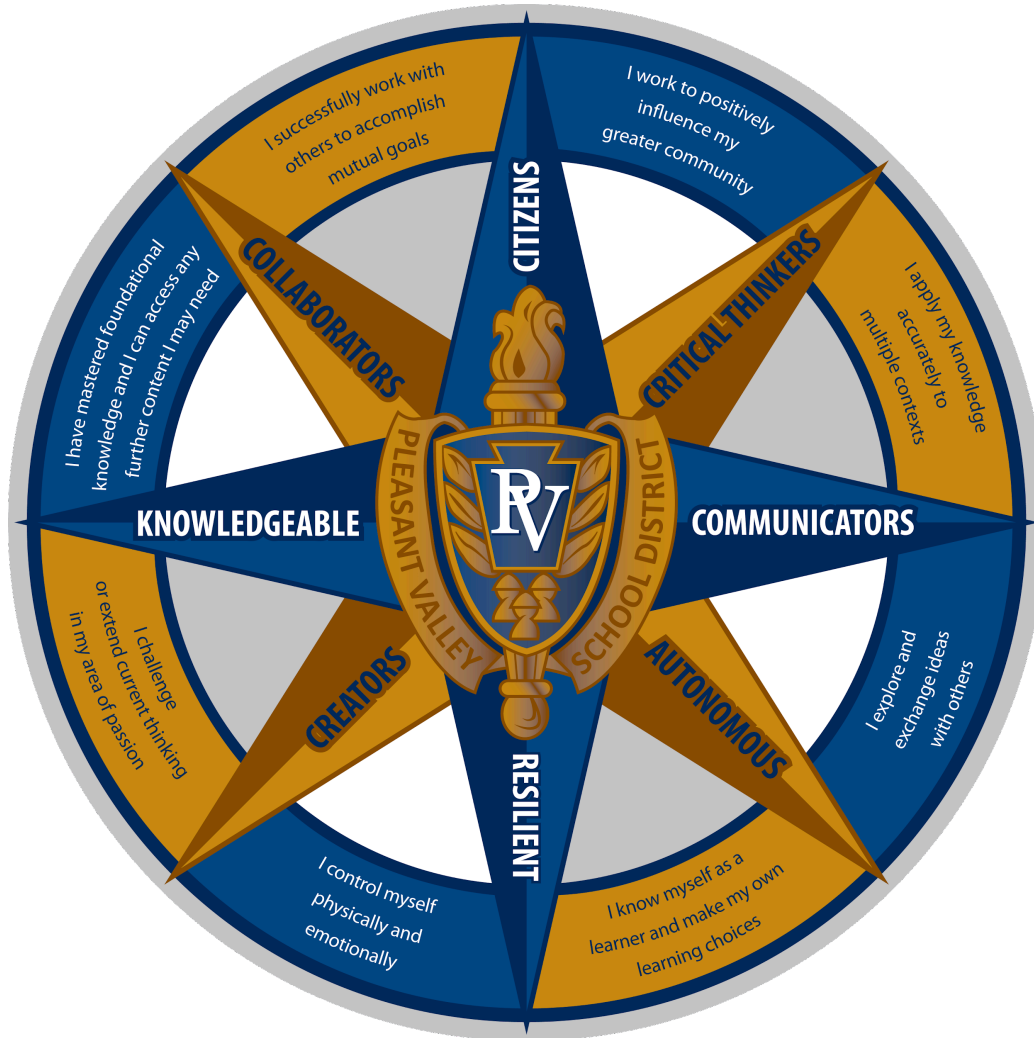


Pleasant Valley Middle School

**2233 Route 115
Brodheads ville, PA**



Program of Studies 2024 - 2025

Excellence in Education: A Community Commitment

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PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2233 Route 115
Brodheads ville, PA 18322

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Middle School Guidance Department

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Mrs. Sarah Rodvelt – Grade 6

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TBD - Grade 8

Ms. Erica L. Muto, School Psychologist

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Welcome to PVMS

Middle School bridges the gap between elementary and high school experiences. Our goal is to make the transition from 5th to 6th-grade a positive experience, and we will do this by working together with students and families. Scheduling classes is an integral part of the transition. Our administration and counselors will work closely with your child throughout the scheduling process. To help make a smooth transition, the Middle School counselors will visit your child at PVI and discuss Middle School scheduling and expectations. Additionally, the Middle School will host a move-up night held in the spring. The move-up night welcomes the parents and students into our building. At this meeting, the administrators and counselors will talk with the families about the Middle School and answer all parent questions. The students will also receive a tour of the Middle School.

Continuing the transition process, the counselors will visit PVI and help the students schedule their specials. The counselors will ensure that each student has the correct number of specials requested. Please know that scheduling limitations, such as the number of students permitted in a class and the availability of teachers, will determine availability.

We encourage you to be actively involved in your child's transition process to help make it successful.

We will provide opportunities to come in and learn more about the Middle School and ask that you visit the Middle School webpage and also stay tuned to Connect Ed phone calls and emails to hear about upcoming events. We look forward to working with you and building a positive relationship centered around your student's success.

EQUAL RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES POLICY

Pleasant Valley School District is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion in its admissions, educational programs, activities, or employment policies. Publication of this policy is in accordance with state and federal laws including the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title VI, Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Requests for information regarding services, activities and facilities that are accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities, in addition to all other inquiries, should be directed to the Human Resources Director. This individual serves as Title IX and Section 504 Coordinator and is located in the Pleasant Valley School District Administrator Building, 2233 Route 115, Suite 100, Brodheadsville, PA, 18322. (570) 402-1000.

The Pleasant Valley School District will not discriminate in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices, based on race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, ancestry, union membership, or any other legally protected classification.

For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator at Pleasant Valley School District Administration Building, 2233 Rte. 115, Suite 100, Brodheadsville, PA 18322.
Telephone: (570) 402-1000 ext. 1209.

Glossary

Credit – a unit that gives weighting to the value, level, or time requirements of an academic course

Educational Program – all the educational offerings of a school district, including extra-curricular activities

Elective Courses – courses that students choose to complete (Electives should be chosen based on student ability, interest and career aspirations.)

ESOL – (English for Speakers of Other Languages) is a support system designed to help the student whose native language is other than English.

Marking Period – a quarter of the school year consisting of approximately 45 days. Students will receive grades for the four (4) marking periods of the year.

Pass/Fail – refers to a grading system in which students receive a "pass" or "fail" grade. This grade does not affect the cumulative grade point average.

Recommendation – a course that a student must successfully complete in order to qualify for entry into another course

Required Course – a course which students must schedule based on the program of studies

Sequential Course – one course in a series of courses. Each course must be taken in its proper sequence. In sequential courses, it is necessary to learn the knowledge and skills of the first course in a sequence before going to the next course. A passing grade is required to continue to the next course.

Term – refers to the school year

Grading Scale -

A = 4.0	92 - 100
B = 3.0	83 - 91
C = 2.0	74 - 82
D = 1.0	65 - 73
F = 0.0	00 - 64

6th Grade

Ancient World History

Ancient World History and Geography provides the underlying framework for studying the world that we live in today. The sixth grade Social Studies curriculum examines the historical, cultural, physical, and political features of Africa, Europe, and Asia. Students will study historical events, geographic terms and review map skills.

English

The 6th Grade Reading Curriculum consists of 3 units written and designed by Lucy Calkins. The Deep Study of Character develops students' growth by learning about more complex character traits, how to investigate how setting shapes characters, and how to analyze how characters are vehicles for themes. The Tapping the Power of Nonfiction unit helps students develop a solid set of nonfiction reading skills: discerning central ideas, summarizing to create a concise version of a text, synthesizing across texts, building vocabulary, growing ideas, and reading critically to question the author's point of view and perspective. The Social Issues unit addresses issues that crop up between characters in books as compared to individuals in life. Reading literature has proven to increase people's ability to empathize with others and to be more socially aware.

Mathematics

In this course, students will utilize discovery and cooperative learning techniques to investigate integers, decimal and fraction operations, area and volume. They will build their foundations of proportional reasoning and algebraic reasoning. Real-world applications will model more abstract concepts and help the students become better problem solvers. Students will begin to build a solid foundation for future studies in 7th-grade mathematics in this course.

Science

The 6th-grade Science curriculum incorporates Matter and Its Interactions as well as Ecosystems and their Interaction. The curriculum is following the Pennsylvania Integrated and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The 6th grade science curriculum supports student learning through inquiry - based investigations. Students will be asked to engage in mathematics and computational thinking, analyzing and interpreting data, constructing explanations, engaging in argument from evidence and obtaining, evaluating and communicating information to show knowledge and understanding of the concept being taught during the science labs. The course includes, but is not limited to, units on the scientific method and the characteristics of living things.

6th Grade Electives

6th Grade Seminar

6th grade students will study growth mindset, time management skills, study skills, and engage in Social Emotional Learning (SEL). SEL involves coping skills, self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, responsible decision making, and more. They will also read, and research how famous people have overcome setbacks and what they did to become successful.

****Required**

Band

Full Year

The 6th-grade band comprises students who have had previous instrumental training and performance experience at the intermediate level in addition to students that are new to their instrument. Participants receive instruction at weekly lessons in overall general musicianship and technique development specific to their chosen instrument. Lessons follow a rotational schedule.

All members are required to perform at all scheduled concerts and special events. Band students are required to prepare for performance through regular “at-home” practice, lessons, and scheduled rehearsals. There are no “lessons only” membership options. The band will perform at least two after-school performances.

Students interested in beginning to play an instrument should direct questions to the band director.

Chorus

Full Year

No audition required. The 6th-grade chorus will perform at least two after-school performances. This chorus is for anyone with interest in singing. Rudimentary music reading and harmony will be introduced through the singing of various styles of music, including but not limited to Broadway, patriotic, American Popular, folk, and multicultural music. This course is recommended for students interested in advanced choral work in 7th-grade and beyond.

Computer Technology

Computer Technology has been designed to provide instruction for learning to use a computer to create various documents focusing on career exploration and digital citizenship with continuous practice of keyboarding and an introduction to coding. Students will learn the basic features of Microsoft Office and/or Google applications, including word processing, spreadsheets, and presentations, while exploring careers. Students will maintain a digital career portfolio utilizing a

school-licensed internet-based website. Students explore a unit on digital citizenship, which will include: cyber literacy, cyberbullying, and computer threats. The activities in this unit will be completed using Google Apps (Docs, Slides, Sheets, Forms, and Drawings).

****Required**

Exploring Technology

The 6th-grade Exploring Technology Education course is a hands-on introductory skill building course. The major skills (themes) of the course include measurement, drafting and design and safety knowledge. A focus on Hand Tools along with filing and sanding techniques will be available during the marking period. Students will have an opportunity to make 3-4 projects throughout the marking period.

Family Consumer Science

6th Grade Family and Consumer Science course introduces various areas inherent in a Family and Consumer Sciences curriculum with a focus on measurement. Basic knowledge and life skills are acquired in Food & Kitchen Safety, Nutrition, Sewing, and Money Skills. Students will practice and demonstrate how to use a recipe through food lab experiences. Students will also be introduced to hand sewing and complete a felt project.

General Music

6th grade students will study basic music theory, musical theater, instruments of the orchestra, and music history. They will also read, compose and perform rhythms on a variety of classroom instruments.

****Required**

Global Connections I

The Global Connections class will allow students to explore different countries & cultures.. The course will include both teacher and student-guided learning that will allow students the opportunity to make connections socially, politically, and economically to the countries discussed and the world in general. The class aims to establish said connections and allow for a global mindset. The study of each culture will include developing culturally relevant and responsive reading, writing, research, geography, critical thinking, study skills/note-taking, technology use, and presentation skills.

****Required**

Health

Students will experience a health education program designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills that will enable them to achieve and maintain a physically active and healthful life. This course helps students become involved in decision-making activities to apply health-related knowledge to real-life situations by choosing healthful behaviors. Students will experience instructional activities designed to develop health knowledge, healthy living, safety, and injury prevention. 6th-grade units of study include decision making, mental health, disease prevention, first aid, body systems, nutrition, and growth and development.

****Required**

Gifted Support

Gifted Support is specifically designed for those who have been evaluated by the District's Multidisciplinary Team and identified by the Individual Education Program Team as exceptional and in need of specially designed instruction. Each student must have a Gifted Individualized Educational Program (G.I.E.P.) written prior to enrollment.

The Gifted Support elective is a supplement to the GIEP accommodations designed to provide Gifted students an avenue to build on and achieve the goals, written in their GIEPs, of applying higher level thinking skills, including divergent thinking, critical thinking, and analysis. In this course, students will be challenged to brainstorm, plan, research, enlist a mentor, create an artifact, and present findings built on standards based goals provided in their GIEP, and driven by their areas of interest. Students will also learn to apply their standard based goals to the key concepts and principles of their content area classes in order to expand on their strengths in all areas by making connections between those strengths, their topics of class study, and relevant current topics. This course is designed to further enhance the students' stretch learning.

Learning Support

Learning Support is specifically designed for those who have been evaluated by the District's Multidisciplinary Team and identified by the Individual Education Program Team as a student in need of specially designed instruction. Each student must have an Individualized Education Plan (I.E.P.) to qualify.

The Learning Support elective is a supplement to the IEP accommodations designed to provide Learning Support students an avenue to achieve the goals written in their IEPs. In this course students will be provided with additional instruction and support in the goals set in their IEPs.

Library

The mission of the Pleasant Valley Middle School Library is to empower students to become critical thinkers, creators, communicators, and collaborators of information and ideas. Students learn to effectively locate, evaluate and use information integrated with classroom learning. The library strives to meet the varied needs of students and learning styles with its diverse collection of print and electronic resources. Library materials are selected to support the school's educational goals and supplement all curriculum areas. A flexible, open schedule provides access to the library when needed by individuals, groups, and/or classes.

Physical Education

By performing various instructional activities, students will experience a physical education program designed to develop and demonstrate physical activity involvement, safety and injury prevention, and concepts, principles, and movement strategies. Opportunities will be provided for students to enhance safety skills, self-discipline, self-control, and positive attitudes towards fitness and social skills through participation in various standards-based, effective fitness and sports activities. 6th-grade units of study include net games, offensive and defensive strategies, basic skills/terms, and understanding sportsmanship.

****Required**

Visual Arts

This course provides students with the opportunity to enhance their drawing, painting and sculptural abilities. Students will work with various art mediums to create works of art such as sharpie markers, colored pencils, oil pastels and watercolor/tempera cakes.

****Required**

World Crafts

Students in World Crafts will explore art from around the world through project-based activities. Students will learn about a series of cultures to promote an understanding of themes, purposes, symbolism, and traditional characteristics of art. Students will gain respect for diverse perspectives and art practices, and the rich heritage shared by cultures from around the world. This course incorporates hands-on activities and the use of various two and three dimensional art materials to create cultural art.

Grade 7

American History I

In the 7th-grade, a major goal of the social studies curriculum is to awaken students to their American heritage and civic responsibilities and have them envision themselves as an integral part of “history” being made today. Students will examine the Age of Exploration, the Colonization of the New World and rivalry for New World Supremacy, the emergence of the United States, the Constitution and System of Government, and the administrations of the first five presidents.

English

Addressing the Pennsylvania Core State Standards for seventh-grade English and reading, this program will focus on building proficiency in the reading and writing of all genres. At the heart of the English portion of this academic area is mastering the structures of writing while recognizing and maintaining the rigor of grammar, vocabulary, tone, and syntax. The reading curriculum, transitions students from the elementary reading core structure to secondary reading skills and expectations via short story units, novel studies, and non-fiction texts encompassing a variety of genres. Through the inquiry-based classroom model, pupils will acquire note-taking strategies, making clear connections from text to text, text to self, and text to world. Reading activities will be guided by essential questions that will encourage and foster higher-level thinking, text referencing and writing skills, and student-engaged literary discussions. Pupils will utilize many different types of text to build background knowledge relating to content, vocabulary, figurative language, and story elements while exercising and strengthening analytical skills. Novel selections are based on interdisciplinary connections paralleling the Science and/or American History curriculums. The overall goal of the 7th-grade ELA course is to build upon and foster the reading and writing skills needed for real-world success while promoting a deeper understanding of the significance of reading in all aspects of learning.

Mathematics

In this course, students will utilize discovery and cooperative learning techniques to investigate integers, rational numbers, and real numbers and how they operate within equations, inequalities, and functions and the terminology used in Algebra. Real-world applications will model more abstract algebraic concepts and help the students become better problem solvers. Students will begin to build a solid foundation for future studies in 8th-grade mathematics and Algebra in this course.

Science

The 7th-grade Science curriculum incorporates Life, Physical, and Earth & Space Sciences following the Pennsylvania Integrated and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The 7th-grade Science curriculum will teach students to see the similarities and differences between living things. Major emphasis is placed on how living things interact with each other and human beings. The course includes, but is not limited to, units on the scientific method and the characteristics of living things and a survey of the major kingdoms of organisms. Students will also have the opportunity to learn about the Earth and the forces surrounding us. Students will actively be involved with projects, reports, and lab activities that deal with these scientific concepts.

7th Grade Electives

Band

Full Year

The 7th-grade band comprises students who have had previous instrumental training and performance experience at the intermediate level. Participants receive instruction at weekly lessons in overall general musicianship and technique development specific to their chosen instrument. Lessons follow a rotational schedule.

All members are required to perform at all scheduled concerts and special events. Band students are required to prepare for performance through regular “at-home” practice, lessons, and scheduled rehearsals. There are no “lessons only” membership options. The band will perform at least two after-school performances.

Students interested in beginning to play an instrument should direct questions to the band director.

Cartooning and Illustration

Students in Cartooning and Illustration will learn about the history and techniques of cartooning, illustration and animation in conjunction with learning about its aesthetic properties. The course includes drawing and rendering, layout, the elements and principles of art and design, as well as the use of basic drawing tools and multimedia for the production of art. Students will gain the skills necessary to create their own original characters, comic strips, and picture books, as well as illustrations and concept art.

Chorus

Full Year

No audition required. The 7th-grade chorus will perform at least two after-school performances. This chorus is for anyone with interest in singing. Rudimentary music reading and harmony will be introduced through the singing of various styles of music, including but not limited to Broadway, patriotic, American Popular, folk, and multicultural music. This course is recommended for students interested in advanced choral work in 8th-grade and beyond.

Coding

Coding is designed to give students the fundamental knowledge of coding and to introduce this 21st century skill to students in order to help them better understand the technology around them and to provide awareness to potential future endeavors. Students will be exposed to various components of coding including but not limited to, looping, exploring animation, storytelling with sound, and slide shows to name a few topics covered.

Computer Technology

Computer Technology has been designed to provide instruction for learning to use a computer to create various documents focusing on career exploration and digital citizenship with continuous practice of keyboarding and an introduction to coding. Students will learn the basic features of Microsoft Office and/or Google applications, including word processing, spreadsheets, and presentations, while exploring careers. Students will maintain a digital career portfolio utilizing a school-licensed internet-based website: Xello. Students explore a unit on digital citizenship, which will include: cyber literacy, cyberbullying, and computer threats. The activities in this unit will be completed using Google Apps (Docs, Slides, Sheets, Forms, and Drawings).

****Required**

Exploring Technology

The 7th-grade Exploring Technology Education course is a hands-on, technical course. The course is divided into two sections. Students will learn measurement, paper layout, scale, drafting and design, and multi-view drawing to build a catapult during their first section. Students will learn basic woodworking skills while safely completing various projects in their second section. Woodworking skills include project planning, measurement, safety knowledge, hand tools, power tools, and finishing techniques.

Family and Consumer Sciences

The 7th grade Family and Consumer Sciences course continues to develop students' skills in various areas inherent in a Family and Consumer Sciences curriculum. Building upon basic knowledge and life skills in the areas of Food Preparation, Nutrition, Sewing, Fabric Care, and Etiquette. Students will practice and demonstrate how to use a recipe through food lab experiences. Students will practice hand sewing and be introduced to machine sewing concepts; a felt project and a simple pillow will be constructed.

General Music

7th grade students will study basic music theory, world music, music history and American music. They will also read, compose and perform rhythms on a variety of classroom instruments.

****Required**

Gifted Support

Gifted Support is specifically designed for those who have been evaluated by the District's Multidisciplinary Team and identified by the Individual Education Program Team in need of specially designed instruction. Each student must have a Gifted Individualized Educational Program (G.I.E.P.) written prior to enrollment.

Global Connections II

The Global Connections II class will allow students to focus on current events in different countries, cultures, and human capital as an extension of global connections I. The course will include both teacher and student-guided learning that will allow students the opportunity to make connections socially, politically, and economically to the countries discussed and the world in general. The class aims to establish said connections and allow for a global mindset. The study of each culture will include developing culturally relevant and responsive reading, writing, research, geography, critical thinking, study skills/note-taking, technology use, and presentation skills.

Health

Students will experience a health education program designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills that will enable them to achieve and maintain a physically active and healthful life. This course helps students become involved in decision-making activities to apply health-related knowledge to real-life situations by choosing healthful behaviors. Students will experience instructional activities designed to develop health knowledge, healthy living, safety, and injury prevention. 7th-grade units of study include decision making, mental health, health care system, communication and dating, tobacco, alcohol, other drugs, and healthy eating habits.

****Required**

Introduction to Media Design

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to be introduced to the techniques of video and audio production. Students will be introduced to production equipment as well as editing software as an integral part of the course. Students will learn a variety of skills such as script writing, interviewing, production layout techniques, photographic principles, and program planning utilizing a hands-on approach.

Introduction to Spanish

The study of language in Middle School is intended to expose the culture, vocabulary, and basic communicative phrases of the Spanish language. Teachers introduce the sound system of the language, various vocabulary content areas, and the geographical and cultural aspects of the Spanish-speaking countries. Studying a language at this level should create an appreciation, interest, and a positive attitude toward other languages and cultures. Students will take this course in 7th grade. The length of this course is one marking period.

****Required**

Learning Support

Learning Support is specifically designed for those who have been evaluated by the District's Multidisciplinary Team and identified by the Individual Education Program Team as a student in need of specially designed instruction. Each student must have an Individualized Education Plan (I.E.P) to qualify.

The Learning Support elective is a supplement to the IEP accommodations designed to provide Learning Support students an avenue to achieve the goals written in their IEPs. In this course students will be provided with additional instruction and support in the goals set in their IEPs.

Library

The mission of the Pleasant Valley Middle School Library is to empower students to become critical thinkers, creators, communicators, and collaborators of information and ideas. Students learn to effectively locate, evaluate and use information integrated with classroom learning. The library strives to meet the varied needs of students and learning styles with its diverse collection of print and electronic resources. Library materials are selected to support the school's educational goals and supplement all curriculum areas. A flexible, open schedule provides access to the library when needed by individuals, groups, and/or classes.

Physical Education

By performing various instructional activities, students will experience a physical education program designed to develop and demonstrate physical activity involvement, safety and injury prevention, and concepts, principles, and movement strategies. Opportunities will be provided for students to enhance safety skills, self-discipline, self-control, and positive attitudes towards fitness and social skills through participation in various standards-based, effective fitness and sports activities. 7th-grade units of study include cooperative games, pickleball, tennis, disc golf, hockey, weight room, soccer, basketball, and handball.

****Required**

Piano Lab

Students will apply basic music theory and learn proper piano techniques through independent practice on electronic keyboards. Note: A piano/keyboard in the home is not required.

Visual Arts

This course provides students with the opportunity to enhance their drawing, sculpture, and painting abilities. In addition, it will focus on the four components of art, including art production, art history, criticism, and aesthetics. Students will work with various art mediums to create works of art such as colored pencils, scratch paper, oil pastels, plaster craft, and acrylic paint.

****Required**

Grade 8

American History II

This course intends to survey American History from the Jacksonian Era of the 1820s to the 1870s and the changing climate of the west. This course is designed to increase student awareness of the development of the American character, civic responsibilities, and vision. Students will be exposed to the pageant of American history through various teaching-learning methods and activities. The course will feature a special emphasis on the Civil War's causes, execution, and results and impact on American life today.

English

This course, in full compliance with the Pennsylvania Core State Standards (PCSS), will effectively blend all components of the reading and writing curriculum. Using the selected parts

of Writing Units of Studies by Lucy Calkins, along with Prentice Hall literature books and various novels, students will respond to pieces of literature while enhancing their writing skills. This program will focus on building proficiency in all genres and structures of both writing, reading, and public speaking skills while maintaining the rigor of grammar, vocabulary, tone, and syntax expectations within the different units.

English Honors Prep

Students interested in English Honors Prep must meet four of the following criteria:

- 7th-grade STAR Advanced Proficiency level on fall, winter, and spring benchmark assessments
- 7th-grade STAR Instructional Reading level at 9+
- 7th-grade English Language Arts FINAL AVERAGE of a 92
- 7th-grade Advanced PSSA ELA score (to be reviewed as data becomes available)
- Successful completion of entrance examination and essay

This course will be in full compliance with the ELA and Reading Pennsylvania Core State Standards (PCSS) and grade level skill anchors. It will focus on building excellence in writing, vocabulary, and literature in all genres and structures and a variety of nonfiction texts while increasing the rigor of expectations within the units and assignments. The integrated curriculum will continue to build on all literacy skills in preparation for the successful transition to the rigors of the 9th-grade Honors Curriculum at Pleasant Valley High School. Successful completion of this course will guarantee entrance to the High School 9th-grade Honors English class.

All Middle School students accepted into the class will be required to complete an assigned summer reading novel and activities. The novel title and specific expectations will be distributed at the end of the school year.

To remain in the English Honors Prep course, the student must maintain an overall average of 90% or above or petition to remain in the program and meet the Advanced Proficiency level for the 8th-grade PSSA.

Mathematics

Students in this course will study higher-level complex equations, linear equations, statistical and geometric applications by utilizing discovery and cooperative learning techniques. Problem-solving in real-life situations is utilized. In this course, students will build a solid foundation for future studies in Algebra.

Algebra I

Algebra I involves studying the real number system, sets, variables, open sentences, axioms, negative numbers, equations, sentences in two variables, factoring, rational and irrational numbers, and problem-solving using variables. The emphasis is on the structure of real numbers, algebraic concepts, deductive reasoning, and precision of language. Student selection criteria:

- score of “at grade level” or “above grade level” on the most recent iReady benchmark
- 92% or higher average in math for each marking period
- a passing score on the Algebra I placement exam

Note: All students taking this course are required to take the Keystone Exam to support PVSD graduation requirements.

No high school credit or GPA will carry over and the grade WILL NOT affect the student’s high school GPA or class rank.

Science

The 8th grade Science curriculum integrates Life Science, Physical Science, Earth & Space Science, and STEM Education following the Pennsylvania Integrated Science Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The 8th grade Science curriculum will focus on two units of study: Electricity, Waves and Information Transfer (EWIT) and Space Systems Exploration (SSE). Students will also be exposed to the core ideas of matter, motion, energy and waves as well as the Earth’s place in the universe, its systems and human activity.

The course includes, but is not limited to, developing the scientific process (Scientific Method) and incorporates the Eight Standards for Scientific and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas and Crosscutting Concepts to bridge boundaries and unify the study of science and engineering. Throughout the course, students will actively be involved with projects, reports, and lab activities that deal with key scientific concepts.

8th Grade Electives

Band

Full Year

The 8th-grade Band comprises students who have had previous instrumental training and performance experience at the intermediate level. Participants receive instruction at weekly lessons in the areas of overall general musicianship and technique development specific to their chosen instrument. Lessons follow a rotational schedule.

All members are required to perform at all scheduled concerts and special events. Band students are required to prepare for performance through regular “at-home” practice and at lessons and

scheduled rehearsals. There are no “lessons only” membership options. The band will perform at least two after-school performances.

Students interested in beginning to play an instrument should direct questions to the band director.

Chorus

Full Year

No audition required. 8th-grade Chorus will perform at least two after-school performances. This chorus is for anyone with interest in singing. Rudimentary music reading and harmony will be introduced through the singing of various styles of music, including but not limited to Broadway, Patriotic, American Popular, Folk, and Multicultural music. This course is recommended for students interested in advanced choral work in 9th-grade and beyond.

Digital Marketing

The Digital Marketing class will introduce students to the foundational concepts of business and online marketing. Through the use of technology, student learning will include but not be limited to the philosophies of supply and demand, target audiences, and entrepreneurship. Students will use their one to one devices as well as the building based computer lab to collaborate with classmates using real-life applications.

Exploratory Spanish

The study of language in middle school is intended to expose the culture, vocabulary, and basic communicative phrases of the Spanish language. The study of a language at this level should create a deeper appreciation of, an interest in, and a positive attitude toward other languages and cultures. This course will serve as an add on to the 7th grade Intro to Spanish course. Students will continue to study the sound system of the language, various vocabulary content areas, and the geographical and cultural aspects of Spanish-speaking countries. This Exploratory course is designed to touch upon the key vocabulary terms students will need to know for Spanish I at the high school. The length of this course is one marking period. We recommend that students take Exploratory Spanish before high school to better prepare them for Spanish I.

****Required if not taking Spanish I**

Exploring Technology

Students will gain a fundamental and practical knowledge base while studying woodworking, drafting and VEX Robotics. In addition to working in these areas, students will have opportunities to understand various types of technology, including safety skills, the design process, robotics, production, manufacturing, and communication. The course for 8th grade ties together all of the skills and knowledge acquired in 6th and 7th grade.

Family and Consumer Sciences

The 8th-grade Family and Consumer Sciences course further develops students' knowledge and skills in areas inherent in a Family and Consumer Sciences curriculum. Course work will expand students' knowledge in foods and sewing and introduce consumer skills such as commerce and personal finance. Students will complete a drawstring backpack.

General Music

8th grade students will study basic music theory, musical form, popular music, how music relates to other arts and music careers. They will also read, compose and perform rhythms on a variety of classroom instruments.

Gifted Support

Gifted Support is specifically designed for those who have been evaluated by the District's Multidisciplinary Team and identified by the Individual Education Program Team as exceptional and in need of specially designed instruction. Each student must have a Gifted Individualized Educational Program (G.I.E.P.) written prior to enrollment.

Health

Students will experience a health education program designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills that will enable them to achieve and maintain a physically active and healthful life. This course helps students recognize healthy living and achieve the skills needed for optimal health. Students will experience instructional activities designed to develop health knowledge, healthy living, safety, and injury prevention. 8th-grade units of study include mental/emotional health, body systems, introduction to first aid, relationships and reproductive health, tobacco, alcohol, other drugs, and sports nutrition.

****Required**

Information Processing

This course is designed to familiarize students with computer functions, capabilities, and roles in society. Students will have a more comprehensive introduction to digital citizenship, including internet safety, cyber ethics, and social media. Students will use Google Apps (Docs, Slides, Sheets, Forms, and Drawings) to complete various activities in this class. Students will continue career exploration with the use of technology. Through a hands-on approach, students will work with Windows and the MS Office Suite and/or Google Applications to complete assignments aligned with career exploration. Skills to be covered are as follows: word processing, spreadsheets using formulas, functions, formatting data and graphs, desktop publishing, and

presentations in PowerPoint or Google Slides. An emphasis is placed on developing skills to enable the student to become an independent learner and computer user.

****Required**

Introduction to Sculpture

Students in Introduction to Sculpture will learn about and create 3 dimensional artworks. A focus on form, processes, spatial and contextual effects will guide students in producing artworks that are in the round, or viewable from all sides. A variety of materials and found objects will be explored in this hands-on course.

Learning Support

Learning Support is specifically designed for those who have been evaluated by the District's Multidisciplinary Team and identified by the Individual Education Program Team as a student in need of specially designed instruction. Each student must have an Individualized Education Plan (I.E.P) to qualify.

The Learning Support elective is a supplement to the IEP accommodations designed to provide Learning Support students an avenue to achieve the goals written in their IEPs. In this course students will be provided with additional instruction and support in the goals set in their IEPs.

Library

The mission of the Pleasant Valley Middle School Library is to empower students to become critical thinkers, creators, communicators, and collaborators of information and ideas. Students learn to effectively locate, evaluate and use information integrated with classroom learning. The library strives to meet the varied needs of students and learning styles with its diverse collection of print and electronic resources. Library materials are selected to support the school's educational goals and supplement all curriculum areas. A flexible, open schedule provides access to the library when needed by individuals, groups, and/or classes.

Physical Education

By performing various instructional activities, students will experience a physical education program that is designed to develop and demonstrate physical activity involvement, safety and injury prevention, and concepts, principles, and strategies of movement. Opportunities will be provided for students to enhance safety skills, self-discipline, self-control, and positive attitudes towards fitness and social skills through participation in various standards-based effective fitness and sports activities. 8th-grade units include cooperative games, soccer, football, ultimate frisbee, badminton, weight room, basketball, and lacrosse.

****Required**

Piano Lab

Students will learn basic piano theory and technique through independent practice on electronic keyboards. Note: A piano/keyboard in the home is not required.

Spanish I

The skills of listening, speaking, writing, and an appreciation of various cultures are developed in Spanish I. The length of this course at the Middle School is four marking periods and is offered to 8th-grade only. Eligible students must attain a grade of 92% or higher in their 7th-grade ELA and Intro to Spanish classes. Students must also score Advanced or Proficient in Reading on the 7th-grade PSSA Test to be eligible for Spanish I. A comprehensive final exam counts as 20% of their grade.

Please note: A minimum of a two-year sequence of at least one modern language study is strongly recommended for all students planning to continue with post-secondary education.

No high school credit or GPA will carry over and the grade WILL NOT affect the student's high school GPA or class rank.

Visual Arts

This course provides students with the opportunity to enhance their drawing, sculpture, and painting abilities. The four components of art are emphasized, including art production, art history, criticism, and aesthetics. Students will work with various art mediums to create works of art, including aluminum wire, clay, e-z cut blocks, chalk pastels, and acrylic/watercolor paint.

****Required**