PIEDMONT MIDDLE SCHOOL

PLANNING GUIDE

2024 – 2025

Last Revised on January 2024

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FROM THE ADMINISTRATION AND COUNSELORS

Dear Student,

This Planning Guide is designed to help you develop your academic program at Piedmont Middle School. We encourage you to select your classes carefully as part of a three-year plan intended to meet your goals.

Putting in the time and effort to make appropriate selections each year is essential. Please be sure to discuss your choices with your parents, teachers, and guidance counselor. Give special attention to the course descriptions, the grade level for which each course is offered, as well as any possible prerequisites. Your interest, past performance, and goals for the future are all-important factors that should be considered in creating an educational program to best meet your needs.

It is imperative that you choose your courses in the order of your preference when selecting them on Infinite Campus. It may be best for you to write down the order of your choices on a piece of paper before selecting them online. Please take time to review the directions for selecting courses online using Infinite Campus. Detailed directions as well as a video demonstrating this process can be found by visiting the PMS website .

Again, please take the appropriate time and care to plan your studies. Your middle school years are a special time in your life - a time of academic challenge and profound personal growth. We hope this process will allow you to feel a sense of ownership and excitement about your learning experience here at Piedmont Middle School.

Respectfully,

Karyn Shipp, Principal
Angela Barrett, Assistant Principal
Amy Sharp, Counselor
Sasha Goldwasser, Counselor

Course Selection Reminder

Every effort will be made to ensure that students are enrolled in the classes they request. However, last-minute schedule changes sometimes become necessary, due to reasons such as:

- Piedmont Middle School/District/State budgets may not be finalized until summer months;
- Staffing needs, mandated lay-off procedures, credentialing, and other factors may not be resolved until a later date;
- Student requests (or lack of requests) for courses may create changes in offerings.

Sample Schedule

(These are only suggestions; schedules vary from one student to another)

6TH GRADE
1. Language Arts 2. Social Studies 3. Reading 4. Science 5. 6th Grade Exploratory Wheel 6. Math 7. Physical Education -or- Physical Education/ Music

7TH GRADE	8TH GRADE
1. Language Arts 2. Social Studies 3. Reading / Health 4. Science 5. Math 6. Physical Education 7. Elective / Elective	1. English 2. Social Studies 3. Science 4. Math 5. Physical Education 6. Elective / Elective 7. Elective / Elective

Course Descriptions

6th Grade Required Courses

The sixth-grade core program includes Language Arts, Reading, and Social Studies in three class periods. Science, Math, and The Exploratory Wheel make up three more classes. PE and Music courses round out the seven-period schedule. Intensive instruction in the use of reference materials and technology is provided by the Piedmont Middle School teacher librarians for all Core 6 and Science classes throughout the year.

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	LENGTH

CORE 6 LANGUAGE ARTS 60000 YEAR

Writing, grammar, and research skills are emphasized. Written language experiences are provided through response to literature and informational text, research reports, persuasive essays, narratives, quick writes, poetry, etc. Students are given opportunities to compose authentic texts using the writing process. Oral language experiences include reader's theatre, speeches, and class presentations.
Texts: Lucy Calkins & TCRWP Units of Study

CORE 6 SOCIAL STUDIES 60100 YEAR

From the earliest known people through the fall of Rome, students examine how ancient civilizations have contributed to our lives. Students make connections between ancient civilizations and the modern world. From reading and discussing a wide variety of resources including the textbook as well as many supplementary materials, students learn about the geography, history, culture, and economy of these civilizations. Through creating projects, maps, and presentations, students learn important study skills for taking content-area tests.
Text: TCI: History Alive! The Ancient World, Learning for Justive, Newsela

CORE 6 READING 60200 YEAR

Emphasis is on improving comprehension through the continued development of reading skills and vocabulary as well as analyzing various genres of literature and informational text. Students study novels, short stories, poetry, articles, and non-fiction material through discussions, written responses, and projects. The PMS teacher-librarians guide students in selecting books for independent reading through book talks, as well as independent consultation with students. To see a variety of genres, click here.
Texts: Lucy Calkins & TCRWP Units of Study

SCIENCE 6 60300 YEAR

Sixth-grade science is a year-long integrated course that is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards. In sixth grade students develop an understanding of systems and the scientific inquiry process. Topics of study will include cells to systems, Earth and human activity, and energy. This course will emphasize the use of the following science and engineering practices: asking questions and defining problems, developing and using models, planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematics and computational thinking, constructing explanations and designing solutions, engaging in argument based on evidence, and obtaining, evaluating and communicating information. In addition, students will learn to use engineering practices through supplemental units.
Text: TCI Bring Science Alive

MATHEMATICS CC6 50400 YEAR

This class focuses on the concepts and skills fundamental to middle school-level mathematics involving number systems, ratios and proportional relationships, expressions and equations, geometry, and statistics. The instructional time focuses on four areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking. Considerable focus on problem-solving, modeling, performance tasks, and the eight Standards for Mathematical Practice.
Text: Core Connections Course 1, College Preparatory Mathematics

MATHEMATICS CC6/7 Compression 50350 YEAR

This class is the first part of a three-year compression course sequence that covers CC6, CC7, CC8, and Math1 in three instead of four years. This class focuses on the concepts and skills fundamental to middle school-level mathematics involving number system, ratios and proportional relationships, expressions and equations, geometry, and statistics. The instructional time focuses on seven areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; (4) working with geometric concepts of volume and surface area; (5) extending the study of ratio and rate to proportions and proportional relationships; (6) understanding basic probability; and (7) developing understanding of statistical thinking. Considerable focus on problem-solving, modeling, performance tasks, and the eight Standards for Mathematical Practice. Students enrolled in compression math classes are exempt from the school homework time limits and will be required to do extra work outside of class.
Text: Core Connections Course 1, College Preparatory Mathematics
Text: Core Connections Course 2, College Preparatory Mathematics

6th GRADE EXPLORATORY WHEEL 60500 YEAR

Every sixth grade student will complete a rotation of four-week elective courses specifically designed to provide introductory experiences. Elective courses ***may*** include the following:

- **Art**
  This course is designed to allow students an opportunity to acquire many new art skills and techniques while building confidence. Students will learn and practice techniques through a variety of drawing and painting projects using colored pencils, oil pastels, sharpies, and paint.
- **Computers Science FUNdamentals**
  Students will be exposed to the fundamentals of computer science in this two-part exploratory wheel. This course features collaborative hands-on hardware exploration, the basics of binary, block based coding, game design, and exercises that promote critical thinking and digital citizenship. In part two, students will apply their knowledge, collaboration, and creativity skills at the intersection of art and robotics, building a 2.5-D creation with art supplies, programmable LED lights, motors, sensors, and more!
- **Drama**
  Students will learn the introductory elements of drama including working effectively in a group, developing confidence and poise, enhancing communication skills, and exploring emotional and imaginative powers through improvisation, pantomime, games, and skits. An introduction to Shakespeare will be part of this course. Each rotation ends with a Lip Sync performance in the MPR.
- **Green Team**
  What if we could integrate some fundamental frameworks and expectations of Nature into our daily lives? We will introduce and explore ways of living with the Natural World-- from food choices to pass-times to plant

propagation to attentive observation of natural systems. In Green Team, we are fostering agency to build a better society.

- **Healthy Choice**
  Students will be introduced to the four interrelated aspects of health, which include, mental, emotional, physical, and social health. With a deep dive into mental and emotional health, students will learn about how their brain and body both process and are influenced by thoughts and feelings. They will then practice research-based techniques to help them recognize the early warning signs of stress and strategically cope with personal challenges. The goal of this course is to lay the groundwork for students to engage in activities that promote self-knowledge and healthy self-care as part of their ongoing growth and development.
  Texts: Goodheart Wilcox Comprehensive Health Book, and Puberty Talk
- **Makers**
  Create. Tinker. Iterate. Students participate in projects and challenges that weave together aspects of engineering, design, art, and technology. The students will have opportunities to work in collaborative groups and as individuals. Whether engaged in building simple machines, weight-bearing structures, moveable toys, or circuits, these hands-on projects are designed for students to develop resiliency, creativity, and problem-solving skills.

MATH LAB 6 50450 YEAR

This class is designed to offer additional support for students enrolled in CC6. It is graded on a pass/fail basis. Math Lab includes both pre-teaching and review of concepts taught in CC6. It also provides teacher-assisted homework support. This course would replace the Exploratory Wheel course.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ HEALTH 6 60400 Everyday YEAR

60410 Every other day w/ Instrumental Music YEAR

Physical Education/ Health provides opportunities for psycho-motor, cognitive, affective, and social growth through physical activities. Acquisition of physical skill, enhancement of physical fitness with an emphasis on cardiovascular endurance, knowledge of health-related concepts, sports history and rules, and strategies are stressed. As the students progress, an increasing emphasis is placed on an introduction to lifetime activities to help students adopt a physically active, healthy lifestyle. Emphasis on meeting challenges, making decisions, teamwork, sportsmanship, resolving conflicts in a positive environment, and working together to achieve a common goal. Health Standards including injury prevention and safety will also be included. Core activity units may include instruction in soccer, line dance, volley tennis, hockey, pickleball, handball, basketball, and track and field.

BAND 6th 10600 Every other day w/ Physical Education YEAR

This class focuses on the development of technical proficiency and tone quality on **band instruments including brass, woodwinds, and percussion**. The goal will be to perform music of varied styles for public performance. The class will require one evening performance each semester. No previous experience is necessary.

ORCHESTRA 6th 10650 Every other day w/ Physical Education YEAR

This class is for students of **violin, viola, cello, and bass instruments** to develop technical proficiency and tone quality. The goal will be to perform music of varied styles for public performance. The class will require one evening performance each semester. No previous experience is necessary.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Prerequisite: Must meet state eligibility criteria for special education

Learning Center classes are assigned to qualified special education students as determined by their Individual Education Program (IEP). Direct instruction is provided in the area of reading, language arts, and math. Learning support classes offer remediation, clarification, organization and/or re-teaching of general education curriculum. Your case manager and counselor will guide each family in the appropriate course selection.

ENGLISH LEARNER

Prerequisite: Must meet state eligibility criteria for EL. New students are assessed for placement with the Eng. Lang. Development test.

The EL program offers small group instruction to support students who need further development of skills in speaking, understanding, and writing English. Areas covered include spelling, fluency development, grammar review, vocabulary, study, reading, writing and speaking skills.

7th Grade Required Courses

The seventh-grade core program extends over two periods for each of the two semesters. Core includes Language Arts and Social Studies. Reading, Science, Mathematics, PE/Health and elective courses round out the seven-period schedule.

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	LENGTH
CORE 7 LANGUAGE ARTS	70000	YEAR

Language Arts emphasizes the development of students' skills in both writing and reading. Students work through several stages of writing, including prewriting, writing, sharing and responding, revising, editing, and evaluating. Students take selected pieces of writing through all stages of the writing process to final drafts. They develop writing skills through practice and feedback from teachers and peers. Students develop paragraphs with a topic sentence, supporting details, and a concluding sentence. They also write essays with an introduction, supporting body paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph. Students engage in a variety of both formal and informal writing activities that include descriptive, narrative, expository, and persuasive expression. The course also covers vocabulary, spelling, grammar, and the mechanics of punctuation and capitalization. Research skills, including reference work and the use of the library, are emphasized throughout the year. The language arts program also develops skills in reading including comprehension, response and analysis, and literary terms. Students read a variety of genres, either independently or as a whole class experience.

Texts: Lucy Calkins & TCRWP Units of Study

CORE 7 SOCIAL STUDIES	70100	YEAR

Social Studies covers world history from 500 C.E. to 1700 C.E. Students study social, cultural, religious, and technological changes around the world. Students also study geography and maps within each unit. Units of study are: Europe During Medieval Times, The Rise of Islam, The Culture and Kingdoms of West Africa, Imperial China, Japan During Medieval Times, Civilizations of the Americas, Europe's Renaissance and Reformation, and Europe Enters the Modern Age. Units include a variety of activities and projects, as well as traditional lectures and note-taking.

Text: History Alive! The Medieval World & Beyond, Learning for Justice, Newsela

READING 7 70200 SEM

Seventh graders are required to take one semester of reading. The primary goal of this course is to foster a love of reading. The literature-based choices reinforce reading skills, comprehension, vocabulary, and literary analysis. All Core 7 students participate in an outside reading program and the books read are a part of this program. Students are also provided time for silent reading.

Texts: Lucy Calkins & TCRWP Units of Study

HEALTH 7 70203 SEM

This health education course provides a continuum of learning experiences aimed at enabling students, as individuals and as members of society, to make informed decisions, modify behaviors, and change social conditions in ways that are health-enhancing and increase health literacy. Content will include such topics as social health, sexual health, nutrition, tobacco, drugs, and alcohol. Aligned with national and state standards, students will explore essential health concepts while cultivating the following skills characteristic of a health-literate student:

1. **Critical thinking and problem-solving**: Health literate students are critical thinkers and problem solvers when confronting health problems and issues.
2. **Self-directed learning**: Health literate students are self-directed learners who have the competence to use basic health information and services in health-enhancing ways.
3. **Effective communication**: Health literate students are effective communicators who organize and convey beliefs, ideas, and information about health issues.
4. **Responsible and productive citizenship**: Health literate students are responsible and productive citizens who help ensure that their community is kept healthy, safe, and secure.

Text: Goodheart Wilcox Comprehensive Health Book, and Teen Talk

SCIENCE 70300 YEAR

Seventh grade science is a year-long integrated course that is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards. In the seventh grade the students will explore and make connections in the areas of Earth, Life, and Physical Science. In addition, students will learn to use engineering practices through supplemental units with the guiding concept that "Natural processes and human activities cause energy to flow and matter to cycle through Earth's systems". Topics of study will include: relationships in ecosystems and biomes, energy flow throughout ecosystems and chemical processes, biodiversity, and chemical processes in everyday life. This course will emphasize the use of the following science and engineering practices: asking questions and defining problems, developing and using models, planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematics and computational thinking, constructing explanations and designing solutions, engaging in argument based on evidence, and obtaining, evaluating and communicating information.

Text: TCI: Bring Science Alive

MATHEMATICS CC7 50300 YEAR

This class focuses on the concepts and skills fundamental to middle school level mathematics involving number system, ratios and proportional relationships, expressions and equations, geometry, probability, and statistics. Instructional time focuses on four areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples. There is considerable focus on problem solving, modeling, performance tasks, and the eight Standards for Mathematical Practice.

Text: Core Connections Course 2, College Preparatory Mathematics

MATHEMATICS CC7/8

Prerequisite: Passing grade in Mathematics CC6/7 Compression

This class is the second part of a three-year compression course sequence that covers CC6, CC7, CC8, and Math1 in three instead of four years. This class focuses on the concepts and skills fundamental to middle school level mathematics involving number system, ratios and proportional relationships, expressions and equations, geometry, probability, and statistics. Instructional time focuses on six areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes such as angles, circles, and prisms to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; (4) understanding probability and basic statistics; (5) investigating linear relationships through equations and graphing; (5) understanding and performing rigid transformations; and (6) drawing inferences about populations based on samples. There is considerable focus on problem solving, modeling, performance tasks, and the eight Standards for Mathematical Practice. Students enrolled in compression math classes are exempt from the school homework time limits and will be required to do extra work outside of class.

Text: Core Connections Course 2, College Preparatory Mathematics

Text: Core Connections Course 3, College Preparatory Mathematics

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ HEALTH 7 70400S1 and 70400S2 YEAR

Physical Education/ Health provides opportunities for psycho-motor, cognitive, affective, and social growth through physical activities. Acquisition of physical skill, enhancement of physical fitness with an emphasis on cardiovascular endurance, knowledge of health-related concepts, sports history and rules, and strategies are stressed. As the students progress, an increasing emphasis is placed on an introduction to lifetime activities to help students adopt a physically active, healthy lifestyle. Emphasis on meeting challenges, making decisions, teamwork, sportsmanship, resolving conflicts in a positive environment, and working together to achieve a common goal. Health Standards will also be covered including Nutrition and Physical Activity, Injury Prevention and Safety, and Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs. Core activity units may include instruction in soccer, line dance, volley tennis, hockey, pickleball, whiffleball, basketball and track and field.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Prerequisite: Must meet state eligibility criteria for special education

Learning Center classes are assigned to qualified special education students as determined by their Individual Education Program (IEP). Direct instruction is provided in the area of reading, language arts, and math. Learning support classes offer remediation, clarification, organization and/or re-teaching of general education curriculum. Your case manager and counselor will guide each family in the appropriate course selection.

ENGLISH LEARNER

Prerequisite: Must meet state eligibility criteria for EL. New students are assessed for placement with the Eng. Lang. Development test.

The EL program offers small group instruction to support students who need further development of skills in speaking, understanding, and writing English. Areas covered include spelling, fluency development, grammar review, vocabulary, study, reading, writing and speaking skills.

8th Grade Required Courses

The eighth-grade program is a period of English, History, Math, Science, Physical Education, and two periods of electives to round out a seven-period schedule.

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	LENGTH

ENGLISH 8 — 80000 — YEAR

In English 8, students study literature, composition, grammar, and vocabulary. They read memoir, short stories, novels, drama, and poetry. Students develop skills in analysis, public speaking, ad discussion. In addition, students write extensively throughout the year.
Texts: Lucy Calkins & TCRWP Units of Study

U.S. HISTORY 8 — 80100 — YEAR

This course is an in-depth study of United States history from the colonial period to the beginning of the twentieth century. Students will investigate the people, concepts, and events leading to the foundation of the United States and its constitutional form of government. The class also examines the impact of slavery, westward expansion, the rise of sectionalism, industrialization, urbanization, and immigration.
Text: TCI: History ALive, Learning for Justice, Newsela

SCIENCE — 80300 — YEAR

Eighth-grade science is a year-long integrated course that is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards. Students are introduced to physical and life science concepts while developing and refining basic laboratory and engineering skills. Waves, motion, and astronomy are major physical science units studied and students are exposed to selected introductory units in related areas. Life science components consist of units in genetics and evolution. Health Standards covering the growth, development, and sexual health will also be covered. Our goal is to have students analyze data and apply concepts based on what they've learned. Students are required to maintain a science notebook and work on a variety of collaborative science and engineering projects and presentations throughout the year.
Text: TCI: Bring Science Alive

MATHEMATICS CC8 — 50200 — YEAR

This class focuses on the concepts and skills fundamental to middle school-level mathematics involving number system, ratios and proportional relationships, expressions and equations, functions, geometry, and statistics. The instructional time focuses on three areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; and (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. There is considerable focus on problem solving, modeling, performance tasks, and the eight Standards for Mathematical Practice.
Text: Core Connections Course 3, College Preparatory Mathematics

MATHEMATICS CC8/IM1 COMPRESSION — 50175 — YEAR

Prerequisite: Passing grade in Mathematics CC7/8 Compression

This class is the second half of a two-year compression course sequence that covers CC7, CC8, and Math1 in two instead of three years. In CC8B/Math1, the remainder of CC8 and all of integrated Math1 will be learned. The course focuses on the concepts and skills fundamental to middle school level mathematics involving number system, ratios and proportional relationships, expressions and equations, functions, geometry, and statistics. The instructional time focuses on these areas: (1) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem, including to the coordinate plane; (2) extending understanding of numerical manipulation to algebraic manipulation; (3) synthesizing understanding of function; (4) deepening and extending understanding of linear relationships; (5) applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend; (6) establishing criteria for congruence based on rigid motions. There is considerable focus on problem-solving, modeling, performance tasks, and the eight Standards for Mathematical Practice.

Texts: Core Connections Course 3, College Preparatory Mathematics
Core Connections Integrated 1, College Preparatory Mathematics

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ HEALTH 8 80400S1 and 80400S2 YEAR

Physical Education/ Health provides opportunities for psycho-motor, cognitive, affective, and social growth through physical activities. Acquisition of physical skill, enhancement of physical fitness with an emphasis on cardiovascular endurance, knowledge of health-related concepts, sports history and rules, and strategies are stressed. As the students progress, an increasing emphasis is placed on an introduction to lifetime activities to help students adopt a physically active, healthy lifestyle. Emphasis on meeting challenges, making decisions, teamwork, sportsmanship, resolving conflicts in a positive environment, and working together to achieve a common goal. Health Standards will also be covered including Nutrition and Physical Activity, Injury Prevention and Safety, and Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs. Core activity units may include instruction in flashball, team handball, archery, hockey, volleyball, badminton, softball, and track & field.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Prerequisite: Must meet state eligibility criteria for special education

Learning Center classes are assigned to qualified special education students as determined by their Individual Education Program (IEP). Direct instruction is provided in the area of reading, language arts, and math. Learning support classes offer remediation, clarification, organization, and/or re-teaching of the general education curriculum. Your case manager and counselor will guide each family in the appropriate course selection.

ENGLISH LEARNER

Prerequisite: Must meet state eligibility criteria for EL. New students are assessed for placement with the Eng. Lang. Development test.

The EL program offers small group instruction to support students who need further development of skills in speaking, understanding, and writing English. Areas covered include spelling, fluency development, grammar review, vocabulary, study, reading, writing, and speaking skills.

World Language Electives

Prerequisite: A Semester 1 grade of B- or better is strongly recommended to continue in Semester 2. Students who successfully complete a level I course with a grade of C- or better will meet the prerequisite to enroll in a Level II course in 9th grade. (A test average of B- or better is also highly recommended.)

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	GRADE(S)	LENGTH

FRENCH I 90425S1 and 90425S2 8 YEAR

Students continue to learn the introductory vocabulary and structures necessary for understanding, speaking, reading, and writing French in an immersion classroom. While most of the material will be in the present tense, past and future tenses will be introduced. They also continue to learn about traditions and customs throughout the French-speaking world. Instruction is organized around five major themes: School, Activities and free time, Dining out, Shopping and clothing, and Life at home.

Text: TBD

CHINESE I 90525S1 and 90525S2 8 YEAR

Students will learn more advanced sentence structures and build their vocabulary in order to more fluently express themselves in the language. This course will emphasize active involvement of the students in the four areas of communication: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The pinyin Romanization is continually emphasized in the curriculum. In addition to the textbook, cultural activities, music, and storytelling are all integral parts of this class. The content is around four themes: Time & Dates, Things We Used Every Day, Things We Do for Fun, and The Places Where We Live.

Text: TBD

SPANISH I 90625S1 and 90625S2 8 YEAR

Students will continue to build proficiency in all modes of communication (interpretive reading, interpretive listening, interpersonal speaking, presentational writing, and presentational speaking) while deepening their understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures. The themes covered include food, sports, air travel, health, shopping, vacations, and art. Some instruction will be done in Spanish, and students will be encouraged to use Spanish as much as possible to communicate with the teacher and one another.

Text: TBD

Electives for 7th and 8th Graders

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	GRADE(S)	LENGTH

ANIMATION WORKSHOP 10900 7, 8 SEM

Animation Workshop explores the history and techniques of animation. Students view a variety of animated films and learn basic animation vocabulary and skills. They will work with materials such as paper, drawings, toys, clay, photographs, and magazines in the production of animated shorts using multi-plane set-ups, digital video cameras in stop-motion style and then edit in iMovie. This class requires direct participation, as students will complete individual and group projects as part of their own production companies. Bring your imagination to life. This class can be repeated.

ART 10500 7, 8 SEM

Come and join this friendly, fun, and lively art class! Learn about art materials and techniques while creating eye-popping projects. Explore a wide variety of artist's tools, such as colored pencil, paint, oil pastels, collage, and so much more. Everyone will feel successful with projects that encourage spontaneity and creativity.

ASB/ LEADERSHIP CLASS 20300 7, 8 SEM

Are you a leader? Would you like to be a student leader at PMS? This class is for enthusiastic and hardworking students interested in organizing fun activities and promoting an inclusive community for the PMS student body. Students will plan, lead, and participate in activities that include assemblies, spirit days, student recognition, school dances, lunchtime activities, Airbands along with various school-wide drives benefiting Alameda County. While promoting school spirit, ASB students will develop important leadership skills in the process. Students will read *7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* as the course text. Additional meetings outside normal school hours may be scheduled before or after school. Elections will be held in May for official office positions within the ASB class, which includes: ASB President and ASB Vice President. Additional positions will be voted into office within the class: Treasurer, ASB Secretary and Historian, Publicity Director, Technical Coordinator, Community Outreach Directors.

CERAMICS 10550 7, 8 SEM

This pottery workshop covers basic to advanced clay techniques. Students will learn how to hand build with clay, use the potter's wheel, and practice glazing techniques. Students create their own projects and enjoy independent work time as the semester progresses.

COMPUTER ARTS AND CODING 10250 7, 8 SEM

This is a project-based class and is appropriate for students at all levels of comfort with computers. This class introduces students to engineering concepts, problem solving and design thinking via various projects. Projects in this class will use computing to explore concepts in game design, app construction, robotics, 3D printing, and other 21st century innovations.

DRAMA 10800 7, 8 SEM

Students will be introduced to the exciting beginning elements of acting and theater. This will include creative movement, stage combat, theater games, improvisation, short plays, and monologues. Students will work individually and in groups. Emphasis will be on creativity, building group cohesion, elevating confidence, and performing in front of class members and, occasionally, school audiences. We'll also

take field trips to see rehearsals at the PHS drama department and to see a professional youth theater group and act in two performances in front of the school!

FILM/ VIDEO WORKSHOP 10925 7, 8 SEM
Students will gain an understanding of the history of film and the techniques involved in producing film and video. The class will view and analyze a sampling of films from the earliest films to more recent films. In production companies, students will plan films from the pre production stage, through production, and then to post-production editing using digital video cameras and iMovie for editing. They will have specific assignments to develop stories, to learn how to use the camera effectively, and then to edit to complete the films. This class requires direct participation individually and as a productive member of a group production company. The lights are on, and the cameras are rolling. This class can be repeated.

GREEN TEAM 20400 7, 8 SEM
What if we could combine some essential ideas and expectations of Nature into our daily lives, so that we learn to work *with* Nature, instead of actively working against it? In Green Team, we will learn new ways of co-existing and thriving with the Natural World-- from food choices to pastimes to plant propagation and perceptive observation of natural systems. In Green Team, we are equipping the next generation to build a better society.

JAZZ BAND 10700S1 and 10700S2 7th Grade Only YEAR
10701 7th Grade Only SEM
10725S1 and 10725S2 8th Grade Only YEAR
10726 8th Grade Only SEM
Prerequisite: Previous experience in playing a band instrument.
This class includes work on the refinement of technique and tone quality on band instruments. Emphasis will be on musicianship and ensemble playing within the band. The goal will be to study and perform music of varied styles for public performance. The class will require two evening performances per year. Other performances may be added.

FAB LAB 10200 7, 8 SEM
This class introduces students to engineering concepts, problem-solving, and design thinking. These projects and group-based activities are aimed to develop students' creative, collaborative and analytical skills. This class will dive deeper into the themes introduced in the sixth-grade Maker and Computer Science Wheel. Students will engage in experiences that range from building machines out of basic materials like cardboard to building and designing electrical circuits, to developing skills in basic computer programming, and connecting computers, sensors, and output devices to create interactive objects that can sense and control things in the real world.

MATH LAB 7/8 50250 7, 8 YEAR
This class is designed to offer additional support for students enrolled in CC7 and CC8. It is graded on a pass/fail basis. Math Lab includes both pre-teaching and review of concepts taught in CC7 and CC8. It also provides teacher-assisted homework support.

OFFICE/TECH ASSISTANT 20100 8th Grade Only SEM
Students will be expected to use communication skills, work with others as well as independently, and understand the need for confidentiality**. Locations for all Assistants are the Main Office**. The experience will include meeting the public, telephone etiquette, using office equipment, filing, and delivering notes/materials to classrooms. The experience may also include preparation of teaching

materials, organizing materials, setting up labs, assisting with course work, helping individual student, word processing, research, shelving books, cleaning, and other duties as requested.

ORCHESTRA	10750S1 and 10750S2	7, 8	YEAR
	10775	7, 8	SEM

Prerequisite: Previous experience in playing a string instrument.

This class includes work on the refinement of technique and tone quality on string instruments. Emphasis will be on musicianship, music reading, and ensemble playing within the orchestra. The goal will be to study and perform the music of varied styles for public performance. The class will require two evening performances per year. Other performances may be added.

STUDY SKILLS	20200	7, 8	SEM

This class is designed to support students who are academically at risk. The curriculum for this course may include suggestions for organizational skills, goal setting, note-taking, listening strategies, and independent study strategies for short and long-term assignments. This class will also support students in the completion of assignments during the school day. Students are helped with organizational skills and study skills. The teacher is in regular contact with all the student's teachers to effectively support each student.

YEARBOOK & BROADCAST	10280	7, 8	SEM

Students in this fast-paced production course are responsible for planning, writing, and producing the school yearbook and video news broadcast. Students will become skilled in journalism and video production. This challenging and highly rewarding course will give students experience in project management and collaboration. Student work will culminate in the publication of the school's yearbook, and the production of a regular video news broadcast that is televised to the entire school.