

2024-2025 Middle School Curriculum Guide

Certain classes at the middle school have requirements that students must meet before they are able to be considered for those classes. Below are a list of all classes, as well as the specific requirements for each class. Even though a student may meet certain requirements, we strive to ensure that all students are appropriately scheduled. Teachers and families work together to make sure that each student is placed into the classes that best meet his/her needs.

Language Arts Department

English - 6th, 7th, & 8th grades:

Students will read, comprehend, and analyze both fiction and nonfiction stories, articles, and essays. There is a strong writing component in ELA classes. Students will receive direct instruction in the fundamentals of language including parts of speech, sentence and paragraph structure, capitalization, punctuation, usage, spelling, and vocabulary. Students will write three types of essays: informative, narrative, and persuasive. They will use the writing process to produce essays of at least 5 paragraphs.

They will also use the TAGSS graphic organizer to complete text-dependent analysis essays. (Turn the prompt around, Answer the prompt, Give examples Support examples with evidence, Summarize and conclude)

6th grade will use the curriculum selected by the district.

7th and 8th grade classes use Prentice Hall Literature Series and other selected works, as well as Heath Grammar and Composition.

Accelerated English - 6th, 7th & 8th grades:

- Student must be proficient or advanced on their most recent PSSA ELA test;
- Students must maintain a 90% average in their previous grade English and Reading classes;
- Students must be recommended by their previous English and Reading teachers;
- Student's PVAAS scores should be greater than 60%.

Co-Taught Classes:

Co-taught classes have two teachers in the same class. They are designed for students who are 2-3 years below grade level in the ELA content area.

Students must meet a minimum of two of the following categories:

- Students are two or more grade levels below in reading- based on AIMSweb progress monitoring (R-CBM, MAZE, SRF) scores in the below average range;
- PSSA, CDT or Aimsweb benchmark scores are in the basic or below basic range;
- PVAAS projection is less than proficient.

Co-Paraprofessional Classes: Co-Para classes have a teacher & a paraprofessional in the classroom. They are designed for students who need extra help in the subject matter.

Literature - 6th, 7th, & 8th grades:

Students in all three grade levels of literature classes will learn to read independently and fluently. They will demonstrate fluency and comprehension of all genres of literature and nonfiction writing. They will learn about story elements in fiction and use and understand text structure in nonfiction. There is a strong vocabulary component in all literature classes to enable students to understand academic language at all levels. They study word origins, prefixes, and suffixes to assist in vocabulary development.

Students also create essays using text-dependent analysis questions based on a piece of text.

Accelerated Literature - 6th, 7th, and 8th grades:

- Students must maintain a 90% average in their previous grade English and Reading classes;
- Students must be recommended by their previous English and Reading teachers;
- Student's PVAAS scores should be greater than 60%.

Co-Taught Classes:

Co-taught classes have two teachers in the same class. They are designed for students who are 2-3 years below grade level in the ELA content area.

Students must meet a minimum of two of the following categories:

- Students are two or more grade levels below in reading- based on AIMSweb progress monitoring (R-CBM, MAZE, SRF) scores in the below average range;
- PSSA, CDT or Aimsweb benchmark scores must be basic or below basic range;
- PVAAS projection is less than proficient.

Co-Paraprofessional Classes: Co-Para classes have a teacher & a paraprofessional in the classroom. They are designed for students who need extra help in the subject matter.

Spanish:

Through interactive multimedia, students begin to acquire basic language skills by investigating authentic cultural situations. The course is designed around basic conversational expressions. Grammar and vocabulary are taught to support these conversational expressions and to help students communicate in the target language.

The goal of students starting Spanish in 7th grade is for them to be able to enroll in a CHS (College in High School) course for college credit as a junior (5 years) and to reach AP Spanish as a senior (6 years). **We've taken our Spanish I (grade 9) course and broken it into two years: the first half is Spanish 7 and the second half is Spanish 8.** Other students begin their foreign language in 9th grade and can elect Spanish or French. Most college admissions like a student to have at least two years of the same language.

1A (Spanish 1, Part A) Grade 7

Spanish IA is the first half of Spanish I. To complete Spanish in middle school, the student must pass Spanish IA & IB to be referred to Accelerated Spanish II in high school.

- Students must be at least Proficient on their most recent PSSA ELA test.
- Students must maintain a 90% average in their previous grade's English and Reading classes.
- Students must be recommended by their previous English and Reading teachers.
- Student's PVAAS scores should be greater than 60%.

☐ **7th grade students scheduled for Spanish 1A also are scheduled for Accelerated English.**

1B (Spanish 1, Part B) Grade 8

Spanish IB is the second half of Spanish I.

- Students have successfully passed Spanish IA with a 70% grade or higher.
- Students must be at least Proficient on their PSSA ELA test the previous year.
- Students must be recommended by their Spanish IA teacher.
- Student's PVAAS scores should be greater than 60%.

☐ **8th grade students scheduled for Spanish 1B also are scheduled for Accelerated English.**

Why a student might be removed from Spanish IA or IB:

1. If the student fails to show proficiency on the PSSA test the previous year.
2. If the student receives a grade of 59% or lower in the first two quarters in any school year.
3. Class can be changed at semester or year end only.

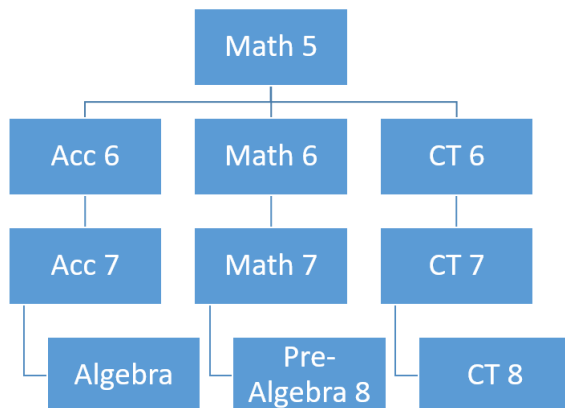
Oiler Lab - 6th, 7th and 8th: The purpose of Oiler Lab is additional instruction of skills from the core classes of Reading, English, and Mathematics. All students rotate between a certified mathematics teacher and an ELA certified teacher every other week. This allows for additional guided practice to the concepts that are taught in the core classroom.

Oiler Expansion: The class focuses on basic phonics/decoding skills to help struggling readers sound out unfamiliar words and to increase their reading fluency. This class also focuses on fiction and nonfiction reading skills to improve comprehension. Students who are 2-3 years below grade level in reading are scheduled for this class based on a diagnostic core phonics test given by the reading specialist.

They generally stay in the program for three years until they have completed all the levels. Students will move out of Oiler Expansion White when they become proficient on the ELA PSSA test or make enough progress on the diagnostic tests as determined by the reading specialist.

Math

Usual sequence of classes from grade 6 through grade 8:



*Based on performance and teacher recommendations, students can deviate from the path listed above.

Algebra I (grade 8)

Emphasis is placed on how to perform algebraic processes and problem solving in coordination with the anchor document for the Keystone Exam. This is the same class as Freshman Algebra I (grade 9):

Students taking Algebra in 8th grade will sequence through to Calculus as a senior.

- Students must be proficient or advanced on the PSSA Math test the previous year
- Students must maintain an 80 % average in their previous grade Math class
- Students must be recommended by their Math teacher
- Students PVAAS scores should be greater than 60%
- CDT growth from previous year can also be considered.
- Students must take the PA KEYSTONE EXAM at the end of the year.

Topics include:

Solving linear equations, graphing relations and functions, analyzing linear equations, solving linear inequalities, solving systems of linear equations and inequalities, polynomials, factoring, radical expressions, rational expressions and equations, statistics, and probability.

Pre Algebra 8

Topics include:

- PSSA content specific for grade 8

Accelerated Pre-Algebra 7

Topics include:

- PSSA content specific for grade 7 with some 8th grade PSSA content included
- Requirements: 80% overall GPA in previous math class.
- 60% PVAAS Projection and proficient or advanced on previous PSSA.
- CDT growth from previous year can also be considered.

Math 7

- Grade 7 PSSA content specific
- Slower paced than Accelerated Pre-Algebra 7

Math 6

Topics include:

- Grade 6 PSSA content specific

Accelerated 6th Grade Math

- PSSA content specific for grade 6 with some 7th grade PSSA content included
- Requirements: 80% overall GPA in previous math class.
- 60% or greater PVAAS Projection and proficient or advanced on previous PSSA.
- CDT growth from previous year can also be considered.

Co-Taught and Co-Paraprofessional Classes

Co-taught classes have two teachers in the same class.

Students must meet a minimum of two of the following categories:

- Student is two or more grade levels below in reading or math
- PSSA or CDT benchmark scores must be basic or below basic range.
- PVAAS Projection of Less than or Equal to 25%.

Oiler Lab - 6th, 7th and 8th: The purpose of Oiler Lab is additional instruction of skills from the core classes of Reading, English, and Mathematics. All students rotate between a certified mathematics teacher and an ELA certified teacher every other week. This allows for additional guided practice to the concepts that are taught in the core classroom.

Science

Science 5: Students will be introduced to the nature of science. Students will explore life sciences, physical science, and Earth/Space science.

Science 6: The course will build upon topics covered in 5th grade science as well as be introduced to several others. Major units to be covered are the nature of science, earth, physical science, and biology.

Science 7: The course will build upon topics covered in 6th grade science as well as be introduced to several others. Major units to be covered are the nature of science, earth and space, physical science, and biology.

Science 8: This course builds upon the 5-7th grade science concepts. Apply process knowledge to make and interpret observations and use the elements of scientific inquiry to solve problems. Describe essential ideas about the composition and structure of the universe and earth's place in it. Identify and explain the principles of force and motion. Distinguish between forms of energy and how they are converted. Describe the cell as the basic structural and functional unit of living things.

Social Studies

- 5th Grade Social Studies - Students will be introduced to US History from the Early Explorers and their influence on Native American culture through the US Civil War and Reconstruction Era.
- World Cultures 6- Students will analyze and study cultures of the ancient world. These cultures include Ancient Humans of the Paleolithic & Neolithic eras to analyze how humans interacted with the world & their environments of that time. Through the five themes of geography, the cultures of Ancient Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, Ancient Israel, Ancient Greece, Ancient China, Ancient India & Ancient Rome are discussed & analyzed for their legacies, technologies, ideas of government & cultural elements. As students make connections with the past and the present, they can better understand the world in which they live.
- US & World Geography 7- Students take a journey to each of the seven continents of the world. For each continent, students are introduced to the physical features, history and Culture using the 5 Themes of Geography.
- US History I -- Revolution to Division of the Nation 8- Students begin with an introduction to the events leading to the American Revolution. From the Revolution, the beginnings of our nation's government, industry and growth, westward expansion and the division between the North and South which leads to the Civil War.

Music

● Choir - 6th, 7th or 8th grades:

Students must take the vocal test

Chorus and band may replace additional electives choices

Class can only be changed at semester or year end

- Band - 5, 6, 7 & 8th grades

Music 5th, 6th & 8th

A one semester course that emphasizes music from around the world.

- Learning to read music and play instruments.

Music Lessons 5 - 8:

- Instrumental Lessons weekly

Technology

Computer Applications

○ 6th Grade - A one-semester course designed to teach basic keying skills. The course emphasizes the skill of touch-typing using correct keyboarding technique in alphabetic, numeric, symbol and function keys including the numeric keypad. Emphasis will be placed on development of accuracy and technique. Students will use their touch-typing skill to compose and produce basic word processing documents which include, but are not limited to, business letters, envelopes, tables, brochures and unbound reports. Proofreading and proper computer ethics, social media behavior, and communication skills will be emphasized throughout the course.

○ 7th Grade - A one-semester class where the student continues to discover new ways to use computers as tools for learning. In addition to practicing and improving their touch-typing skills, the student will connect computer applications to real-life problems and life-long learning tools. Students can expect to use a variety of software programs, including Google Docs, Google Slides, and Google Sheets as they navigate through real-life projects and practice. The emphasis in the course is on the development of speed, accuracy, digital citizenship and using technology resources to create projects and assignments. Students are expected to proofread and revise documents.

Introduction to Engineering

○ 8th Grade -A one semester course using S.T.E.M. curriculum which is integrated, hands-on, and project based. Students will apply the Engineering Design Process to solve real-world problems. This course incorporates some of the essential learning outcomes linked to the engineering, science, and technology standards with a focus on robotics and coding.

Technology Education

○ 7th and 8th grade Tech Ed is designed to help students make logical connections between technological systems and careers. The courses offer "Minds On/Hands On Experiences" in the areas of communication, transportation, manufacturing, and construction.

Family & Consumer Sciences

- Grade 7

○ A semester course designed to teach proactive skills and strategies to guide students on the challenges of everyday life. Students work in teams, with partners, and individually. Course content includes setting goals, time management, career interests, financial management,

entrepreneurial skills, and foods and nutrition. Students will maintain their Naviance Career Portfolios.

Art

Grade 5 & 6 & 8:

- Art courses are designed to build on the foundations of the elements of art and principles of design. Students taking these classes will experiment with a variety of mediums while learning about artists, art history, techniques in art, art production, culture and art aesthetics. Students will learn and practice techniques and methods for creating artworks. Students will reflect upon their work and the work of others while making connections to other subjects and their own experiences.
- Grades 6 is a 2d and 3d course combined, and is a semester long course. Students will examine the art elements, and in particular the element of “form” in both courses. Students will explore various ways of creating actual and simulated space/depth in an artwork.
- Grade 5 is a nine week course. It is 2D and 3D combined
- Grade 8 is a 3d and 2d course combined for a semester. Students will examine the art elements, and in particular the element of “form” in both courses. Students will explore various ways of creating actual and simulated space/depth in an artwork.

Physical Education

Fifth grade Physical Education:

A nine week course divided into 2 sections. Swimming for 4.5 weeks and PE for 4.5 weeks.

Fifth Grade Health:

A nine week course covering Health knowledge and skills. This class covers aspects of physical health, mental health, emotional health, and social health.

The curriculum follows state and national standards to include the following content areas: nutrition, exercise, sleep, self-esteem, body systems, disease, peer pressure, illegal drugs, decision making, conflict resolution, goal setting, personal safety, and first aid/CPR. Developing healthy skills such as accessing reliable health related information and maintaining good hygiene are also considered.

Sixth Grade Physical Education:

An 18 week course. 4 sport/activity days per week and 1 cardio day per week.

Seventh and Eighth Grade Physical Education:

An 18 week course. 3 sport days per week, one cardio day and one weight room day each week.