Middle School Course Booklet



2025-2026

Course Selection Procedure:

- The Guidance Department will hold an individual grade level meeting to hand out materials and discuss registration with students.
- Students are encouraged to take home the course offering materials and speak to their parent/guardian and teachers here in school to decide on courses for next year.
- Teachers will be asked to provide course recommendations
- Each grade level will report to the auditorium (assigned date to be announced) to log in to their Sapphire portal to register for their classes.
- Students turn in their registration forms to the guidance department.
- The School Counselor will discuss individual concerns or problems with students.
- All recommendations and requests will be placed into the Sapphire system.

Policy on Supplemental Instruction Courses:

- All 7th & 8th grade students will be placed in two periods of Math and ELA to prepare for the Spring PSSA exams.
- We run an 8 period schedule. Including a Homeroom period briefly at the beginning of the day, a lunch period and Activity period at the end of the day.

Notes:

- Keep in mind that Honors level courses typically require a summer assignment and/or a grade requirement in a previous course and a specific score on their previous year PSSA exam to be able to enroll in the course.
- Honors Algebra I is an option in 8th grade. Prerequisites must be met.
- There will be 2 mandatory rotations for students included into their schedule.

7th Grade Core Courses

***All 7th grade students *must* take the following core courses.**

English

117 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7 (7th grade)

This course is designed to engage youth in the realm of reading and writing through diverse literature units. Additionally, students will master the foundational concepts of essay writing. This course places a heavy emphasis on authentic project-based learning opportunities, where current events and the newest technological applications are utilized to create lasting results, preparing students for the unique challenges of a global 21st century market.

***Learning Support ELA 7 available by teacher recommendation only.**

Social Studies

221 GEOGRAPHY (7th grade)

Geography greatly shapes events both in the past and in the present, signifying its importance in understanding the world. This course will examine geographical concepts across the entire globe, focusing on the five themes of geography – location, place, human/environment interaction, movement, and region – and students will utilize physical and cultural perspectives to examine people, places, and environments at local, national, and international levels. When it comes to geography, the world truly is the limit!

Math

420 PRE-ALGEBRA (7th grade)

The purpose of this course is to further a student's knowledge of algebraic concept according to the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Mathematics, which are also aligned to the Common Core Standards. The areas of focus are as follows: Numbers and Operations, Algebraic Concepts, Geometry, Measurement, Data and Probability. In this course students will be able to do the following: Analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems. Apply and extend previous understandings of operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers. Use properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions. Solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations. Draw, construct and describe geometrical figures and describe the relationships between them. Solve real-life and mathematical problems involving angle measure, area, surface area, and volume. Use random sampling to draw inferences about a population. Draw informal comparative inferences about two populations. Investigate chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability models.

***Learning Support Math 7 available by teacher recommendation only.**

Science

318 SCIENCE 7 (7th grade)

7th grade science is a mixture of Environmental Science and Earth Science. The first half of the year covers topics such as ecology, biomes, alternative sources of energy, nonrenewable resources. The second half of the year covers topics such as plate tectonics, volcanoes, earthquakes, minerals and rocks. Students will be introduced to inquiry and laboratory work.

7th Grade Elective Courses

***All 7th grade students *must choose one* of the following electives.**

807 JUNIOR BAND (7th & 8th grade)

This group is for 7th and 8th grade students. It is a prerequisite for Senior Band. We will participate in parades, assemblies and concerts with the Senior High Band. Qualifying students will be selected in Middle School County Band and will participate in the county wide concert. This group will travel to the Music Adjudication trip at the end of the year as part of the competing ensemble from Millville High School. Band will be held in the music room on days 1, 3, 5. On alternating days, students will report to a study hall, unless enrolled in both band and chorus.

806 JUNIOR CHORUS (7th & 8th grade)

Students will learn the aspects of singing together as an ensemble. Students will learn identification of musical symbols. This class will be taught with an emphasis on pitch and interval relationships that are used in singing two to three-part harmony. Students will be expected to achieve good tone quality. Singing choral literature will help develop these techniques. Attendance will be required at all extra rehearsals and concerts. Chorus will be held in the music room on days 2, 4, 6. On alternating days, students will report to a study hall, unless enrolled in both chorus and band.

1000 STUDY HALL 7th grade)

Students that choose a study hall will have time set aside in their daily schedule to work independently on assignments, prepare for exams and receive academic assistance as needed.

8th Grade Core Courses

***All 8th grade students must choose *<u>one course from each core area</u>* (academic or honors level).**

English

116 <u>ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8 (8th grade)</u>

Eighth Grade ELA integrates the elements of reading, writing, listening, speaking, and grammar. In the study of literature, the genres are covered through in class text selections and novel reading. This course extends the basic elements and characteristics of literary fiction and non-fiction. ELA 8 focuses on building the skills and study habits necessary for success at the senior high level. Tests and essays are more concrete in nature; however, students will progress toward more abstract thinking skills, especially in the area of writing. Grammar instruction continues to build on the sequential review and development of grammar and communication skills in writing. Vocabulary instruction is implemented throughout the year. The curriculum facilitates student growth in the areas delineated by the ELA PA Common Core State standards, which in turn assists each student in becoming critical, lifelong readers and writers.

***Learning Support ELA 8 available by teacher recommendation only.**

156 <u>HONORS ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8 (8th grade)</u>

Honors Eighth Grade ELA integrates the elements of reading, writing, listening, speaking, and grammar. An evaluation of literature develops analytical skills using examples of fiction and nonfiction texts selected from a variety of periods and authors including short stories, poems, and novels. Students study more advanced writing models to aid them in developing a more mature writing style. Honors ELA 8 focuses on building the skills and study habits necessary for success at the senior high level. Tests and essays are more concrete in nature; however, students progress toward more abstract thinking skills, especially in the area of writing. Grammar instruction continues to build on the sequential review and development of grammar and communication skills in writing. Vocabulary instruction is implemented throughout the year. The curriculum facilitates student growth in the areas delineated by the ELA PA Common Core State standards, which in turn assists each student in becoming critical, lifelong readers and writers. **<u>*A summer assignment must be completed in order to take this course. Students need a 93% or above in ELA 7 and a proficient or advanced on the 7th grade PSSA to enroll in the course</u>**

Math

412 ALGEBRA I PART A (8th grade)

In this course, students will build upon the skills learned in Pre-Algebra. These topics will include, the difference between rational and irrational numbers, applying and evaluating exponents and roots, describing the linear relationships between two variables, interpreting, analyzing, and solving linear equations, translating and comparing functions, applying concepts of volume pertaining to cylinders, cones, and spheres, using transformations to demonstrate congruency and similarity of geometric figures, applying the Pythagorean theorem and its converse to solve mathematical problems, and constructing, analyzing, and interpreting various means of data. Students will be required to take the 8th grade PSSA exam at the end of this course.

***Learning Support Math 8 available by teacher recommendation only.**

422 HONORS ALGEBRA I (8th grade)

In this course, students will learn the fundamental concepts of Algebra. These topics will include operations with real numbers and expressions, linear equations, linear inequalities, functions, coordinate geometry, and data analysis. Special emphasis will be placed on writing equations and inequalities for real world applications. Students will be required to take the Algebra I Keystone Exam and the 8th grade Math PSSA at the end of this course. **Prerequisite: Students need a 93% or above in Pre-Algebra and a proficient or advanced on the 7th grade PSSA to enroll in the course.**

Social Studies

220 US HISTORY I: (8th grade)

This course will explore American history from its early stages of European exploration through the Civil War and its immediate aftermath. Students will examine geographic, political, economic, and other aspects which influenced the development of the United States in its infancy. Native American life, the American Revolution, and Reconstruction are just a few of the topics that will be explored as students also develop critical thinking skills through analysis of current events and the role history plays in today's world!

Science

317 SCIENCE 8: PHYSICAL SCIENCE (8th grade)

8th grade science is a mixture of Chemistry and Physics. The first half of the year covers topics such as atoms, chemical bonds, periodic table, physical and chemical properties of materials. The second half of the year covers topics such as motion, friction, forces, and simple machines. Students will be using inquiry techniques, learning lab skills, and practicing critical thinking to complete this class. This class is for students not in the honors track.

316 HONORS SCIENCE 8: HONORS PHYSICAL SCIENCE (8th grade)

8th grade Honors covers the same topics as Science 8 – Physical Science such as chemical bonds, periodic table, motion and forces. The students will be mastering inquiry, lab techniques and critical thinking processes. Students will be expected to use independent learning and more home study.

Perquisite: This class is for the student that earned a 93% or above in Science 7.

8th Grade Elective Courses

***All 8th grade students must *choose one* or more of the following electives.**

807 JUNIOR BAND (7th & 8th grade)

This group is for 7th and 8th grade students. It is a prerequisite for Senior Band. We will participate in parades, assemblies and concerts with the Senior High Band. Qualifying students will be selected in Middle School County Band and will participate in the county wide concert. This group will travel to the Music Adjudication trip at the end of the year as part of the competing ensemble from Millville High School. Band will be held in the music room on days 1, 3, 5. On alternating days, students will report to a study hall, unless enrolled in both band and chorus.

806 JUNIOR CHORUS (7th & 8th grade)

Students will learn the aspects of singing together as an ensemble. Students will learn identification of musical symbols. This class will be taught with an emphasis on pitch and interval relationships that are used in singing two to three-part harmony. Students will be expected to achieve good tone quality. Singing choral literature will help develop these techniques. Attendance will be required at all extra rehearsals and concerts. Chorus will be held in the music room on days 2, 4, 6. On alternating days, students will report to a study hall, unless enrolled in both chorus and band.

1000 STUDY HALL 8th grade)

Students that choose a study hall will have time set aside in their daily schedule to work independently on assignments, prepare for exams and receive academic assistance as needed.