to pursue German. The instruction and the content of the course will be taught in both English and in German.

The emphasis is placed on several areas:

1. building vocabulary through thematic study and practice
2. developing elementary conversational skills
3. demonstrating basic understanding of various grammatical constructions
4. obtaining a brief overview of the German-speaking countries and Europe along with their customs and traditions

With the combined conversational, grammatical and cultural study of German, the students embark on a new educational experience that helps to foster an interest in the German language and the people who speak it throughout the world. German 1 is also the basis for preparation into the subsequent levels of German 2, 3, 4, 5, and Advanced Placement German.

### **Spanish 1**

This course introduces the fundamental elements of the Spanish language within a cultural context. Units are developed around focus questions with goals and objectives that motivate students to develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. An emphasis is placed on Interpretive, Interpersonal and Presentational modes of communication in order to prepare students to use the language in real-life situations and to begin developing language proficiency in level I. The interwoven elements of the "5C's"; Communication, Culture, Comparisons, Communities and Connections are ever present in order to meet the needs of all students taking the course.

## SPECIAL AREAS

### Grade 8

#### Art

The Middle School Art Program offers a strong foundation of visual art experiences that is directly aligned with the PA Academic Standards for Arts and Humanities. Studio activities will be infused with the concepts of aesthetics, art criticism and art history to broaden intellect and create meaningful connections.

The elements of design: line, shape, form, space, color, texture and value will be addressed through a variety of media and processes. In addition, opportunities for community and interdisciplinary involvement will expand the relevance of art in the student's' life.

#### Band

Band is an educational experience in which students develop musical skills through rehearsal and performance. This course is a continuation of instrumental music education at the grade six level. It will allow students to develop and demonstrate fundamental skills and knowledge at a higher level and will utilize more complex music that requires more sophisticated responses. Band will help refine general music and citizenship skills. Such skills include technique, expression, and musical knowledge as well as teamwork, coordination, discipline, and responsibility. It will provide instruction in creating, performing, listening to, and analyzing music in addition to focusing on specific subject matter. Students will have the opportunity to express their skills and talents through numerous performances both in and outside of school. Students will also be exposed to and experience a varied repertoire, including past and present periods of music, traditional to contemporary. They will develop the ability to work together as a single ensemble to create quality musical products.

#### Chorus

In 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus, students will continue to learn about the choral art as they sing a variety of traditional, contemporary, and world music choral literature. Throughout the year students will be increase their quality of tone production through the implementation of healthy vocal techniques, and be able to sing in three or more parts of mixed voices consistently and accurately. The students will increase their aural skills to identify and sing intervals of a major and minor scales, as well as echo patterns. The students will also build upon their understanding of music theory to identify and perform all dynamic levels, tempos, have a greater understanding of rhythm, and will increase their literacy of standard notation through sight-singing of exercises and repertoire. Through the repertoire, students will gain a unique glimpse into various cultures and people groups through time.

Concepts learned throughout this course spiral, adding understanding and developing continually as they are used and applied throughout the length of the course. While learning new things throughout the year, students will experience some of the concepts

long before they recognize and identify them in the setting of a formal lesson on that concept. Students will be able to recognize, synthesize and communicate what they experience.

### **Family and Consumer Sciences**

This course is designed to provide learning experiences as an elective course for Family and Consumer Sciences. Units of study include: Laundry, Food Safety and Sanitation, Tools and Equipment and Measuring, and Let's Cook.

### **Physical Education**

The students will participate in a variety of physical activities such as team, individual and lifetime sports as well as physical fitness activities. The students will learn teamwork, respect for others, rules and regulations and care for equipment. Through Physical Education, the students will gain knowledge of their body and an enhanced health level. They will recognize the importance of physical activity and fitness throughout their lives to enhance their health. Activities and instructional strategies are geared toward the development of adolescents physically, cognitively, and affectively.

### **Health**

The students will analyze a variety of health related topics using various educational methods and activities. The students will gain knowledge and lifetime skills to apply to various health situations to enhance one's health and wellness.

### **Music**

This course is designed to be a continuation of the progression through music history that began in 6th and 7th grade general music. Students build upon their knowledge of music composition, including introductions, transitions, harmonic sequences, unity, and variety. Using higher order thinking skills, students analyze, compare and contrast, and evaluate their own works, as well as the works of other composers throughout music history. Group work and performances are designed to reinforce course material and build vital skills in the areas of public speaking and teamwork. Dance, theater, visual arts, and world history are all incorporated to provide a well-rounded context with which to understand the role of music in culture and history.

### **Orchestra**

This course is designed to give students at the middle school level the opportunity to develop their musical skills on orchestral instruments through rehearsal and performance techniques. This level instruction is a continuation of skills and concepts begun at the elementary level. Students will spend most of their time preparing for public performances of the entire orchestra, with several opportunities available throughout the year for individual development and performance. Some of the many skills needed and developed in this course are coordination, responsibility, cooperation, critical listening, discipline and individual evaluation. The students will be exposed to many kinds of orchestral repertoire including classical, popular and original works of music.

## **Technology Education: Automation and Robotics**

In Unit 1 What is Automation and Robotics? Students will understand what robots are used for and the effect they have on our lives. Students will experience how a robot receives information through various sources. In Unit 2 Mechanical Systems, students use VEX components to create various gear mechanisms and determine their real-world uses. They will then apply what they learned to create a VEX pull toy project. In Unit 3 Automated Systems, student will learn Robot-C programming. Using their knowledge from the previous units, they will design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

## **Grade 7**

### **Art**

The Middle School Art Program offers a strong foundation of visual art experiences that is directly aligned with the PA Academic Standards for Arts and Humanities. Studio activities will be infused with the concepts of aesthetics, art criticism and art history to broaden intellect and create meaningful connections.

The elements of design: line, shape, form, space, color, texture and value will be addressed through a variety of media and processes. In addition, opportunities for community and interdisciplinary involvement will expand the relevance of art in the student's' life.

### **Band**

Band is an educational experience in which students develop musical skills through rehearsal and performance. This course is a continuation of instrumental music education at the grade six level. It will allow students to develop and demonstrate fundamental skills and knowledge at a higher level and will utilize more complex music that requires more sophisticated responses. Band will help refine general music and citizenship skills. Such skills include technique, expression, and musical knowledge as well as teamwork, coordination, discipline, and responsibility. It will provide instruction in creating, performing, listening to, and analyzing music in addition to focusing on specific subject matter. Students will have the opportunity to express their skills and talents through numerous performances both in and outside of school. Students will also be exposed to and experience a varied repertoire, including past and present periods of music, traditional to contemporary. They will develop the ability to work together as a single ensemble to create quality musical products.

### **Computer Literacy7/ Career and Leadership**

This course is designed for middle school students to receive a background in technology with a concentration in keyboarding, the Microsoft Office Suite programs: Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint and Publisher. Students will have hands on experience working with the programs and applying them in the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) competitions. The course also will allow students to explore career options, prepare for the world of work and create a career portfolio. Students will have the opportunity to explore different careers and acquire an awareness of preparing

now for their future careers. The course will also teach students how to strengthen their study skills to become better students and build a strong foundation for future experiences through the application of the *“7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens.”*

### **Chorus**

In 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus, students will continue to learn about the choral art as they sing a variety of traditional, contemporary, and world music choral literature. Throughout the year students will increase their quality of tone production through the implementation of healthy vocal techniques, and be able to sing in three or more parts of mixed voices consistently and accurately. The students will increase their aural skills to identify and sing intervals of a major and minor scales, as well as echo patterns. The students will also build upon their understanding of music theory to identify and perform all dynamic levels, tempos, have a greater understanding of rhythm, and will increase their literacy of standard notation through sight-singing of exercises and repertoire. Through the repertoire, students will gain a unique glimpse into various cultures and people groups through time.

Concepts learned throughout this course spiral, adding understanding and developing continually as they are used and applied throughout the length of the course. While learning new things throughout the year, students will experience some of the concepts long before they recognize and identify them in the setting of a formal lesson on that concept. Students will be able to recognize, synthesize and communicate what they experience.

### **Family and Consumer Sciences**

This course is designed to provide learning experiences to meet all of the State Standards for Family & Consumer Sciences: Financial and Resource Management; Balancing Family, Work and Community Responsibility; Food Science and Nutrition; and Child Development.

### **Physical Education**

The students will participate in a variety of physical activities such as team, individual and lifetime sports as well as physical fitness activities. The students will learn teamwork, respect for others, rules and regulations and care for equipment. Through Physical Education, the students will gain knowledge of their body and an enhanced health level. They will recognize the importance of physical activity and fitness throughout their lives to enhance their health. Activities and instructional strategies are geared toward the development of adolescents physically, cognitively, and affectively.

### **Health**

The students will analyze and identify a variety of health related topics using various educational methods and activities. The students will participate in Level 2 of the Life Skills Training program to reinforce lifetime skills and knowledge to be applied in various health situations to enhance one's quality of life.

## **Music 7**

This course is designed to be a continuation of the progression through music history that began in 6th grade general music. Students build upon their basic knowledge of music composition, including more advanced notation, creating variations over harmonic accompaniments, and expressing multiple ideas and emotions. Using higher order thinking skills, students analyze, compare and contrast, and evaluate their own works, as well as the works of other composers throughout music history. Group work and performances are designed to reinforce course material and build vital skills in the areas of public speaking and teamwork. Dance, theater, visual arts, and world history are all incorporated to provide a well-rounded context with which to understand the role of music in culture and history.

## **Orchestra**

This course is designed to give students at the middle school level the opportunity to develop their musical skills on orchestral instruments through rehearsal and performance techniques. This level instruction is a continuation of skills and concepts begun at the elementary level. Students will spend most of their time preparing for public performances of the entire orchestra, with several opportunities available throughout the year for individual development and performance. Some of the many skills needed and developed in this course are coordination, responsibility, cooperation, critical listening, discipline and individual evaluation. The students will be exposed to many kinds of orchestral repertoire including classical, popular and original works of music.

## **Technology Education Design and Modeling**

In Unit 1 Introduction to Design, students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They will also be learning about different types of measurement and applying them to drawings. In Unit 2 Modeling and Statistical Analysis, students use the Autodesk Inventor 3D modeling software to create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their creative solutions. In Unit 3 Design Challenge, students are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned throughout the class to design a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy.

## **Grade 6**

### **Art**

The Middle School Art Program offers a strong foundation of visual art experiences that is directly aligned with the PA Academic Standards for Arts and Humanities. Studio activities will be infused with the concepts of aesthetics, art criticism and art history to broaden intellect and create meaningful connections.

The elements of design: line, shape, form, space, color, texture and value will be addressed through a variety of media and processes. In addition, opportunities for

community and interdisciplinary involvement will expand the relevance of art in the student's' life.

### **Band**

Band is an educational experience in which students develop musical skills through rehearsal and performance. This course is a continuation of instrumental music education at the elementary level. It will allow students to develop and demonstrate fundamental skills and knowledge at a higher level and will utilize more complex music that requires more sophisticated responses. Band will help refine general music and citizen skills. Such skills include technique, expression, and musical knowledge as well as teamwork, coordination, discipline, and responsibility. It will provide instruction in creating, performing, listening to, and analyzing music, in addition to focusing on specific subject matter. Students will have the opportunity to express their skills and talents through numerous performances both in and outside of school. Students will also be exposed to and experience a varied repertoire, including past and present periods of music, traditional to contemporary. They will develop the ability to work together as a single ensemble to create a quality musical product.

### **Chorus**

Students will be able to sing a variety of traditional, contemporary, and world music choral literature. Throughout the year students will be able to increase the quality of their tone production through healthy vocal techniques, and be able to sing in two to three parts consistently and accurately. The students will be able to increase their aural skills to identify and sing intervals and echo patterns of a major scale. The students will also build upon their knowledge of music theory, helping them to be able to identify and perform all dynamic levels, and increase their understanding of rhythm. Students will increase their musical literacy through sight-singing. Students will learn to analyze their work and that of others to improve their own performance.

### **Physical Education**

The students will participate in a variety of physical activities such as team, individual and lifetime sports as well as physical fitness activities. The students will learn teamwork, respect for others, rules and regulations and care for equipment. Through Physical Education, the students will gain knowledge of their body and an enhanced health level. They will recognize the importance of physical activity and fitness throughout their lives to enhance their health. Activities and instructional strategies are geared toward the development of adolescents physically, cognitively, and affectively.

### **Health**

The students will analyze and develop various skill and techniques that will assist them when dealing with life's challenges and promote positive youth development. The students will also gain the knowledge and skills necessary to increase self-esteem, communicate effectively, manage anxiety, make new friends, and resist drug, alcohol, tobacco use and other high-risk behaviors.

## **Music**

This course is designed to introduce students to the beginning of music history through composition and analysis. Students build skills in reading and notating music, as well as the basic aspects of music composition, including melody, harmony, rhythm, and form. Using higher order thinking skills, students analyze, compare and contrast, and evaluate their own works, in addition to the works of composers from early music history. Group work and class performances are designed to reinforce course material and build vital life skills such as public speaking and teamwork. Dance, theater, visual arts, and world history are all incorporated to provide a well-rounded context with which to understand the role of music in our culture and history.

## **Orchestra**

This course is designed to give students at the middle school level the opportunity to develop their musical skills on orchestral instruments through rehearsal and performance techniques. This level instruction is a continuation of skills and concepts begun at the elementary level. Students will spend most of their time preparing for public performances of the entire orchestra, with several opportunities available throughout the year for individual development and performance. Some of the many skills needed and developed in this course are coordination, responsibility, cooperation, critical listening, discipline and individual evaluation. The students will be exposed to many kinds of orchestral repertoire including classical, popular and original works of music.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

### **Life Skills**

This course is developed to provide assistance to students with moderate to severe disabilities in becoming functioning members of their community. Within the regular education facilities of the district, the educational program for these students has been organized into six instructional domains: personal maintenance, domestic maintenance, vocational skills, recreation and leisure, functional academics and interpersonal communication. These six domains represent the major areas of life activity in which all individuals engage. Instruction referenced to the important activities in the home, community and future work settings are integral parts of the curriculum meant to prepare the handicapped student for a normal life in their community.

### **Speech/Language Support**

Students who meet the criteria for Speech/Language Impaired in the State Pennsylvania can receive speech/language support as part of their school-age program. Support can be defined as the instruction the student requires to achieve

specific goals as stated in their individualized education program to improve their level of communication as it relates to their academic, social, and/or emotional performance.

1. **Phonology/Articulation** – sound error patterns which repeatedly occur in a student’s daily communication skills affecting their intelligibility
2. **Syntax** – difficulties noted in student’s ability to verbally create and organize a sentence that is grammatically correct and contains complete thoughts and sentences
3. **Semantics** – word retrieval and vocabulary use and understanding
4. **Pragmatics** – social language skills, using communication effectively and appropriately in a variety of settings, and
5. **Fluency** – uninterrupted speech allowing for fluent verbal communication



