

2021-2022

Middle School Program of Academic Studies

A course selection guide for Grade 7 and Grade 8

Pennbrook Middle School
Penndale Middle School
Pennfield Middle School



Final deadline for students and/or parents to initiate request for course selection changes is May 1, 2021.

Statement of Vision

The North Penn School District seeks to develop students who embody its universal values of achievement, kindness, collaboration, respect, responsibility, resilience, and integrity. Through an education that develops students both academically and emotionally, equitable opportunities, and a respect for human differences, members of the North Penn community will contribute meaningfully to their local and global communities.

Shared Values

Visionary Leadership: Contributes to the development of a quality organization by building the relationships necessary to create the conditions that foster a high level of employee, student and community engagement; provide opportunities for employee decision-making; include a high level of visibility; and are characterized by leadership coaching.

High Expectations for Learning: Cultivates an environment where every student is challenged to reach his or her highest potential, receives equitable access to learning, and where families, community members, and staff demonstrate the confidence to meet the needs of every child by using strategies that ensure high levels of achievement and address student differences.

People-Centered Community: Empowers and equips students, staff, and community members to better serve, providing them with a healthful environment in which they continuously learn and embrace change, and solicit feedback to effectively understand and address the needs and concerns of students, staff, and the community

Continuous Improvement: Embraces ongoing efforts to improve services and outcomes resulting in positive change for all members of the school community based upon feedback and program assessment.

Partnerships and Teamwork: Leverages the collective experience and expertise of all members of the school community including students, parents, staff, and citizens to deliver the best for our students.

Strength in Diversity: Recognizes the power in respecting, understanding, and celebrating human differences to build community, inspire ideas, develop shared experiences, and enrich the organization.

Statement of Mission

The North Penn School District is an effective, innovative, student-centered community of teaching and learning where every student is empowered to:

- become an independent, resilient, life-long learner who uses knowledge to create new understandings;
- achieve at one's highest potential;
- live as a positive, responsible, and contributing citizen of the global society; and
- develop a respect for diversity and appreciation of human differences.

Welcome to Middle School

This Middle School Program of Academic Studies has been designed to help students and their parents plan an academic program that stimulates curiosity and motivates students to explore new areas of learning. During the middle school years, students and parents have their first opportunity to select courses based on students' needs, interests and abilities.

We encourage students and parents to carefully review the Program of Academic Studies and the recommendations made by teachers on the verification letters sent home with your student and/or through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal (ICPP). Teachers, counselors and administrators are available to assist in this process.

Seventh grade students and teachers will be organized into teams for English, Math, Reading, Science and Social Studies. All students will be required to take a variety of exploratory courses so that they can experience diverse opportunities as they define their interests, strengths and capabilities. Identified eligible seventh and eighth grade students, who are in need of specially designed instruction, will be provided Special Education or Gifted classes as determined by their Individual Education Program (IEP).

Policy Statement: All activities and courses, including Technology Education, Vocational-Technical Education, Family Consumer Science and Physical Education courses at North Penn School District are available to all students as required by Title VI, Title IX and Section 504. If there are prerequisites, they are based on ability and aptitude, not on race, color, national origin, sex or any handicapping conditions. If a student is physically or mentally handicapped, they may qualify for special services and instruction, or equipment modifications so they can successfully complete the course or participate in any activity.

If you have questions about equal educational opportunities or complaints, contact Title IX Officer, Dr. Marjorie Diegue, at the Educational Services Center, 401 East Hancock St., Lansdale, PA 19446 (215-368-0400).

Philosophy for Middle Schools

The administration, faculty and board of school directors, with the support of the community, recognize the uniqueness and demands of the emerging adolescent and seek to provide experiences which enhance individual development and assist the student in learning societal responsibilities.

Middle school students need a range of easily accessible learning opportunities. Therefore, we strive to:

1. Provide a climate in which the focus of the program is the student.
2. Create small communities within the middle school level by assigning a common set of students to a specified number of teachers for a common core of subjects and a common block of time. This concept is called "Teaming of Students".
3. Help each student acquire mastery of the basic skills.
4. Teach students to evaluate and apply various kinds of information with which they come in daily contact.
5. Provide experiences for students to see the relationship between academic principles and their application for the future.
6. Foster a positive attitude toward the learning process.
7. Encourage the development of individual achievement.

8. Provide opportunities for students based on their needs and interests.
9. Encourage appreciation and develop skills in the arts and humanities.
10. Provide experiences for students to practice good health, safety and family living skills.
11. Provide a variety of both structured and informational physical and co-curricular activities appropriate to the student's age and development.

This program should assist the adolescent in the transition from childhood dependence to adult independence. Therefore, we strive to:

1. Help every student develop self-understanding and a feeling of self-worth.
2. Provide a positive environment emphasizing an understanding and appreciation of others.
3. Provide constructive outlets to help the adolescent resolve conflict.
4. Promote an awareness of and continuing participation in constructive leisure activities.
5. Develop individual awareness of and responsibility for group rights, attitudes and actions.
6. Use discipline as a learning experience through which the student accepts responsibility for his/her behavior.
7. Promote good citizenship through the understanding of and participation in the democratic process.

Responsibility for the success of this program will be shared by the home, the community and the school.

Therefore, we strive to:

1. Provide planned opportunities for continuous staff improvement in order to achieve the program goals.
2. Establish a total school environment which promotes the exchange of ideas among administrators, teachers, parents, students and other interested community members.

Counseling Services

Counseling services are aimed at helping each student have the most successful school experience possible. Students are encouraged to expand their knowledge by building upon previous experiences, developing a deeper understanding of their strengths and needs, and

gaining an understanding of themselves and their relationship to the changing world in which they live.

The guidance curriculum consists of structured experiences presented systematically through group activities. The purpose of the curriculum is to provide all students with information to plan and manage their own personal and career development, and their continued learning.

Counselors work with students in large and small groups as well as individually. Students who wish to work with others on finding solutions to concerns that prevent them from doing their best in school will have group counseling opportunities.

Counselors aid in the coordination of standardized test(s) such as the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) in grades 7 and 8, and Keystone Exams. Following receipt of test results, interpretation of results is offered.

Students may arrange for an appointment by completing a request form in the counseling center. If the need for a conference is urgent, students are asked to alert the guidance secretary who will see that a counselor contacts the student as soon as possible.

The Counseling Center has a number of resources to help parents work with adolescents. These resources are available to parents who wish to borrow them.

Contact the Guidance Department at your school with questions regarding the Program of Academic Studies.

Pennbrook Guidance Department

Call 215-699-9287

1201 North Wales Road; North Wales, 19454

Mr. Jesse Clancy clancyjc@npenn.org
Ms. Colleen Arnold arnoldce@npenn.org
Mrs. Tara Kadyszewski kadysztm@npenn.org

Penndale Guidance Department

Call 215-368-2700

400 Penn Street; Lansdale, 19446

Mr. Michael Flynn flynnmj@npenn.org
Mr. Nathan Harvey harveyng@npenn.org
Mr. Christopher Joy joycw@npenn.org
Mrs. Susan Reichwein reichwsa@npenn.org

Pennfield Guidance Department

Call 215-368-9600

726 Forty Foot Road; Hatfield, 19440

Mrs. Jill Conti contij@npenn.org
Mrs. Rachel Hyne hynere@npenn.org
Mr. Tim McCloud mcccloudt@npenn.org

Promotional Requirements

Grades 7 & 8: Students who successfully pass all required major subjects (with the exception of World Language and Business & Banking Concepts) are assured promotion to the next grade. Students who fail one or two of these subjects must remediate the subject in the hybrid North Penn Summer School Program. Students will not be permitted to repeat these courses during the regular school year. Students who fail three or more major subject courses must repeat the grade.

Graduation Requirements: Keystone Examinations

For the Class of 2020 and beyond, Chapter 4 of the Pennsylvania Department of Education requires each student to demonstrate proficiency on the Keystone Exams in the areas of Algebra, Biology, and Literature as a graduation requirement. NPSD students who have not demonstrated proficiency are required to complete an intervention before a minimum of one retest of the applicable Keystone Exam. These exams are end-of-course assessments that measure student understanding of the eligible course content. It is important to note that each student's highest Keystone performance level in Algebra 1, Biology and Literature will be included on student transcripts.

The Keystone exam replaces the final exam in all Keystone courses. Students who are not proficient after retesting a minimum of one time must retest again or participate in a project-based assessment (PBA) in order to demonstrate proficiency.

[For more information on Graduation Requirements related to Keystone Examinations, please visit www.education.pa.gov.](http://www.education.pa.gov)



= Seventh Grade Course



= Eighth Grade Course



= Keystone Course

Deadline for students and/or parents to initiate request for course selection changes is May 1, 2021.

[You may find additional information regarding Graduation Requirements and Keystone Examinations by visiting \[www.pdesas.org\]\(http://www.pdesas.org\).](#)

Class of 2020 and beyond Keystone Proficiency Program

Algebra 1

Students who have not achieved proficiency in Grade 8 and do not complete the summer intervention course will retake Algebra 1 in Grade 9. Students who score at the Basic level on the Algebra 1 Keystone at the end of Grade 9 will be enrolled in the Geometry Extended course in their sophomore year. Students who score Basic have the option of enrolling in the summer Keystone Algebra 1 intervention course prior to their sophomore year in order to take the 6 period per cycle Geometry course during their sophomore year. Students in the Geometry Extended retake the Keystone in December of the same year. Students who score at the Below Basic level on the Algebra 1 Keystone at the end of Grade 9 are required to take the Algebra 1 Foundations course in their sophomore year and will retake this Keystone in their Sophomore year. Students who score Basic on the May Algebra 1 Keystone exam in Grade 10 may enroll in the summer Keystone intervention course.

Biology

Students who score below proficiency on the Biology Keystone at the end of Grade 10 will be enrolled in a one-semester “Selected Topics in Biology” course in their junior year. Students who score Basic have the option of enrolling in the summer Biology Keystone intervention course prior to their junior year. Students who take this summer course and score proficient on the Keystone Biology exam will not be required to schedule the “Selected Topics in Biology” course in their junior year. The Biology Keystone exam will be re-administered at the conclusion of the “Selected Topics in Biology” course, as well as at the conclusion of the summer course.

English Literature

Students who score below proficiency on the English Literature Keystone at the end of Grade 10 will receive the intervention within the context of their English course in their junior year. Students who achieve at the Basic level have the option to participate in the summer Keystone English Literature intervention course and retake the Keystone at the conclusion of this summer course. Students who are not yet proficient by the start of their senior year will be required to schedule and master an English Literature course.

Course Advancement

Course Advancement is a process that enables students to participate in higher level courses at the high school level. Students may enroll in and satisfy specific prerequisites for certain courses online during the summer through the Montgomery Virtual Program (MVP) facilitated by the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. Although the financial responsibility and completion of coursework lies primarily with the student and his or her parents/guardians, students with demonstrated financial need should consult their guidance counselor for grant opportunities that may exist. For more information, contact your child’s guidance counselor or visit https://www.npenn.org/for_families/course_advancement.

Course Selection Procedure

In seventh grade, students may select a performing music course, including band, chorus, orchestra or a non-performing course titled Exploring Music. In eighth grade, students have additional choices for their fifth major subject. They may choose a language (Spanish, French or German), Business & Banking Concepts or Reading (if recommended). They must also choose one music course as they did in seventh grade.

Guidance counselors will speak to students about the course selection process and how to use the Course Selection Guide. Students will also learn about required courses and electives they may choose. Counselors will provide opportunities for students to ask questions about the course selection process. Changes in course

requests may be made by contacting the student's guidance counselor. **The final date for course changes is May 1, 2021.**

Course Four-Digit Code Explanation for English, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science and Reading

A four-digit code is assigned to all courses. In English, Social Studies, Math, Science and Reading, students and parents should be aware that the digits in each number have a specific meaning. For clarification, a Course Code example is provided below:

0075: The **first digit** represents the subject area, in this case English.

1075 is Social Studies 2075 is Math
3075 is Science 4075 is Reading

0075: The **second digit** may represent the course sequence. Team assignments are not made until after the course selection process is over.

0075: The **third digit** represents the grade. In this example, it is seventh grade.

0075: The **fourth digit** represents the level, in this case English 0075 is Level 5 (5.0).

Course Leveling

Students are recommended for these levels by their teachers. Teachers use many factors to determine the appropriate level for each student. These factors include performance and skill level. **We strongly encourage parents to call teachers or guidance counselors when they have a question about a student's recommended level.** For subjects other than math, there are three (3) levels of courses offered to students in regular education. They are level 5, level 6H and level 6P.

Level 5C (5.0 IEP Required for enrollment) – Courses include those identified as being challenging. Teachers move at a moderate pace, and the course is designed for the student who has a good command of the basic skills. Within level 5, there are options for the 5.0 (6 periods per cycle).

Level 5 (5.0) – Courses include those identified as being challenging. Teachers move at a moderate pace, and the course is designed for the student who has a good command of the basic skills. Within level 5, there are options for the 5.0 (6 periods per cycle).

Level 6 (6.0 Honors) – Courses include those identified as being accelerated. They are designed for the student who has a strong command of the basic skills and is able to meet the demands of an accelerated course.

Level 6P (6.0 High Potential) – Courses include those identified as being the most challenging. They are designed for the student who has a solid academic foundation and is able to tap into their full potential and work independently.

**THE FINAL DATE FOR
COURSE CHANGES IS
MAY 1, 2021.**

Grade 7 Required Courses

MAJOR SUBJECT	PERIODS PER CYCLE	FIRST OR SECOND SEMESTER
English	6	Semester
Social Studies	6	Semester
Mathematics	6	Semester
Science	6	Semester
Literacy Explorations <i>or</i> Strategic Literacy Explorations	6 or 12	Semester

Grade 8 Required Courses

MAJOR SUBJECT	PERIODS PER CYCLE	FIRST OR SECOND SEMESTER
English	6	Semester
Social Studies	6	Semester
Mathematics	6	Semester
Science	6	Semester
5 th Major: World Language <i>or</i> Business & Banking Concepts <i>or</i> Literacy Explorations/ Strategic Literacy Explorations (if recommended)	6 or 12	Semester

MINOR SUBJECT	PERIODS PER CYCLE	YEAR/MARKING PERIOD
Art Foundations 1	6	One Marking Period
Business Administration & Technology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Technology • Exploring Entrepreneurship 	6	One Marking Period
Family and Consumer Sciences	6	One Marking Period
Health	6	One Marking Period
Music Performance Classes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Band, Chorus, Orchestra <i>or</i> Exploring Music 	2	Full Year
Physical Education	2	Full Year
Exploratory Language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spanish, French <i>and</i> German 	2	Full Year

MINOR SUBJECT	PERIODS PER CYCLE	YEAR/MARKING PERIOD
Art Foundations 2	6	One Marking Period
Business Administration & Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Awareness 	6	One Marking Period
Family and Consumer Sciences	6	One Marking Period
Health	6	One Marking Period
Music Performance Classes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Band, Chorus, Orchestra <i>or</i> Exploring Music 	2	Full Year
Physical Education	2	Full Year
Exploring Technology	2	Full Year

The following pages provide a description of each course offered so students and parents are able to make informed decisions when going through the course selection process.

Art Courses

Minor Elective Offering

ART FOUNDATIONS 1

(1 Marking Period, 6 Periods Per Cycle) 8607

This course offers a more expanded and challenging level to the developmental sequence established in the elementary Art education program. This curriculum will foster and promote deeper understanding and demonstration of the fundamental elements and principles of Art, growth in the student's visual expression through Art production processes, and the continued development of an aesthetic sensitivity integrated with Art heritage and Art criticism.

ART FOUNDATIONS 2

(1 Marking Period, 6 Periods Per Cycle) 8608

The eighth grade Art Foundations 2 course expands the seventh grade Art Foundations 1 course to develop a sequential Art education program in preparing students for selection of Art electives in ninth grade. This curriculum will promote a deeper understanding of the elements and principles of Art, a better understanding of the creative process through Art production, and the continued development of aesthetic sensitivity.

Business Administration and Technology Courses

Major Elective Offering

BUSINESS & BANKING CONCEPTS

(Semester, 6 Periods Per Cycle) 5585

Through the integration of technology, this course is designed to introduce students to the role of business in the American economic system. Topics covered will include banking, budgeting, insurance, credit, consumerism, careers and how they relate to business and you. Additional resources will be used to reinforce the concepts learned.

Minor Elective Offering

EXPLORING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

(1 Marking Period, 6 Periods Per Cycle) 8557

Students will learn beginning word processing skills using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint. Students will then have the skills necessary to use this software to complete report writing and formatting and to create presentations to complete assignments given to them in other courses.

FINANCIAL AWARENESS

(1 Marking Period, 6 Periods Per Cycle) 8558

As a continuation of what is learned in Technology 7: Computer Applications 1, students will learn intermediate word processing features. Students will also learn the introduction aspects of spreadsheets using Microsoft Excel.

English Courses

Required Course

ENGLISH 7

(Semester, 6 Periods Per Cycle)

Level 6.0 0076
Level 6.0 0076P

The seventh grade course focuses on reading, writing, communication, and language. The majority of reading comes from the resource, *My Perspectives*, a diverse collection of writing, which provides learning experiences that promote higher achievement and develop the competencies needed for college and career readiness. In addition to the resource reading, students will read at least one fictional novel. The writing program explores text dependent analysis, narrative writing, and argumentative writing. Students will also learn group communication skills and presentation skills. Students enrolled in 0076P will be required to develop an independent project, facilitated by the teacher, that requires: reading, writing, and speaking skills based on a specific topic of interest. The 0076P course moves at a faster pace, requires more independent learning, and demands higher level thinking skills and academic rigor.

ENGLISH 8

(Semester, 6 Periods Per Cycle)

Level 6.0 0086

Level 6.0 0086P

The English 8 course curriculum is created with a focus on reading, writing, communication and language. The majority of the course readings come from the resource, *My Perspectives*, which is a diverse collection that promotes higher achievement and college and career readiness. Students will also read novels during the course. The writing program includes text dependent analysis, narrative and argumentative writing. Students will learn group communication and presentation skills. Students enrolled in the 0086P course will participate in a semester long project, facilitated by the teacher.

Family and Consumer Science Courses

Minor Elective Offering

FCS 7

(1 Marking Period, 6 Periods Per Cycle) 8617

This introductory course encourages students to utilize technology to develop skills for self-sufficiency. Emphasis is placed on activity-based experiences in the areas of nutrition, food science, consumerism and project construction.

FCS 8

(1 Marking Period, 6 Periods Per Cycle) 8618

Eighth grade students are challenged to improve the quality of individual, family and community life through this activities-based course. Demonstrations, discussions and hands-on lab activities explore the areas of child development, consumerism/merchandising, careers, gerontology, food preparation and project construction.

Health Courses

Minor Elective Offering

Health education is required for all seventh and eighth grade students. Some units in the Health curriculum are: body systems, harmful substances (alcohol, tobacco and drugs), diseases, safety and AIDS education. Health

instruction will emphasize awareness of healthful practices and decisions leading to a wholesome, productive life.

HEALTH 7

(1 Marking Period, 6 Periods Per Cycle) 7270

HEALTH 8

(1 Marking Period, 6 Periods Per Cycle) 7280

Mathematics Courses

The mathematics program offers a variety of courses designed to accommodate and appropriately develop mathematical proficiency. Courses within the middle school are part of the mathematical sequence in which students make the transition from arithmetic skills and concepts to the more abstract study of algebra and geometry. All courses taught within the mathematics program will include skills developed through a study of concepts, real-world applications and problem-solving experiences.

Required Course

ALGEBRA 1

(Semester, 6 Periods Per Cycle)

Level 6.0 (Honors) 2106AK

This accelerated mathematics course will be offered to selected seventh grade students who meet the established criteria for exceptional mathematical ability and interest and who demonstrated an understanding of pre-algebraic concepts. This course will develop basic algebraic concepts, principles and manipulations. The curriculum will be the same as that of all district Algebra 1 courses, although the depth of study and rate of progress is greater than courses offered at later grade levels. Major topics include functions, linear equations and inequalities, exponents, polynomials, factoring, graphing, quadratic equations, proportions, radicals and applications. This is a Keystone Exam course.

PRE-REQUISITE FOR ALGEBRA 1: Qualifying score on placement rubric. Rubric components are the common unit assessment scores, midterm exam grade, and the Algebra and Geometry Prognostic Tests.

PRE-ALGEBRA 7

(Semester, 6 Periods Per Cycle)

Level 5.0

2075

This course will provide targeted, systematic instruction of Pre-Algebra concepts that focuses on rebuilding the key progressions to support students with success in Algebra 1, as defined by the PA Core standards. Also, this course will focus on providing students with additional reinforcement and scaffolding in mathematics. Major topics include rational numbers, ratios and proportions, equalities, inequalities, two and three dimensional geometry, statistics, probability and applications. Gaps in students' skills will be addressed through the use of direct instruction, personalized learning and collaborative learning.

PRE-ALGEBRA 7

(Semester, 6 Periods Per Cycle)

Level 6.0 (IEP required for enrollment)

2076C

Level 6.0 (Honors)

2076

This course is designed to prepare students for Algebra 1. Major topics include rational numbers, exponents, functions, linear equations and systems of linear equations, scatterplots, angles, congruence and similarity. Most students enrolled in this course will continue into Algebra 1 in eighth grade.

GEOMETRY

(Semester, 6 Periods Per Cycle)

Level 6.0 (Honors)

2206A

This course includes the study of plane and solid figures, similarity, congruence, postulates, theorems, use of mathematical proof, constructions, area and volume. The concepts of space geometry (solid) are introduced in the course and used thereafter. Students are also introduced to elementary ideas of plane analytical geometry. Algebra topics are included periodically throughout this course.

PRE-REQUISITE FOR GEOMETRY: Proficient on the Algebra 1 Keystone AND a grade of C or higher. Any student with a grade of D or lower will be recommended to retake the Algebra 1 course.

ALGEBRAIC CONCEPTS

(Semester, 6 Periods Per Cycle)

Level 5.0

2085

This course will provide targeted, systematic instruction of Algebraic concepts that focuses on rebuilding the key progressions for students who continue to need additional support for success in Algebra 1, as defined by the PA Core standards. Major topics include rational numbers, exponents, functions, linear equations and systems of linear equations, scatterplots, angles, congruence and similarity. Gaps in students' skills will be addressed through the use of direct instruction, personalized learning and collaborative learning.

ALGEBRA – OPERATIONS AND EQUATIONS

(Semester, 6 Periods Per Cycle)

Level 6.0 (IEP required for enrollment)

2106AC

Level 6.0

2106A

This course is specifically designed for students who will benefit from targeted instruction on algebraic concepts before focusing on the Algebra 1 standards. The first half of this course will address expressions and equations with radicals and integer exponents; mathematical problems leading to two linear equations in two variable; and dilations, translations, rotations, and reflections on two-dimensional figures using coordinates. The second half of this course will address Algebra 1 topics such as equations and inequalities, polynomials and factoring. Students who successfully complete this course will continue learning the remaining Algebra 1 concepts in Algebra-Functions and Data Representation in ninth grade. This course sequence will culminate with the Keystone Algebra Exam at the end of the second year.

Music Courses

Students in seventh and eighth grade may choose a performing music class or a non-performing music class. Performing music classes include Band, Chorus or Orchestra. Students should read the requirements for performing music before choosing a course. The non-performing music class is Exploring Music. Students will receive hands-on experience using music software in the music technology lab.

Minor Elective Offering

EXPLORING MUSIC 7

(Full Year, 2 Periods Per Cycle) 8627

Students will explore the historical aspects of early music up the 20th century. Activities will include studying and evaluating music and will provide opportunities for creating and performing music in a classroom setting. Students will receive hands-on experience using music software in the music technology lab.

MUSIC PERFORMANCE CLASSES

(Full Year, 2 Periods Per Cycle) Band – 8671
Chorus – 8672
Orchestra – 8673

The music performance classes, offered in seventh grade, include a choice of either the grade level Concert Band, Mixed Chorus or Orchestra. Appropriate music is chosen for its appeal as well as its educational and aesthetic value. **Some performances and rehearsals are scheduled outside of the school day as part of the curriculum and are required to be attended.**

All instrumental students will be assigned to a small group for lessons. These required lessons are organized and function according to the needs of the student. Each group will meet once per cycle and will be scheduled on a rotating schedule from other regularly scheduled classes. Many co-curricular ensembles will be scheduled by audition from the larger performing groups. Co-curricular groups may include: Jazz Band, Wind Ensemble, Brass Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Trebel Chorus, Male Chorus and String Ensembles. Students will receive hands-on experience using music software in the music technology lab.

EXPLORING MUSIC 8

(Full Year, 2 Periods Per Cycle) 8628

Students will explore the historical aspects of early music up the 20th century. Activities will include studying and evaluating music and will provide opportunities for creating and performing music in a classroom setting. Students will receive hands-on experience using music software in the music technology lab.

MUSIC PERFORMANCE CLASSES

(Full Year, 2 Periods Per Cycle) Band – 8681
Chorus – 8682
Orchestra – 8683

The music performance classes offered in eighth grade, include a choice of either the grade level Concert Band, Mixed Chorus or Orchestra. Appropriate music is chosen for its appeal as well as its educational and aesthetic value. In order to audition for a Select Ensemble, students must be enrolled in a performing ensemble class (Band, Orchestra, Chorus). **Some performances and rehearsals are scheduled outside of the school day as part of the curriculum and are required to be attended.**

All instrumental students will be assigned to a small group for lessons. These required lessons are organized and function according to the needs of the student. Each group will meet once per cycle and will be scheduled on a rotating schedule from other regularly scheduled classes. Many co-curricular ensembles will be scheduled by audition from the larger performing groups. Co-curricular groups may include: Jazz Band, Wind Ensemble, Brass Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Trebel Chorus, Male Chorus and String Ensembles. Students will receive hands-on experience using music software in the music technology lab.

Physical Education Courses

Minor Elective Offering

Physical education is required for all seventh and eighth grade students. The physical activities will help to improve each student's basic skill level as he/she is motivated to attain physical fitness levels. The student must meet uniform and participation requirements.

PE 7

(Full Year, 2 Periods Per Cycle) 7070

PE 8

(Full Year, 2 Periods Per Cycle) 7080

ADAPTED PHYSICAL EDUCATION

(IEP required for enrollment)

(Full Year, 2 Periods Per Cycle) 7020A

The Adapted Physical Education course is offered for those students who, for medical reasons, need modified physical activities.

Reading Courses

Required Course

LITERACY EXPLORATIONS 7

(Semester, 6 Periods Per Cycle) 4075

This course will provide strategic literacy instruction for students. Comprehension strategies, skills and critical analysis will be refined through targeted systematic instruction to promote independence in literacy. A variety of challenging text sets will provide the opportunity for close reading, critical analysis and response.

STRATEGIC LITERACY EXPLORATIONS LEVEL 1

(Semester, 12 Periods Per Cycle) 4075A

This course will provide targeted, systematic instruction of comprehension strategies and skills for developing reading independence. Targeted literacy skills including comprehension, vocabulary, word study, and writing will be addressed through the use of technology, direct instruction and the use of both literature and informational text. A variety of complex texts will provide the opportunity for close reading, critical analysis, and constructed response. The various modes of writing, along with the writing process, will also be taught. Students in Strategic Literacy Level 1 and Level 2 may be combined in the same classroom since the program will be differentiated to meet the varied needs of learners. This course also counts as an English requirement.

STRATEGIC LITERACY EXPLORATIONS LEVEL 2

(Semester, 12 Periods Per Cycle) 4075B

This course will provide targeted, systematic instruction for comprehension strategies and skills for developing reading independence. Targeted literacy skills including comprehension, vocabulary, word study, and writing will be addressed through the use of technology, direct instruction and the use of both literature and informational text. Instruction will focus on the foundational skills for reading (phonemic awareness,

phonics, decoding/encoding) in addition to comprehension, vocabulary and writing. A variety of challenging texts will provide the opportunity to apply these skills to critical analysis and response. The various modes of writing, along with the writing process, will also be taught. Students in Strategic Literacy Level 1 and Level 2 may be combined in the same classroom since the program will be differentiated to meet the varied needs of learners. This course also counts as an English requirement.

Major Elective Offering

LITERACY EXPLORATIONS 8

(Semester, 6 Periods Per Cycle) 4085

This course will provide instruction for students who continue to develop competency in literacy and critical analysis of text. Strategies and skills will be targeted through systematic instruction of comprehension, vocabulary, word study, analysis and writing. A variety of complex texts will provide the opportunity for close reading, critical analysis, and constructed response. This course will be differentiated to meet the needs of all learners.

STRATEGIC LITERACY EXPLORATIONS LEVEL 1

(Semester, 12 Periods Per Cycle) 4085A

This course will provide targeted, systematic instruction of comprehension strategies and skills for developing reading independence. Targeted literacy skills including comprehension, vocabulary, word study, and writing will be addressed through the use of technology, direct instruction and the use of both literature and informational text. A variety of complex texts will provide the opportunity for close reading, critical analysis, and constructed response. The various modes of writing, along with the writing process, will also be taught. Students in Strategic Literacy Level 1 and Level 2 may be combined in the same classroom since the program will be differentiated to meet the varied needs of learners. This course also counts as an English requirement.

STRATEGIC LITERACY EXPLORATIONS LEVEL 2

(Semester, 12 Periods Per Cycle) 4085B

This course will provide targeted, systematic instruction for comprehension strategies and skills for developing reading

Technology and Engineering

Education Courses

Courses in technology and engineering education reflect innovations, technological systems, resources and products related to technology. Technology & engineering education explores the social, cultural and environmental impacts of technology. Opportunity is provided in classroom and laboratory settings for students to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes regarding technology. This course integrates science, technology engineering and math (STEM) into a program that is designed to insure that citizens are prepared to live in and contribute to a competitive and complex technological society.

Minor Elective Offering

TECHNOLOGY 7: Intro to Technology 🍏

(1 Marking Period, 6 Periods Per Cycle) 8557

This is an introductory course which explores technology & engineering education. Students will investigate the key concepts of technology & engineering education through hands-on problem solving and critical thinking activities.

EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY 8 📖

(Full Year, 2 Periods Per Cycle) 8556

This is a project-based course exploring disciplines in technology & engineering. Students will investigate how humans design, create and use technology by developing their own solutions to technological problems. Projects are based on real world technological problems/ solutions and how these solutions impact individuals, society and the environment.

World Language Courses

Exploratory Language provides a basic introductory study of three languages (Spanish, French and German). Students are introduced to these languages and cultures so they may make an informed decision about what language to study as a major. Goals of the course: Students will be able to introduce themselves, recognize words that are similar in their native language and the target language, use local currency to make

purchases, identify traditions that are relevant to the countries that practice them, use expressions of courtesy as appropriate in various cultures/situations. Each language will also incorporate an individual cultural component germane to the target language. A student may begin the study of a foreign language in either eighth or ninth grade by choosing one of four languages: Latin, Spanish, French or German. World language courses successfully completed in eighth grade are recorded on the high school transcript.

Major Elective Offering

Latin 1 📖

(Semester, 6 Periods Per Cycle) 4115A

Spanish 1 📖

(Semester, 6 Periods Per Cycle) 4215A

French 1 📖

(Semester, 6 Periods Per Cycle) 4315A

German 1 📖

(Semester, 6 Periods Per Cycle) 4415A

Minor Elective Offering

EXPLORATORY LANGUAGE 🍏

(Full Year, 2 Periods Per Cycle) 8400

Exploratory Language courses are offered in seventh grade. The students are provided with initial learning opportunities in Spanish, French and German for one extended marking period each. Fundamental communication skills and culture are emphasized. The purpose of the program is to help students make a more informed decision in their choice of language for eighth grade. Students assigned to Remedial Math and/or Reading may not be scheduled for Exploratory Language. Exploratory Language is a Pass/Fail course.

Important: When students are selecting their World Language course, they are required to designate their first choice as well as an alternate choice.

Special Education Courses

Special education services may be provided through various programs including, but not limited to, Learning Support, Emotional Support, Autistic Support, Multiple Disabilities Support, Life Skills Support, and/or Gifted Support depending on the student's individual needs. Eligibility for special education is determined through a comprehensive evaluation. If it is determined that a student requires special education services, the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team provides the exceptional student an appropriate educational program and placement. Procedures for such programming are established by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Depending on the student's disability category, students are re-evaluated every two or three years to determine continued eligibility and appropriateness of their special education program. Eligible students may receive services until they are 21.

LEARNING SUPPORT

The main focus of this program is the General Education Curriculum with modifications and accommodations as determined by the student's IEP. If determined by the IEP team, a student may participate in a supplemental curriculum. Students who are eligible for behavioral/emotional support will be provided support as outlined in the student's IEP. This program supports the student's transition to post-secondary outcomes as determined in the student's IEP.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

The main focus of this program is the General Education Curriculum with modifications and accommodations as determined by the student's IEP. If determined by the IEP team, a student may participate in a supplemental curriculum. This program provides support for students with social, behavioral, emotional, academic and transition needs. This program will support a student's transition to post-secondary outcomes as determined in the student's IEP.

AUTISTIC SUPPORT

The program focuses on the General Education Curriculum when appropriate and determined by the IEP team. This program provides support for students with social, communication, academic, behavioral and transition needs. This program will support the student's transition to post-secondary outcomes as determined in the student's IEP.

LIFE SKILLS SUPPORT

This program focuses on the development of vocational skills. When appropriate as determined by the IEP team, students may participate in Regular Education classes with support from the Life Skills Support Program. This program provides support for students with social, communication, academic and transition needs. This program will support student's transition needs to post-secondary outcomes as determined in the student's IEP.

MULTIPLE DISABILITIES SUPPORT

This program focuses on the development of daily life skills. When appropriate as determined by the IEP team, students may participate in Regular Education classes with support from the Multiple Disabilities Support Program. This program provides support for students with social, communication, academic and transition needs. This program will support the student's transition to post-secondary outcomes as determined in the student's IEP.

OTHER PROVIDED PROGRAMS

Hearing Support, Vision Support, Speech and Language Support, and Physical Support.

English Language Development

NPSD recognizes its responsibility to offer programs for the diverse population it serves. English Language Development (ELD) is provided for those students whose native language is not English. Students are tested for their English proficiency levels, then, receive ELD instruction matched to their needs. According to the individual's needs, ELD courses and/or support are offered. The primary goal of the ELD program is to provide students with the English language skills needed



= Seventh Grade Course



= Eighth Grade Course



= Keystone Course

to function in the classes offered in the school's curriculum. A parent or guardian may opt their child out of ELD programming.

Offering

ENGLISH ELD

(Full Year, 12 Periods Per Cycle)

English 1 ELD 0018A

English 2 ELD 0028A

(Full Year, 6 Periods Per Cycle)

English 3 ELD 0038A

English 4 ELD 0048A

RESOURCE

ELD Resource

(Full Year, 2 Periods Per Cycle) 8428A

Gifted Courses

In addition to the high potential and accelerated programming offered to all students, students identified as gifted with a Gifted Individualized Education Program (GIEP) will have elective choices in both seventh and eighth grade to extend their experience and meet their individualized needs.

Major Elective Offering

GIFTED SEMINAR 7

(Full Year, 6 Periods Per Cycle) 4075G

This year-long course is an option for students identified as Gifted (with a GIEP) in seventh grade. The course would replace the Literacy Explorations course on the student's schedule. Gifted Seminar 7 provides the students with learning experiences that will enhance their reading skills. This course utilizes instructional strategies that are both individualized and academically challenging through activities such as inquiry-based research and close reading, critical thinking, discussions and dialectical journaling. This course will employ a variety of methods that will support students while fostering an environment where students can build on their individual capabilities, talents and creativity.

Minor Elective Offering

GIFTED SEMINAR 8

(Full Year, 2 Periods Per Cycle)

4085G

This two period per cycle Gifted Seminar 8 course is available to students who currently have a GIEP in 8th grade. Gifted seminar is an interdisciplinary elective course whose skill-based curriculum is process-rather than content-focused. The framework of this process centered curriculum is constructed around the exploration of leadership. The course provides the students with opportunities to develop their own definition and philosophy of leadership. It will employ a variety of instructional strategies that will support students in the development of their own knowledge and creativity. The course will be scheduled during a normally scheduled special area class.

Middle School Administration

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Kyle Hassler, Principal

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