

CURRICULUM GUIDE

School Year 2024-2025



NORTHERN LEHIGH MIDDLE SCHOOL

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Northern Lehigh School District is an equal opportunity educational institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, age, color, national origin, sex, handicap or limited English proficiency in its activities, programs or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX and Section 504.

If you are physically or mentally handicapped, you may qualify for special services and instruction and equipment modifications so you can successfully complete the educational program or participate in activities.

Please contact the following individuals at Northern Lehigh School District Office located at 1201 Shadow Oaks Lane, Slatington, PA 18080 at (610) 767 - 9800 for information:

- Civil rights or grievance procedures: Dr. Tania Stoker, Assistant Superintendent, Title IX Coordinator, Title VI Coordinator
- Section 504: Mrs. Michele Dotta, Director of Special Education
- Services, activities and facilities that are accessible to and useable by handicapped persons and students experiencing homelessness: Mr. Matthew Link, Superintendent of Schools

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

The Northern Lehigh School District, either directly or indirectly through various other education agencies including the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21, provides special education services which may be required by children with special needs. The special education contacts are Special Education Coordinator, Mrs. Michelle Dotta, and the school psychologists. They can be contacted at (610) 767-9858 regarding special education services. Similarly, school counselors may be contacted regarding specific special education issues at the building level.

The Types of Programs and Services Are:

1. Academic Support
2. Life Skills Support
3. Emotional Support
4. Sensory Support
5. Speech and Language

ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

English Language Development (ELD) instruction is provided to students who qualify based upon the Home Language Survey. In order to develop the English proficiency of multi-lingual learners (MLLs) the district provides them with both planned ELD instruction, provided by an ESL certified teacher, and modifications in content instruction and assessment for all curricular areas. Please contact Dr. Tania Stoker at 610-767-9832 option 3 or our ESL teachers at 610-767-9832 extension 1265.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: GRADE SEVEN

11908 ESSENTIAL SKILLS & FINANCIAL LITERACY

This course also focuses on an introduction to financial literacy, entrepreneur skills, and personal finance. Course objectives include mapping out goals and needed steps for success, working within a team, leading others to achieve a goal, and identify needed steps to start and grow a business. Essential Skills and Financial Literacy students operate the “Dog Den” Student Store and make presentations to district administration about school improvement endeavors. Students will participate in career education activities and lesson to build their capacity in goal setting, networking, teamwork, agility, perseverance, and leadership as essential skills.

Each day for 1 Semester 0.5 Credit

10070 MUSIC - 7

Students will study human society and culture through music. Students will also develop concepts which will give them the knowledge and skills to appreciate the art of music and to become active, well-rounded listeners and music consumers. Seventh grade music will explore the life and music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, as well as the contemporary musical Phantom of the Opera by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Each day for 1 marking period 0.25 Credit

10071 ART - 7

Students will focus on creative thinking and problem solving by exploring ways to connect, create, produce and respond to art. Students will develop techniques and skills while exploring traditional art mediums of drawing, painting and sculpture. 7th grade art will also have students utilize augmented reality, 3D printing and 3D modeling, block coding, and Design Thinking. Students will, with a level of choice, grow throughout the marking period to help jumpstart independent creative thinking skills.

Each day for 1 marking period 0.25 Credit

10072 TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION - 7

Using hands on learning, students will experience everyday use of the computers to better understand the processes and applications used in the business world. Students will focus their attention on coding, visual communications, and completing projects. Course objective include: demonstrating familiarity with computer hardware, using correct terminology, coding interactive stories and animations, coding games, and using online software.

Each day for 1 marking period 0.25 Credit

10073 **FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE - 7**

Students will explore a variety of subject matter in Family and Consumer Sciences. The class will focus on basic hand-sewing, nutrition, sanitation, preservation, consumer rights, consumer behaviors, interior design and foods. The goal of this course is to foster creativity and essential life skills that students will use in their future through project-based learning and career exploration.

Each day for 1 marking period

0.25 Credit

10074 **COMPUTER BASICS - 7**

In this course, students will learn to utilize the internet to research more effectively and efficiently, as well as use this information to create a multimedia presentation of their research. In today's world, businesses depend heavily on computer technology and its connection to the World Wide Web to access vast amounts of information, to conduct research, and to communicate quickly with other businesses and customers. Understanding how to access and use that information is vital to both small and large businesses. The ability to understand web browsers and to effectively search for needed data, images, articles, and other information has become a critical skill to have in the global business world of today.

Each day for 1 marking period

0.25 Credit

10770 **PHYSICAL EDUCATION - 7**

This course focuses on improving student levels of fitness using the mile run, Pacer test, and Project Fit America equipment. In addition, students will develop skills necessary to participate in various team and lifetime sport activities. Students will also learn about the concepts of training and the components of fitness while fostering an atmosphere of cooperation with other students. Seventh grade health introduces students to body systems and general wellness. This course includes the following topics of instruction: skills for adolescence, personality, relating to others-friends, stress and mental health, exercise & fitness, nutrition, skeletal & muscular system, sexually transmitted diseases, and drug and alcohol prevention.

Each day for 1

Semester

0.5 Credit

11179 **ELA - 7**

The 7th grade English Language Arts course curriculum focuses on three key areas: reading, writing, and grammar skills. Throughout the year, we will read a variety of texts including short stories, poems, novels, dramas, and nonfiction texts and learn reading strategies and skills to enhance a deeper analysis of the written text. Major texts read throughout the course include *Holes* by Louis Sachar, *A Christmas Carol: Scrooge and Marley* by Israel Horovitz, and *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins. We will also discuss and practice different writing styles such as writing to respond to literature, text-dependent analysis, narrative, and argumentative essays. Finally, students will learn new vocabulary and grammar skills to improve their ability to clearly communicate ideas.

Full year

1.0 Credit

11175 **READ 180 - 7**

The 7th grade Read 180 course is a blended learning intervention program building reading comprehension, academic vocabulary, and writing skills for students who require intensive reading and writing instruction. It provides blended learning instruction by combining digital media with traditional classroom instruction through the use of high-interest fiction and non-fiction texts. This course is designed to engage students in intensive, individualized reading instruction. Data is collected based on individual responses in comprehension, vocabulary, fluency, word recognition, and spelling instruction and is continuously adjusted to meet student needs. Progress is also monitored through phonics and reading inventories completed throughout the school year. Supplementary literature and writing activities that are tailored to students' needs are also used throughout the course of the school year.

Full year

1.0 Credit

10271 **OLD WORLD CULTURES - 7**

In Old World Cultures, students will learn about the exciting and fascinating history of the Ancient World. We will start at the very beginning of human pre-history ~~very beginning of history~~ – even before humans had the technology and intelligence to record their history. Students will study the Neanderthals, Cro-Magnons, and ancient Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans. Students will discover how our ancient ancestors developed culture, religion, and technology and how people came together to create magnificent societies and empires. By studying these exciting times and current events, students will be able to link the past with the present and understand how the history of yesterday shapes our world today.

Full year

1.0 Credit

10371 **MATH - 7**

In this course, students will develop mathematical skills through hands-on learning, workbooks and digital resources. Students will be engaged in active learning and will be encouraged to participate and take responsibility for their learning and actions. Students will work independently and in cooperative groups to improve their mathematics skills. This course is designed to be a challenge while having students utilize and better develop their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Topics covered include rational numbers, proportional relationships, algebraic expressions and equations, geometry, and probability.

Math classes are leveled in order to best meet the academic needs of students. After examining grades, state and local testing data benchmarks, and teacher recommendations, seventh grade students are assigned to a particular level of mathematics.

Full year

1.0 Credit

10471 **LIFE SCIENCE - 7**

Life Science is a scientific, standards-based investigation of the structure and function of organisms within the framework of their environmental relationships. The core principles and concepts of Life Science will develop a foundation for interpreting the general characteristics of life present in every organism and those special characteristics that distinguish one species from another. This scientific knowledge base will be expanded to include the areas of microbiology, genetics, and heredity. Specific units include a brief introduction to the core ideas, concepts, and practice of science. Cells, including their makeup, functions, and important processes are a major component of the course. Genetics & heredity follow and the year is ended by investigating the different kingdoms of life.

Full year

1.0 Credit

Course Number TBD **GOAL TEAM – 7**

Goal team is a curriculum expansion session that serves to meet students at their level and improve key skills. Using multiple data sources, students will be grouped by common need or interest. Both remediation—in Mathematics, Science, and ELA—and enrichment—in all subject areas—will be scheduled during this time. Additionally, this course blends the essential skills that are the framework of our School Wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Support program (Bulldogs: INSPIRE) and the Brilliant Pathways career and college readiness exercises exploratory activities. Students will complete activities with our Tier 1 INSPIRE teachers learning how they can implement goal setting, teamwork, networking, agility, perseverance, and leadership as essential skills for academic and personal success. Further, students will complete required career education activities through the Xello platform and through College/Career for Every Student (CFES) resources.

Full Year

0.25 Credit

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: GRADE EIGHT

10080 MUSIC - 8

Students will continue their study of human society and culture through music. Students will develop concepts, which will give them the knowledge and skills to appreciate the art of music and to become active, well-rounded listeners and music consumers. 8th grade music will explore the life and music of Ludwig Van Beethoven, as well as the contemporary musical West Side Story by American composer Leonard Bernstein. 8th Grade will also explore the history of American culture with the study of traditional patriotic music such as the National Anthem.

Each day for 1 marking period

0.25 Credit

10081 ART - 8

Student learning will focus on the Artistic Thinking Process and the ability to develop an original idea with material exploration in the classroom student. Students start by developing creative thinking habits and continue developing how art can often be on the cutting edge of ideas and can help shape the future. Art 8 will continue to build on students' voice and choice and will allow for group collaboration to build upon communication and critical thinking skills. Students will explore elements of realism with showing space, and will work with traditional art mediums including photography, drawing, painting, clay, and contemporary mediums. The culminating project will be completely student centered, where students are encouraged to take control of all aspects of their project's design.

Each day for 1 marking period

0.25 Credit

10083 FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE - 8

In this course, students will build on skills and content covered in seventh grade. Career education standards will become a more routine part of lessons. Student creativity will be fostered through a hands-on approach to the PA state and national standards for Family and Consumer Sciences. Kitchen labs will provide for learning in foods and nutrition. Other hands-on activities will promote self-reliance and daily living.

Each day for 1 marking period

0.25 Credit

10086 **TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION - 8**

Students will build on their technology and coding experiences. Students will program animations, interactive art, and games using online software such as Code.org. Script Coding will be introduced as they will start off with simple shapes and build up to more sophisticated sprite-based games, using the same programming concepts and the design process computer scientists use daily. Technology research and projects will be presented throughout the course.

Each day for 1 marking period

0.25 Credit

10680 **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & SAFETY - 8**

The Internet can be wonderful for kids. They can use it to research school reports, communicate with teachers and peers, and play interactive games. But online access also comes with risks and can lead to personal safety issues that can put a child in danger. Students will learn the importance of using the Internet safely and having responsible online behavior. Subjects that will be discussed include internet dangers and safety precautions, cyberbullying, and social networking safety. This course is project based and builds upon previously instructed technology and computer application content and skills.

Each day for 1 marking period

0.25 Credit

10780 **PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH - 8**

The program builds upon the skills and fitness levels attained in seventh grade with an added emphasis on teamwork, a conceptual knowledge of the activity and further development of social skills. The Project Fit America equipment and PACER Test will be used to increase fitness levels. We will also delve further into physical training terminology and concepts. In eighth grade health, students will study several major areas of adolescent health including social and emotional health, mental wellness, physical health, and body systems. Additionally, students will learn the basics of first aid. Substance abuse education is covered through a lens of understanding addiction with an emphasis on opioids and regional data trends.

Each day for 1 Semester

0.5 Credit

11508 **INTRO TO SPANISH**

The emphasis in this course is directed toward introducing the four basic language skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. These skills are reinforced through conversational activities and activities. An emphasis on basic understanding and communication is stressed. Basic grammar and vocabulary are introduced in the course. Additionally, student will learn about the language of culture of Spanish-speaking countries.

Each day for 1 –Semester

0.5 Credit

10184 **ELA - 8**

The eighth grade English Language Arts course will focus on three key areas: reading, writing and grammar skills. Throughout the year, we will be reading novels, short stories, poems, and a drama, and we will focus on test-taking and reading skills for both fiction and non-fiction texts. Major texts read throughout the course include *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, *The Diary of Anne Frank* by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett, and *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. We will also focus on a variety of writing skills, such as writing in response to literature, text-dependent analysis, and argumentative essays. Finally, students will learn new vocabulary and grammar skills, many of which will be incorporated into their work.

Full year

1.0 Credit

111858 **ELA 8 - 180**

The 8th grade Read 180 course is a blended learning intervention program building reading comprehension, academic vocabulary, and writing skills for students who require intensive reading and writing instruction. It provides blended learning instruction by combining digital media with traditional classroom instruction using high-interest fiction and non-fiction texts. This course is designed to engage students in intensive, individualized reading instruction. Data is collected based on individual responses in comprehension, vocabulary, fluency, word recognition, and spelling instruction and is continuously adjusted to meet student needs. Progress is also monitored through phonics and reading inventories completed throughout the school year. Supplementary literature and writing activities that are tailored to students' needs are also used throughout the course of the school year.

Full year

1.0 Credit

10281 **UNITED STATES HISTORY - 8**

This course starts with the discovery, exploration, and colonization of the United States. Special emphasis is placed on why people left Europe to settle in America. The second point of emphasis deals with the American Revolution and the many problems faced by this nation prior to, during, and after the war. After studying about the formation of a new government with its accompanying Constitution, we move to the nation's growth both geographically and industrially. The course also deals with the many conflicts that arise not only within our country but beyond its borders as well. During this period, the Mexican War, Indian Wars, and eventually the Civil War are studied culminating with the rapid growth after the Civil War. Included in this time period are immigration, industrialization, and the birth of the United States as a world power.

Full year

1.0 Credit

10381 **PRE-ALGEBRA - 8**

This course will develop a transition between elementary math and Algebraic concepts. Areas of concentration include the following: integers and other subsets of real numbers, scientific notation, variables and expressions, inequalities, probability, proportion, statistics, geometric concepts, and an introduction to the coordinate plane.

Full year

1.0 Credit

10382 **ALGEBRA I - 8**

This course will concentrate on developing a student's knowledge base in various algebraic concepts. Some of the areas of study include the following: algebraic operations, integers, exponents, polynomials, factoring, linear equations and inequalities, rational expressions, problem solving, and informal geometry.

Full year

1.0 Credit

10481 **EARTH-SPACE SCIENCE - 8**

This science course is primarily focused on the scientific processes that surround the student in the real world. It is important that the student be aware of these processes because of the many judgments and decisions to be made later as a citizen of the community. The course encompasses the major subdivisions of science which include geology, meteorology, cartography, oceanography, and astronomy. Lab and STEM activities will be embedded into the course for hands-on learning. This includes participation in the NLMS telescope/astronomy project.

Full year

1.0 Credit

Course Number TBD

GOAL TEAM – 8

Goal team is a curriculum expansion session that serves to meet students at their level and improve key skills. Using multiple data sources, students will be grouped by common need or interest. Both remediation—in Mathematics, Science, and ELA—and enrichment—in all subject areas—will be scheduled during this time. Students will explore academic and career pathways as a means of supporting their transition to high school. Mentoring programs with community partners and our high school will assist students in fully exploring these pathways. This course reinforces the essential skills that are the framework of our School Wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Support program (Bulldogs: INSPIRE) and the Brilliant Pathways career and college exploratory activities. Students will complete activities with our Tier 1 INSPIRE teachers learning how they can implement goal setting, teamwork, networking, agility, perseverance, and leadership. Further, students will complete required career education activities through the Xello platform and through College/Career for Every Student (CFES) resources.

Full Year

0.25 Credit

*** ADAPTIVE PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

The adaptive program in the middle school contains a modified phase, which includes students who are unable to participate in regular physical education classes because of illness or injury and a remedial phase that includes students with conditions that may be improved or corrected through specific exercise programs.

This program is available to all students in grades 7 and 8 on a permanent or temporary basis upon the recommendations from the family physician, parents, and school nurse. Students remain in the program only as long as they benefit from personalized instruction.