

8th Grade Courses

REQUIRED COURSES:

English 8 Topics covered in 8th grade ELA include, grammar, a review of complete sentences, parts of speech, punctuation, verbs, adjective/adverb modifiers, prepositional phrases and effective sentences, writing -argumentative, informative, and narrative essays, research- students will complete various research based assignments, literature- poetry, drama, non-fiction, short stories, Greek Mythology, novels, and vocabulary- extensive vocabulary study including the study of root words. The course will also integrate technology. Students will use technology to research and present information- this includes working with the laptops, creating presentations, correctly formatting essays, etc.

American History 8 Students will study American History from its earliest beginnings up to the Civil War. Students will enhance their understanding of American History, improve their reading comprehension, develop communication skills, advance their abilities in technology, improve their research skills, and cultivate interpersonal skills as well. This will be accomplished through the following activities: readings and short educational films followed up with discussion, Power Point presentations, a research paper, voluntary participation in the National History Day competition, a hands-on history project, and an educational field trip to Gettysburg.

Earth & Physical Science 8 Students will explore two areas of Science; Earth and Physical. The course will begin with Earth Science where we will discuss the Geosphere (Rocks and Erosion), Hydrosphere (Water), Atmosphere, Weather patterns, and the solar system. The course will then transition to Physical Science with a chapter on Chemistry. We will then delve completely into Physics with the topics of the nature of matter, motion and force, Newton's laws, work and energy, and finish with renewable and nonrenewable resources. All of the course information will be on the state required testing of the PSSA at the end of the year. The standards of the course will be followed, and multiple days of review will occur to prepare the students for the test.

Physical Education Physical education classes are required of all students in 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12th grades and is offered every day for half a year. Physical education classes provide opportunities for students to participate in a variety of individual and group physical activities and sports. Students are required to wear blue athletic shorts, a plain white t-shirt, and sneakers that tie. Students are evaluated on dressing and participation, skills, following class routine and rules, effort, initiative, cooperation, and attitude. Failure to follow any dress code regulations or evaluated measures will result in a non-dress (ND). The grading scale is as follows: 1 ND = 98%, 2 ND = 95%, 3 ND = 90%, 4 ND = 85%, 5 ND = 80%, 6 ND = 75%, 7 ND = 70%, 8 ND and beyond = Failing Grade, per marking period. A student who fails physical education for the school year will be required to take physical education every day the following school year if not made up during summer school. Students are required to pass physical education classes in 9th- 12th grade to earn required credits for graduation. Each class is worth .5 credits.

ONE OF THE FOLLOWING MATH COURSES IS ALSO REQUIRED:

Pre-Algebra This course is the study of the language, concepts, and techniques of Algebra that will prepare students to approach and solve problems following a logical succession of steps. Skills taught in the course lay groundwork for upper level math courses and have practical uses. The content in this course is based upon the PA Core Standards and we will be working throughout the year to prepare for the State Test.

Algebra I This course is an in-depth study of core algebraic topics. It begins with a review of some basic concepts involving signed numbers, operations with real numbers and order of operations; but quickly moves into the building blocks of the foundation of algebra. The content is organized around the families of functions, with special emphasis on linear and quadratic equations; systems of linear equations and systems of linear inequalities. The students will learn to represent functions verbally, as equations and graphically. Factoring polynomials, simplifying radicals, operations with rational expressions, probability, data analysis and some geometry topics are also included.

THE FOLLOWING 8 BLOCK CLASSES – ONE FOR EACH 9 WEEKS:

Art 8 Students will experience an extension of the concepts taught in Art 7, through the creation of 2D and 3D works. They will explore units of portraiture, landscape, still life, abstract, sculpture, and ceramics.

Exploratory Spanish This 9-week course is designed to help 8th grade students get a preview of how learning another language works. Students will learn different units of vocabulary, preview grammar differences between Spanish and English, and research the culture of Spanish speaking countries.

Intro to Computer 8 Students will learn basic keyboarding skills, improve accuracy, and increase typing speed. Students will also be introduced to some basic Word Processing Techniques.

Music 8 This 9-week long music course will focus on the ways that student's lives are affected by music. Students will continue learning guitar skills and will study American music from the past century including Patriotic, Popular, and folk styles. Students will be tested on the lyrics to our National Anthem. A study of popular music from the 1950s to today will include influential musicians and how they affect today's popular music.

PSSA Math Prep This is an 8th grade supplemental math class designed to help with preparation for the 8th grade PSSA Test. The mathematical focus in this marking period course revolves around Domains 1, 2 and 4 of the PA Core Standards. The course develops a thorough understanding of Rational versus Irrational Numbers and how to approximate the value of Irrational Expressions. We also expand our understanding of square roots and apply it to Scientific Notation. This course takes an in depth look at the Geometry involved in the PSSA Test by investigating transformations of shapes, triangle relationships, and the Pythagorean Theorem and its use. We will also study applications of the volume of 3D solids and round out the course with a practice and review of Probability and Graphs as well as any other topics that the students request in order to better prepare for the PSSA Test.

PSSA Reading PSSA Reading 8 emphasizes the development of reading skills. This course provides instruction in the English Language Arts strands identified by the Common Core State Standards as reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language.

STEAM 8 The Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Medical Detectives curriculum is designed to provide a challenging and inspiring engineering curriculum to middle school students. Students in this program will get rigorous and relevant experiences through activity, project, and problem based learning. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs, and learn how the systems of the human body work together to maintain health.

Study Skills 8 This 9-week course is designed to help 7th grade students adjust to learning at the middle school and high school levels. There will also be several career exploration lessons covered throughout the marking period. Students will use the book *The Middle School Student's Guide to Study Skills*. **Topics to be covered this school year include:** Metacognition, learning styles, active listening skills, organization skills and various other study skills.

ELECTIVES: STUDENTS WILL CHOOSE:

Junior High Band (M,W,F) This course is designed for students to continue their study of a band instrument. Students will gain a better understanding of music through small group lessons, practice, cooperation and dedication. The band presents several concerts throughout the year. Students without prior experience on a band instrument may join with instructor permission.

Jr. High Chorus (T,Th) This course is for students in grades 7 and 8 who enjoy singing and performing in a large group setting. Students will prepare music in unison, two, and three-part harmony and will learn the basics of reading choral sheet music. Music will vary in genre from popular to classical. Teamwork, cooperation, and gaining self-confidence through performing will be emphasized, as well as individual and group vocal techniques. Students will be graded on cooperation, self-discipline, participation, and attendance at concerts. Other extra-curricular opportunities will be offered such as festival participation and an annual trip.

Junior High Small Chorus (M,W,F) This semester long course is for chorus students, enrolled in Full Chorus (T, Th) but who do not play in the band. 7th graders meet in the fall and 8th graders in the spring. The class will focus on three main areas: vocal production, music notation and sight-singing. Other special topics including musical theater, vocal health, and other areas of student interest may also be covered.