

MIDDLE SCHOOL CAREER & EDUCATION PLANNING GUIDE



Park Hill School District

Building Successful Futures • Each Student • Every Day



**BUILDING SUCCESSFUL FUTURES •
EACH STUDENT •
EVERY DAY**

2024 - 2025

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Notice of Non-Discrimination

The Park Hill School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, ancestry, disability, age, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by law, in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities. Further, in accordance with federal law, the district provides equal access to its facilities to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The assistant superintendent for human resources has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies. In the event the assistant superintendent for human resources is unavailable or is the subject of the report, reports should be directed instead to the acting compliance officer, which is the executive director for quality and evaluation.

This notice is available in large print or audiotape from the district’s assistant superintendent for human resources or the director of special services. Any person may also contact the assistant secretary for civil rights, U.S. Department of Education, regarding Park Hill’s compliance with non-discrimination laws and regulations.

See Board Policies AC and ACA for more information regarding the district’s non-discrimination policies and procedures.

Contact

OFFICE ADDRESS:
 Park Hill School District
 7703 NW Barry Road
 Kansas City, MO 64153

PHONE NUMBER:
 Voice/TDD: (816) 359-4040
 Text Telephone: 1 (800) 735-2966
EMAIL:
hrcompliance@parkhill.k12.mo.us

PARK HILL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Park Hill School District
2023 - 2028
 COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

GOAL
Build successful futures for Park Hill students of all backgrounds

ACADEMICS
 Implement the Park Hill teaching and learning model where students learn through experiences and inquiry.

MISSION
 Through the expertise of an engaged staff, the Park Hill School District provides a relevant education in a safe, caring environment to prepare each student for success in life.

CORE VALUES
 Visionary Leadership
 Integrity
 Student Focus
 High Expectations
 Continuous Improvement
 Equity

CULTURE
 Create an environment where all students, staff, and members of the Park Hill Community feel a sense of belonging.

SYSTEMS
 Maximize Park Hill human and financial resources and address aging facilities in order to remove barriers to learning.

MEASURES
 Graduate Profile Index
 Academics Index
 Culture Index
 Systems Index

BUILDING SUCCESSFUL FUTURES
EACH STUDENT • EVERY DAY

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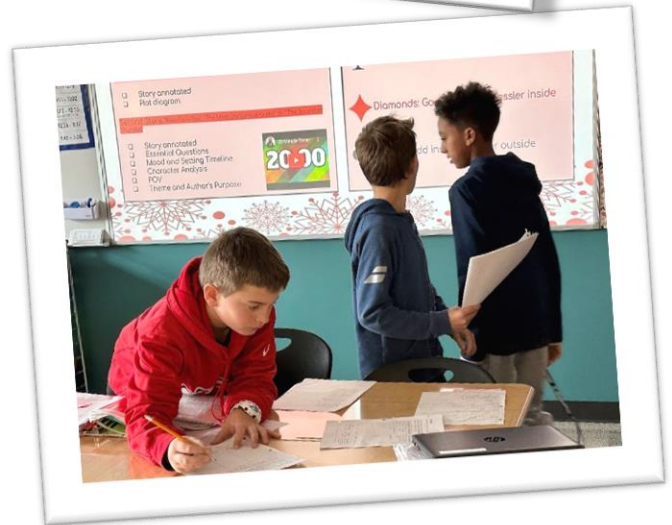
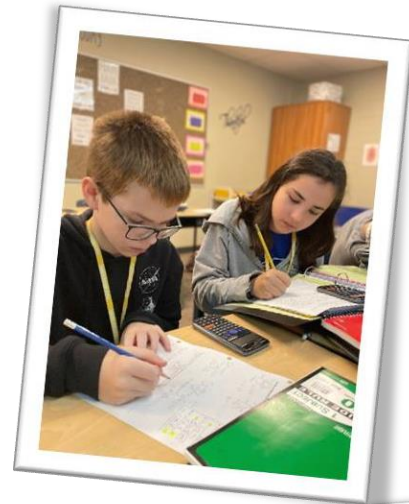
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Member

Kimberlee Ried
Member

Introduction

This Middle School Course Planning Guide has been developed for the students and parents in the Park Hill School District to present important information about programs and courses offered at our middle school campuses. Students and parents should be able to combine the information in this Course Planning Guide with advice received from teachers, counselors, and administrators in order to make decisions about courses that will provide students with the education they need for their future plans. Students and parents are encouraged to use this guide as a reference to use throughout the school year. You can also find this located on each school website and on the Park Hill District Website under Parent Resources. <https://www.parkhill.k12.mo.us/>

Although this planning guide has fairly definitive explanations of each course approved for offering in the Park Hill School District Middle Schools, questions often arise about course content. Please address those questions to the middle school counselors and principals. Faculty and staff are excited about the opportunities available for students in the Park Hill School District.



Middle School Addresses and Phone Numbers

CONGRESS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Principal: Dr. Ryan Smith
8150 North Congress
Kansas City, Missouri 64152
816-359-4230
<https://congress.parkhill.k12.mo.us/>

LAKEVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

Principal: Kirsten Clemons
6720 Northwest 64th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64151
816-359-4220
<https://lakeview.parkhill.k12.mo.us/>

PLAZA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Principal: Dr. Adrian Singletary
6501 Northwest 72nd Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64151
816-359-4210
<https://plaza.parkhill.k12.mo.us/>

WALDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Principal: Brett Schriewer
4701 Northwest 56th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64151
816-359-4240
<https://walden.parkhill.k12.mo.us/>

Counseling Department

Counseling Department members are available to assist students and parents throughout the enrollment process. The counselors listed below reflect the current school year 2023-2024. To find out which counselor is assigned to which students, click the Counselor Assignments link next to the appropriate school.

CONGRESS MIDDLE SCHOOL • 816-359-4230 • [COUNSELOR ASSIGNMENTS](#)

Counselor	Phone Number	Email Address
Bridgett Sissel	359-6299	sisselb@parkhill.k12.mo.us
Matt Calvin	359-6068	calvinm@parkhill.k12.mo.us

LAKEVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL • 816-359-4220 • [COUNSELOR ASSIGNMENTS](#)

Counselor	Phone Number	Email Address
Ally Swisher	359-6289	swishera@parkhill.k12.mo.us
Lesley Mathes	359-6337	mathesl@parkhill.k12.mo.us

PLAZA MIDDLE SCHOOL • 816-359-4210 • [COUNSELOR ASSIGNMENTS](#)

Counselor	Phone Number	Email Address
Bradley Coleman	359-5719	colemanb@parkhill.k12.mo.us
Mallory Malone	359-6539	malonem@parkhill.k12.mo.us

WALDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL • 816-359-4240 • [COUNSELOR ASSIGNMENTS](#)

Counselor	Phone Number	Email Address
Ricardo Ochoa	359-6037	ochoar@parkhill.k12.mo.us
Kara Lane	359-6254	laneka@parkhill.k12.mo.us

AVID “Advancement Via Individual Determination”

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is an elective course that prepares students for college readiness and success. It is scheduled during the regular school day as a yearlong course. Each week, students receive instruction utilizing a rigorous college preparatory curriculum provided by their AVID Elective teacher, tutor-facilitated study groups, motivational activities, and academic success skills. The course emphasizes rhetorical reading, analytical writing, collaborative discussion strategies, tutorial inquiry study-groups, preparation for college entrance and placement exams, college study skills and test-taking strategies, note taking, and research.

In the Park Hill School District, AVID is offered at the middle and high school level to prepare students who are academically “in the middle” for success in applying for and completing four-year post-secondary education. It has a proven track record in bringing out the best in students and in closing the achievement gap. Students are accepted into the AVID program after a screening process that includes a review of academic and disciplinary records, teacher recommendations, personal interviews, and parent contacts. AVID participation is voluntary, and students sign a formal agreement to participate in all elements of the program. AVID students make the commitment to enroll in the most rigorous coursework available, as well as the AVID elective course. AVID helps ensure students possess the higher-level skills they need for college.

Infinite Campus Parent Portal – Online and Student Access

The Infinite Campus Parent Portal is an internet-based student information system designed to assist in communication between home and school. The Portal gives parents, guardians and students access to important student information such as grades, schedules, attendance and announcements in real time. It also allows parents/guardians to view their household contact information and student emergency contacts, and request updates to this information directly from the Portal.

Each parent/guardian and student has his/her own account. For parents and guardians, this single account allows for viewing of information for all students in the household. If a parent needs to set up their Parent Portal account for the first time, they will need an activation key from the student's building office staff. Once they have this key, they will create their own username and password. Students log on to the Portal using the same credentials they use to log on to the computer.

Parent Portal: [Infinite Campus Parent Portal](#)

Middle School Special Services Courses

In compliance with Public Law 94:142 and the amendments in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA), the Park Hill School District provides Special Services to students with special needs. The Special Services team provides individualized instruction through the development of an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) that is reviewed and revised annually. A full continuum of special education services is available to meet the needs of students with all categories of disabilities in the Park Hill School District.

MOCAP Online Learning

Missouri students may request enrollment in online courses through the Missouri Course Access Program (MOCAP) offered through the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). These courses are offered by outside providers and facilitated outside of the Park Hill School District. Students enrolling with a MOCAP vendor will unenroll from the Park Hill School District. There is a [link](#) to more information regarding MOCAP in the footer of the district website.

Schoology

Schoology is our district's Learning Management System (LMS). Schoology may be used by teachers to deliver course content, communicate with students, engage students in online learning activities, and share other resources.

Summer School Program

The Park Hill School District offers summer school each summer. Courses will be offered pending sufficient enrollment and funding in summer school for 2024.

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS

The course descriptions that follow represent a summary of each class offered at the middle school level. The descriptions do not list all topics and/or activities associated with each class.

For a detailed view of all course curriculum, visit the Park Hill website
→ Families → Curriculum.

[Middle-School and High-School Curriculum](#)



Park Hill School District

Building Successful Futures • Each Student • Every Day

Sixth Grade Courses

All students will automatically be enrolled in the following classes:

English Language Arts—Reading

Sixth Grade English Language Arts—Reading is a course that focuses on creating thoughtful readers. The reading portion of this course emphasizes student-reading comprehension across literature and informational text while utilizing a variety of strategies. The ultimate goal is to produce life-long readers and writers who can be successful in future endeavors.

If your student receives ELD services, they will enroll in:

English Language Development English Language Arts—Reading

ELD 6th Grade English Language Arts—Reading is a course that focuses on creating thoughtful readers. The reading portion of this course emphasizes student reading comprehension across literature and informational text while utilizing a variety of strategies. The ultimate goal is to produce life-long readers and writers who can be successful in future endeavors. *This course has been modified for EL students.*

English Language Arts—Writing

Sixth Grade English Language Arts—Writing is a course that focuses on creating thoughtful readers and writers. The reading portion of this course emphasizes student reading comprehension across literature and informational/expository text while utilizing a variety of strategies. The writing portion has students compose narratives as well as informational/expository and argumentative pieces with additional focus on research, language, speaking and listening, and multimedia integration. The ultimate goal is to produce lifelong readers and writers who can be successful in future endeavors.

If your student receives ELD services, they will enroll in:

English Language Development English Language Arts—Writing

ELD 6th Grade English Language Arts—Writing is a course that focuses on creating thoughtful readers and writers. The reading portion of this course emphasizes student reading comprehension across literature and informational text while utilizing a variety of strategies. The writing portion has students compose narratives as well as expository and argumentative pieces with additional focus on research, language, speaking and listening, and multimedia integration. The ultimate goal is to produce life-long readers and writers who can be successful in future endeavors. *This course has been modified for EL students.*

Life Education

Life Education provides the opportunity for students to learn life skills such as study strategies and time management, as well as provide academic support. This course focuses on reinforcing positive and productive behaviors, good character traits, building relationships, and exposure to the community and its resources.

Life Education is vertically aligned, Grades 6-8. Each grade level includes five units (Olweus, Goals and Tracking, Executive Skills, Growth & Development, Drug Prevention) and build off each other in a sequential fashion to provide consistency in developing a positive, caring learning environment.

Mathematics

In grade 6, instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (2) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking.

Sixth Grade Courses - continued

Physical Education

This course applies the principles, practices and importance of lifelong fitness. Students will focus on rules, etiquette, and skill technique for a variety of sports and recreational activities. Fitness evaluations will be completed to determine fitness goals with the goal of improving overall fitness and health. Students will be able to apply the connection between health and regular physical activity after completing this course.

Science

Students will engage within three strands of content within 6th Grade Science: Life Science, Earth Science, and Physical Science. Units encompass ecology, human impact on the earth, force and motion, thermal energy, and electromagnetic forces. Students will engage in experiences that build foundational knowledge for future science coursework.

Social Studies

The focus of Sixth Grade Social Studies is to promote an awareness of the history, culture and contributions of the world's civilizations, including Early Civilizations, Classical Civilizations, African Civilizations, Mesoamerican and Andean South American Civilizations, and Feudal Kingdoms in Europe and Japan. The essential skills and concepts of this course provide the necessary background knowledge for success in subsequent social studies coursework.

If your student receives gifted services, instead of Social Studies, they will enroll in:

Gifted Social Studies

The 6th grade gifted course is modeled after the 6th grade social studies curriculum with an emphasis on humanities. Sixth grade curriculum will promote an awareness of the history, culture and contributions of the world's civilizations, including Early Civilizations, Classical Civilizations, African Civilizations, Mesoamerican and Andean South American Civilizations, and Feudal Kingdoms in Europe and Japan. Essential skills and concepts of this course are to provide the necessary background knowledge for success in subsequent social studies coursework, while recognizing the unique values, needs, and academic talents of the Gifted student.

Exploratory Classes

All students will take eight exploratory classes during their 6th grade year to become familiar with elective opportunities in Park Hill. Students will take two exploratory courses at a time, switching to a new set of courses every nine weeks.

All 6th grade students must take Art and Music.

Art

A nine-week exploratory class designed to give students a well-rounded sample of art and design. Emphasis of the course is placed on both 2-D and 3-D work as well as career opportunities in the design field.

Music

While continuing in the paths established during the elementary grades, sixth grade music will strengthen students' musical knowledge and provide opportunities for students to demonstrate learned skills. Students will develop knowledge and skills related to the elements of music, the principles of performance, the connection of music to history and culture, as well as music's many interdisciplinary connections.

Sixth Grade Courses - continued

Students will be randomly assigned to six of the remaining seven courses.

Foods

During the 6th Grade Foods class, students study nutritional guidelines, cooking terms, kitchen equipment, ingredient measurement, and kitchen safety. They then apply this knowledge by participating in hands-on food labs.

College and Career Readiness

The 6th Grade College and Career Readiness course focuses on developing awareness of the values that accompany academic goals and success, allowing students to develop the skills needed to engage in rigorous coursework throughout middle and into high school. The course will focus on building self-confidence and communication skills in working with peers and adults. Students will be exposed to reading strategies that assist in understanding a variety of texts, and will focus on prewriting techniques, summary writing, and structural components of notetaking. Students will increase their college and career readiness skills as they participate in collaborative study groups.

Drama

During this course, students will be introduced to the art of acting in order to develop an appreciation of the art and an understanding of how various acting techniques may be used to heighten one's awareness and as a tool for self-realization. Drama offers participants the chance to experience the excitement and rewards of theatre arts while developing poise, social skills, confidence and the ability to work with others.

Introduction to Technology

In this course, students will extend their working knowledge of computer skills, typing, and applications. Introduction to Technology embeds 21st Century Skills within the curriculum to work on both hard and soft skills. Students will explore safety precautions online, applications that will enhance their efficiency and explore a project of their choice that culminates in a class presentation.

PLTW Science of Technology

In this course, students explore how science impacts the technology of yesterday, today, and the future. Students apply the concepts of physics, chemistry, and nanotechnology to STEM activities and projects, including making ice cream, cleaning up an oil spill, and discovering the properties of nanomaterials. © 2009–2018 Project Lead The Way, Inc.

Textiles

During the 6th Grade Textiles class, students learn basic sewing tools, fabric terms, sewing techniques and machine skills, which are then applied to complete a basic sewing project.

World Cultures

Students will spend one week learning about what culture is as well as being introduced to the upcoming eight weeks of instruction. During the eight remaining weeks, students will work in groups for two-week periods learning about the geography, culture, and languages of Spanish, French, German and a culture/language of their choice.

Seventh Grade Courses

All students will automatically be enrolled in the following classes:

English Language Arts—Reading

Seventh Grade English Language Arts—Reading is a course that focuses on creating thoughtful readers. This course emphasizes student-reading comprehension across literature and informational text while utilizing a variety of strategies, including text analysis, research, compare/contrast, and story analysis. The ultimate goal is to produce life-long readers who can be successful in future endeavors.

If your student receives ELD services, they will enroll in:

English Language Development English Language Arts—Reading

ELD 7th Grade English Language Arts—Reading is a course that focuses on creating thoughtful readers. This course emphasizes student-reading comprehension across literature and informational text while utilizing a variety of strategies, including text analysis, research, compare/contrast, and story analysis. The ultimate goal is to produce life-long readers who can be successful in future endeavors. *This course has been modified for EL students.*

English Language Arts—Writing

Seventh Grade English Language Arts—Writing is a course that focuses on creating thoughtful writers. This course emphasizes information literacy, research, critical thinking, elements of literature, text structures, and informational/expository and argument writing. The ultimate goal is to produce life-long writers who can be successful in future endeavors.

If your student receives ELD services, they will enroll in:

English Language Development English Language Arts—Writing

ELD 7th Grade English Language Arts—Writing is a course that focuses on creating thoughtful writers. This course emphasizes information literacy, research, critical thinking, elements of literature, text structures, and informational/expository and argument writing. The ultimate goal is to produce life-long writers who can be successful in future endeavors. *This course has been modified for EL students.*

Life Education

Life Education provides the opportunity for students to learn life skills such as study strategies and time management, as well as provide academic support. This course focuses on reinforcing positive and productive behaviors, good character traits, building relationships, and exposure to the community and its resources.

Life Education is vertically aligned, Grades 6-8. Each grade level includes five units (Olweus, Goals and Tracking, Executive Skills, Growth & Development, Drug Prevention) and build off each other in a sequential fashion to provide consistency in developing a positive, caring learning environment. This curriculum is written for 32 days of the course. The remaining days are divided among additional building level educational topics and experiences. (Class offered every other day, opposite of Physical Education.)



Seventh Grade Courses - continued

Mathematics

Students will be enrolled in **one** of the following core math classes in accordance with the PHSD Mathematics Course Sequence:

Mathematics

In grade 7, instructional time should focus on four critical 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.

Seventh Grade Accelerated Math

In this class, instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling with a linear equations, and solving linear equations and inequalities; (2) deepening the understanding of a proportion and its relationship to an equation; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using angle, similarity, and congruence; (4) comparing data distributions and populations, using probability models to draw informal inferences about populations.

Physical Education

This course applies the principles, practices and the importance of lifelong fitness. Students will focus on rules, etiquette, and skill technique for a variety of sports and recreational activities. Fitness evaluations will be completed to determine fitness goals with the goal of improving overall fitness and health. Students will be able to apply the connection between health and regular physical activity after completing this course. This course cannot be repeated. (Class offered every other day, opposite of Life Education.)

Science

Students will engage in units related to three core areas in science: matter and energy, Earth's processes, and living things. Throughout the units, students will develop models to describe their learning, construct scientific explanations based on evidence, analyze and interpret data and evidence, and construct, test, and modify a device to illustrate concepts.

Social Studies

The focus of 7th Grade Social Studies promotes an awareness of the world through the examination of economics, government, and the five themes of geography. The essential skills and concepts of this course provide the necessary background knowledge for success in subsequent social studies coursework.

If your student receives gifted services, instead of Social Studies, they will enroll in:

Gifted Social Studies

The 7th grade gifted course is modeled after the 7th grade social studies curriculum with an emphasis on humanities. Seventh Grade Social Studies promotes an awareness of the world through the examination of economics, government, and the five themes of geography. Essential skills and concepts throughout this course provide the necessary background knowledge for success in subsequent social studies coursework.

Seventh Grade Courses - continued

Seventh Grade Exploratory Classes

Students will choose four exploratory courses for each academic year. Full year courses count for two courses.

**Courses that have an asterisk represent explanatories that have both a 7th and 8th grade curriculum, which students may take both years.*

***Art**

A sixteen week exploratory class designed to help improve students' basic art skills; drawing, painting and sculpting, design artwork using a variety of media and techniques, develop students' creativity and self-expression, recognize and use the art elements (line, shape, color, value, form, texture and space), and design principles (rhythm, balance, proportion, variety, emphasis, harmony and unity). **(Semester course)**

***AVID**

The 7th Grade AVID Elective course builds upon the components of the AVID philosophy. Students will refine short- and long-term goals, and as a result, begin to understand the value in taking charge of their actions. Students will start working on intrapersonal and interpersonal skills, as well as formal and informal speech. Students will complete self-evaluations and peer evaluations, related to reading, writing, organization, and speaking. In broadening their writing practice, students will begin considering audience, purpose and form in their writing. Students will take an active role in their learning, understanding the roles of all members in assignments and collaborative lessons. They will expand their knowledge base of note taking, in relation to studying and test preparation. Students will be exposed to different field trips, guest speakers and research, to increase their knowledge of college and career options. **(Full year course)**

Beginning Band

Grade 7 Beginning Band is the first full year in a six-year program designed to develop a student's musical abilities through a study of instrumental music. The Park Hill band program includes flute, oboe, saxophone, clarinet, bassoon, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, and percussion. Students learn the fundamentals necessary to properly hold and produce a characteristic sound on a band instrument. Instrument care and proper rehearsal etiquette are taught and practiced. Students participate in school concerts. **(Full year course)**

Beginning Orchestra

Seventh Grade Beginning Orchestra is the first full year in a six-year program designed to develop a student's musical abilities through a study of instrumental music. The orchestra program introduces the violin, viola, cello, and string bass instruments. Students learn correct posture for playing. They also learn the basic positions for their instruments and right and left hands. Bowing and musical techniques are introduced. Instrument care and proper rehearsal etiquette are addressed. Students participate in school concerts. **(Full year course)**

***Choir**

Seventh Grade Choir is a performance-based learning experience. Students take their first step in learning to sing with confidence and excellent tone in large choir concert performances through practiced rehearsal techniques, sight singing practice, and singing music from our country and around the world. Students learn the fundamental characteristics of the human voice as well as good maintenance and healthy habits. Students will perform 2 concerts per semester. **(Semester course)**

***Family and Consumer Science**

The 7th Grade Family and Consumer Science class focuses on two units: Foods and Sewing. The Foods unit provides an introduction to safety and sanitation practices, basic kitchen math skills, nutrition through the lifespan, and international cooking. Each of these topics allows for hands on experience directly in the kitchen through cooking labs. In the Sewing Unit, students gain knowledge in caring for their clothing properly, based on the fiber. Students also gain experience on a sewing machine through understanding of the proper uses of the machine and by creating a project. Students also gain experience in hand sewing by creating a project. **(Semester course)**

Seventh Grade Courses - continued

PLTW Design and Modeling and Automation and Robotics

Design and Modeling (DM) allows students to apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They work in teams to design a playground and furniture, capturing research and ideas in their engineering notebooks. Using Autodesk® design software, students create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their innovative solutions. © 2009–2020 Project Lead The Way, Inc.

Automation and Robotics (AR) allows students to trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms. © 2009–2020 Project Lead The Way, Inc. **(Semester course)**

Publications

Students engage in the art of written communication for a variety of audiences and purposes. This course prepares them by producing a school newspaper and yearbook as well as other writing venues. This is a one-semester class which can be taken only once in either 7th or 8th grade. **(Semester Course)**

Spanish

The Spanish 7/8 class is designed to develop communication skills in Spanish and to make comparisons and connections to Spanish-speaking cultures with the goal of encouraging understanding and acceptance of differences. Life in various Spanish-speaking countries will be examined. Correct pronunciation and writing receive emphasis. Students learn to express and understand receptively ideas on topics such as common conversational phrases, vocabulary using numbers, calendar and weather, descriptions and likes and dislikes. This is a one-semester class which can be taken only once in either 7th or 8th grade. **(Semester course)**

Speech

Students will proficiently demonstrate public speaking skills necessary for a variety of audiences in preparation for high school and for post-secondary opportunities. This is a one-semester class which can be taken only once in either 7th or 8th grade. **(Semester Course)**

Technology Applications

The purpose of Technology Applications is to utilize International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) standards to develop knowledge and skills for 21st Century learners. Students will use the software in Microsoft Office to integrate real-world skills for the workplace. Online collaborative communication, and the use of digital media, will enhance student learning. Digital citizenship is emphasized throughout the course. **(Semester course)**



Eighth Grade Courses

Students will automatically be enrolled in the following classes:

English Language Arts—Reading

Eighth Grade English Language Arts—Reading is a course that focuses on creating thoughtful readers. This course emphasizes information literacy, critical thinking, elements of literature, text structures, and analysis of arguments. The ultimate goal is to produce life-long readers who can be successful in future endeavors.

If your student receives ELD services, they will enroll in:

English Language Development English Language Arts—Reading

ELD 8th Grade English Language Arts—Reading is a course that focuses on creating thoughtful readers. This course emphasizes information literacy, critical thinking, elements of literature, text structures, and analysis of arguments. The ultimate goal is to produce life-long readers who can be successful in future endeavors. *This course has been modified for EL students.*

English Language Arts—Writing

Eighth Grade English Language Arts—Writing is a course that focuses on creating thoughtful writers. This course emphasizes information literacy, research, critical thinking, elements of literature, text structures, and informational/expository and argument writing. The ultimate goal is to produce life-long writers who can be successful in future endeavors.

If your student receives ELD services, they will enroll in:

English Language Development English Language Arts—Writing

8th Grade ELD English Language Arts—Writing is a course that focuses on creating thoughtful writers. This course emphasizes information literacy, research, critical thinking, elements of literature, text structures, and informational/expository and argument writing. The ultimate goal is to produce life-long writers who can be successful in future endeavors. *This course has been modified for EL students.*

Life Education

Life Education provides the opportunity for students to learn life skills such as study strategies and time management, as well as provide academic support. This course focuses on reinforcing positive and productive behaviors, good character traits, building relationships, and exposure to the community and its resources.

Life Education is vertically aligned, grades 6-8. Each grade level includes five units (Olweus, Goals and Tracking, Executive Skills, Growth & Development, Drug Prevention) and build off each other in a sequential fashion to provide consistency in developing a positive, caring learning environment. This curriculum is written for 32 days of the course. The remaining days are divided among additional building level educational topics and experiences.

Mathematics

*Students will be enrolled in **one** of the following core math classes in accordance with the PHSD Mathematics Course Sequence:*

Algebra

This is a rigorous course which provides a formal development of the algebraic skills and concepts necessary for students to succeed in advanced courses. In particular, the instructional program in this course provides for the use of algebraic skills in a wide range of real-world problem-solving situations. The concept of function is emphasized throughout the course. Units include, Linear Equations and Functions, Inequalities and Systems of Equations, Exponentials, Polynomials, Data/Formulas/Patterns and Radicals.

Eighth Grade Courses - continued

Algebra IA

The course is designed to cover the first half of the Algebra I curriculum. This course will include operations on real numbers, solving equations and inequalities, analyzing various forms of functions (linear, quadratic, absolute value, exponential and sequences) and using introductory statistics to organize and make predictions. This course is the foundation for further mathematical understanding.

Mathematics

In Grade 8, instructional time will focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling and 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; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

Physical Education

This course applies the principles, practices and the importance of lifelong fitness. Students will focus on rules, etiquette, and skill technique for a variety of sports and recreational activities. Fitness evaluations will be completed to determine fitness goals with the goal of improving overall fitness and health. Students will be able to apply the connection between health and regular physical activity after completing this course. This course cannot be repeated.

Science

Students will engage in units related to three core areas in science: matter and energy, Earth's processes, and living things. Throughout the units, students will develop models to describe their learning, construct scientific explanations based on evidence, analyze and interpret data and evidence, and construct, test, and modify a device to illustrate concepts.

Social Studies

Bringing students closer to events that have shaped our nation today is the focus of 8th Grade Social Studies. Through the examination of American History from colonization through Civil War Reconstruction, a focus on important people, places, themes, and events will guide students' understanding of the historical past's connection to present day.

If your student receives gifted services, instead of Social Studies, they will enroll in:

Gifted Social Studies

The 8th Grade Gifted course is modeled after the 8th grade social studies curriculum with an emphasis on humanities. Eighth Grade curriculum focuses on bringing students closer to events that have shaped our nation today. Through the examination of American History from colonization through Civil War Reconstruction, a focus on important people, places, themes, and events will guide students' understanding of the historical past's connection to present day. Essential skills and concepts throughout this course provide the necessary background knowledge for success in subsequent social studies and Advanced Placement coursework throughout high school.

Eighth Grade Courses - continued

Eighth Grade Exploratory Classes

Students will choose four exploratory courses for each academic year. Full year courses count for two courses.

**Courses that have an asterisk represent explanatories that have both a 7th and 8th grade curriculum, which students may take both years.*

***Art**

A sixteen-week exploratory class designed to help improve students' basic art skills; drawing, painting and sculpting, design artwork using a variety of media and techniques, develop students' creativity and self-expression, and recognize and use the art elements (line, shape, color, value, form, texture and space), and design principles (rhythm, balance, proportion, variety, emphasis, harmony and unity). **(Semester course)**

***AVID**

The 8th Grade AVID Elective course is the year of preparation for high school. The students will regularly exhibit and utilize the skills and strategies learned in 6th and 7th grade AVID courses. Students will refine previous goals, focusing on their transition to high school as part of a college preparatory path. Their writing will focus on completing all steps of the writing process and varying style, word choice, vocabulary, structure and voice. Major writing assignments include persuasive, expository, descriptive and timed writing. Students will transition from active learners to leaders. Other areas of focus include increasing the use of technology and building upon their test preparation and test-taking knowledge. They will broaden their experiences with analyzing text and utilizing appropriate reading strategies in various settings. Students will become more involved in the presentations of guest speakers and field trips, particularly as they relate to preparation and prior knowledge. Students will also participate in college preparatory testing and build connections with the high school they will attend. **(Full year course)**

***Choir**

Eighth Grade Choir is a performance-based learning experience. Students work collaboratively learning to sing with confidence and excellent tone in large choir concert performances through practiced rehearsal techniques, sight singing practice, and singing music from a variety of genres. Students learn the fundamental characteristics of the human voice as well as good maintenance and healthy habits. Students will perform two concerts per semester. Students may choose to take this for one or both semesters as an 8th grader. **(Semester course)**

***Family and Consumer Science**

In the 8th Grade Family and Consumer Science course, students continue to develop their cooking and foods skills through a variety of projects and hands-on labs. The foods studies will finish with a formal guest dinner planned and prepared by the students. In the sewing unit, students continue to expand their machine and hand sewing skills by creating pajama pants and a hand-sewing project of their choice. **(Semester course)**

Intermediate Band

Eighth Grade Intermediate Band is the second full year in a six-year program designed to continue to develop the student's ability in instrumental music. Basic music reading skills are reinforced. Additional instruments may be added in 8th grade including bass clarinet and baritone saxophone. Students continue to refine correct posture for playing. Instrument care and proper rehearsal etiquette are reinforced. **(Full year course)**

Intermediate Orchestra

Eighth Grade Intermediate Orchestra is the second full year in a six-year program designed to continue to develop the student's ability in instrumental music, which includes the violin, viola, cello, and string bass. Basic music reading skills are reinforced. Students continue to refine correct posture for playing. Instrument care and proper rehearsal etiquette are reinforced. **(Full year course)**

Eight Grade Courses - continued

PLTW Computer Science for Innovators and Makers and App Creators

PLTW Computer Science for Innovators and Makers (IM) teaches students that programming goes beyond the virtual world into the physical world. Students are challenged to creatively use sensors and actuators to develop systems that interact with their environment. While designing algorithms and using computational thinking practices, students code and upload programs to microcontrollers that perform a variety of authentic tasks. The unit broadens students' understanding of computer science concepts through meaningful applications. Teams select and solve a personally relevant problem related to wearable technology, interactive art, or mechanical devices. © 2009–2020 Project Lead The Way, Inc.

PLTW App Creators introduces students to the field of computer science and the concepts of computational thinking, through the creation of mobile apps. Students are challenged to be creative and innovative, as they collaboratively design and develop mobile solutions to engaging, authentic problems. Students experience the positive impact of the application of computer science to society as well as to other disciplines, particularly biomedical science. The unit provides students opportunities for self-expression. Teams identify a personal or community problem of interest to them that can be solved with a mobile app solution. The problem can address issues such as health and wellness, the environment, school culture, emergency preparedness, education, community service—the options are endless! © 2009–2020 Project Lead The Way, Inc. **(Semester course)**

PLTW Medical Detectives and Green Architecture

In the Medical Detectives (MD) unit, students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they analyze genetic testing results to diagnose disease and study DNA evidence found at a "crime scene." 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. © 2009–2020 Project Lead The Way, Inc.

In the Green Architecture unit, students learn how to apply "green" choices to the fields of architecture and construction by exploring dimensioning, measuring, and architectural sustainability as they design affordable housing units using Autodesk's® 3D architectural design software. © 2009–2020 Project Lead The Way, Inc. **(Semester course)**

Publications

Students engage in the art of written communication for a variety of audiences and purposes. This course prepares them by producing a school newspaper and yearbook as well as other writing venues. This is a one-semester class which can be taken only once in either 7th or 8th grade. **(Semester course)**

Spanish

The Spanish 7/8 class is designed to develop communication skills in Spanish and to make comparisons and connections to Spanish-speaking cultures with the goal of encouraging understanding and acceptance of differences. Life in various Spanish-speaking countries will be examined. Correct pronunciation and writing receive emphasis. Students learn to express and understand receptively ideas on topics such as common conversational phrases, vocabulary using numbers, calendar and weather, descriptions and likes and dislikes. This is a one-semester class which can be taken only once in either 7th or 8th grade. **(Semester course)**

Speech

Students will proficiently demonstrate public speaking skills necessary for a variety of audiences in preparation for high school and for post-secondary opportunities. This is a one-semester class which can be taken only once in either 7th or 8th grade. **(Semester course)**