

**TYRONE AREA MIDDLE
SCHOOL**



2025-2026

COURSE DESCRIPTION BOOK

MS COURSE SELECTIONS

2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

ADMINISTRATION:

MRS. LESLIE ESTEP

SUPERINTENDENT

MRS. FAITH SWANSON

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

MR. SHANE COWHER

MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

MS SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECTOR:

MRS. JESSICA ANDERSON

DEAN OF STUDENTS:

MRS. AMY FLECK

SCHOOL COUNSELORS:

MRS. APRIL CAMPBELL

MR. MATT KIMBERLIN

Dear Student and Parent:

The mission of the Tyrone Area Middle School is to promote high standards of achievement with goals and objectives matched to the varied developmental characteristics of the middle school student. The administration, teachers, and staff believe that it is our responsibility to foster productive members of society by building a student-centered environment together with parents and the community. We recognize that middle school is a developmental bridge to ease the transition from elementary school onto high school during these unique and formative years.

To help promote this vision, the counseling department and administration have assembled a booklet to detail the programs of study for the 2025-2026 school year. All middle school students follow their grade level's required course of study, with electives added during 7th and 8th grade. More electives are offered as they progress to the high school level.

In the months ahead, students will be informed about the scheduling process. Your participation as a parent in this process is vital. We ask you to be involved by reviewing and discussing your child's proposed schedule choices.

The Course Selection Sheet will be prepared for you and your parents. It contains the list of courses for students at each grade level at the Tyrone Area Middle School.

Please contact us if you have any questions regarding your child's schedule. I know that we will continue to build upon our foundation to provide a challenging learning environment for all the "Golden Eagles" of the future.

Mr. Shane Cowher

Middle School Principal

We are...Tyrone Tough

"It is the policy of the Tyrone Area School District not to discriminate on the basis of sex, handicap, race, and national origin in its educational and vocational programs, activities, or employment as required by Title IX, Section 504, and Title VI. Please direct questions about this policy to The Superintendent of Schools, at 814.684.0710 Ext. 4123."

MS COURSE FRAMEWORK

GRADE 5	CREDIT	MEETS
Math	1	all year
Social Studies	1	all year
Science	1	all year
ELA	1	all year
Non-core subjects:		6-day rotation
Band/General Music (1x), Chorus (1x), Art (1x) Physical Education (2x), Life Skills (1x)		
WIN	n/a	all year
Advisory	n/a	all year

GRADE 6	CREDIT	MEETS
Math	1	all year
Social Studies	1	all year
Science	1	all year
ELA	1	all year
Non-core subjects:		6-day rotation
Band/General Music (1x), Chorus (1x), Art (1x) Physical Education (2x), Technology (1x)		
WIN	n/a	all year
Advisory	n/a	all year

GRADE 7	CREDIT	MEETS
Math	1	all year
US History I	1	all year
Science	1	all year
ELA	1	all year
Non-core subjects:		6-day rotation
Information Literacy Skills (1x), General Music (1x), Exploratory Science (1x) Physical Education (2x), Life Skills I (1x)		
ELECTIVES: See Below		
Advisory	n/a	all year

GRADE 8	CREDIT	MEETS
Math	1	all year
US History II	1	all year
Science	1	all year
ELA	1	all year
Non-core subjects:		6-day rotation
Art (1x), Popular Music (1x), Health (1x) Physical Education (2x), Life Skills II (1x)		
ELECTIVES: See Below		
Advisory	n/a	all year

ELECTIVES FOR 7TH GRADERS		
MS Band or Chorus	1.00	All year
*MS Yearbook	1.00	All year
Intro to Sports Statistics	.50	Semester
Creative Writing	.25	Quarter
Metal Working & Manufacturing	.25	Quarter
Intro to Computer Programing	.25	Quarter
STEAM	.25	Quarter
Intro to Poetry	.25	Quarter
Tyrone and Local History	.25	Quarter
Advanced Drawing	.25	Quarter
Painting	.25	Quarter
Intro to Clay	.25	Quarter
Mixed Media Art	.25	Quarter
SOAR	n/a	Quarter
Academic Support	n/a	Quarter

ELECTIVES FOR 8TH GRADERS		
*Middle School Yearbook	1.00	All year
MS Band and/or Chorus	1.00	All year
Sports Journalism & Media	.25	Quarter
Wood Working Technology	.25	Quarter
Health Services	.25	Quarter
Science & Engineering	.25	Quarter
History of Rock and Roll	.25	Quarter
Advanced Drawing	.25	Quarter
Painting	.25	Quarter
Intro to Clay	.25	Quarter
Mixed Media Art	.25	Quarter
Science, Ag & Natural Resources	.25	Quarter
SOAR	n/a	Quarter
Academic Support	n/a	Quarter

Though Pennsylvania Department of Education regulations determine your basic subjects, there are quite a few electives available to you in grades 7 and 8. Career Education will be integrated across the curriculum into content areas. You should take full advantage of the curriculum according to your interests and abilities.

REQUIRED COURSES:

GRADE 5:

English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and the 6-day Rotation block.
Every student will have an advisory and WIN period.

GRADE 6:

English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and the 6-day Rotation block.
Every student will have an advisory and WIN period.

GRADE 7:

English, Math, US History, Science, Electives, and the 6-day Rotation block.
Every student will have an advisory period.

GRADE 8:

English, Math, US History, Science, Electives, and the 6-day Rotation block.
Every student will have an advisory period.

ADVISORY PROGRAM - ALL GRADES

ALL YEAR

The Advisory Program provides an opportunity to improve learning by having one teacher work with the same set of students regularly throughout the entire school year. Students will complete assignments and get advice on their current grades as well as any needed assistance in achieving higher grades. The goals of the Advisory Program are student self-awareness, student self-respect, student discipline, student interpersonal competence, adult guidance and support, teacher student relationships, student sense of community, and student awareness of academic and non-academic achievement.

WIN (WHAT I NEED)- GRADES 5 & 6

ALL YEAR

This course is an ungraded intervention period that fits into the MTSS (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support) framework. Students are placed into classes based on their level of need in both reading and mathematics. Teachers provide targeted lessons for students based on their learning needs. Throughout the school year, students will rotate through several interventions based on assessment data, grades, and teacher observation.

LANGUAGE ARTS

GRADE 5

ELA 5 (English Language Arts)

1 CREDIT

ALL YEAR

Fifth grade students have English language arts each day using *myView Literacy*. *MyView Literacy* is a comprehensive, interactive K-5 literacy program that provides a balanced approach to teaching reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing using a collection of authentic reading texts and writing workshops. Connected Reading and Writing Workshops focus on teaching the critical skills and strategies students need to be highly competent thinkers, readers, and writers who are ready for college and the workforce. Interactive learning blends print and technology in a student-centered, teacher-inspired classroom.

READING SKILLS DEVELOPMENT 5

1 CREDIT

ALL YEAR

This course is designed as an intervention course to aid students in the mastery of PA Core reading skills at the grade 5 level. This is achieved through slower paced instruction and a high degree of repeated drill and practice. Instruction will focus on decoding skills, vocabulary development, comprehension, fluency, and study and test-taking skills. PREREQUISITE: Teacher recommendation based on current levels.

GRADE 6

ELA 6 (English Language Arts)

1 CREDIT

ALL YEAR

Sixth grade students have English language arts each day using the *myPerspectives* Curriculum. It is a powerful English language arts curriculum for Grades 6–12 that values the perspective of the learner, collectively and individually, and provides next-gen learning experiences that promote higher achievement and develop the competencies needed for college and career readiness. Interactive learning blends print and technology in a student-centered, teacher-inspired classroom. This dynamic Savvas program creates an interactive, engaging, and relevant learning environment through readings, meaningful activities, and purposeful performance tasks. Students integrate the knowledge they acquired, apply critical thinking skills, cite evidence, and use effective expression to respond to a complex multi-step writing and/or speaking and listening task.

READING SKILLS DEVELOPMENT 6

1 CREDIT

ALL YEAR

This course is designed as an intervention course to aid students in the mastery of PA Core reading skills at the grade 6 level. This is achieved through slower paced instruction and a high degree of repeated drill and practice. Instruction will focus on decoding skills, vocabulary development, comprehension, fluency, and study and test-taking skills. PREREQUISITE: Teacher recommendation based on current levels.

GRADE 7

ENGLISH 7

1 CREDIT

ALL YEAR

ELA 711: This course will focus on the skills needed to develop the PA Core standards of reading informational text, reading literature, writing, and speaking and listening.

Writing Outcome: Students will write for different purposes and audiences. Students' writing will be clear and focused and will convey a well-defined perspective and appropriate content. Students will explore and create informative, explanatory, argumentative, and narrative essays.

Grammar Learning Outcome: Students will write following the standard conventions

of English grammar. They will use precise language, use varying sentences, both in length and complexity, use a consistent voice and style, and use proper grammar conventions.

Reading Learning Outcome: Students will read informational texts and literary texts from different genres. Students will learn reading strategies in order to read and analyze these texts to make inferences and connections to aid in comprehension.

Vocabulary Learning Outcome: Students will acquire academic and domain specific vocabulary and learn how to determine the meaning and clarify unknown words and/or phrases through decoding tools and strategies necessary for comprehension and expression. Extensive work with Greek and Latin affixes will also be completed.

Speaking & Listening Learning Outcomes: Students will engage in collaborative discussions based on grade-level topics, texts, and issues. Building on ideas of others and expressing ideas clearly using specific claims, soundness of reasoning, and relevancy will be the main focus. Students will be expected to work independently, think critically, and actively participate in their own learning.

ELA 712:

Students will work with the learning outcomes above. However, this is an advanced course marked by higher-level readings and vocabulary study. Students will also work to develop higher-level writing skills while focusing very closely on the elements of style and craft.

When appropriate, this course moves at an accelerated pace.

Placement into this class will be determined by:

Recommendations are based on results on standardized assessments, the average of summative assessments, and consistent assignment completion.

READING SKILLS DEVELOPMENT 7

1 CREDIT

ALL YEAR

This course is designed as an intervention course to aid students in the mastery of PA Core reading skills at the grade 7 level. This is achieved through slower paced instruction and a high degree of repeated drill and practice. Instruction will focus on decoding skills, vocabulary development, comprehension, fluency, and study and test-taking skills. **PREREQUISITE:** Teacher recommendation based on current levels.

GRADE 8

ENGLISH 8

1 CREDIT

ALL YEAR

ELA 811: This course will focus on the skills needed to develop the PA Core standards of reading informational text, reading literature, writing, and speaking and listening.

Writing Learning Outcome: Students will write (addressing a variety of prompts and in a variety of forms) integrating what they have read, their own knowledge, and the inferences they have made in order to demonstrate new thoughts, ideas, and an understanding of course concepts.

Grammar Learning Outcome: Students will write following the standard conventions of English grammar in order to clearly communicate their ideas and ensure that their writing is effective and understandable.

Reading Learning Outcome: Students will read and analyze texts in order to make inferences about and connections to these texts in their writing.

Vocabulary Learning Outcome: Students will use context and personal connections to learn new words in order to be better readers and express ideas more precisely.

Speaking & Listening Learning Outcomes: Students will come to discussions prepared and will be active participants who ask questions, acknowledge new information, and change or defend their own views in light of the evidence presented. Students will be expected to work independently, think critically, and actively participate in their own learning.

ELA 812: This is an advanced course marked by higher-Lexile readings, deep vocabulary study including Greek and Latin roots, development of higher-level writing skills, and a focus on elements of style and craft. This class will move at an accelerated pace when appropriate. This course will focus on the skills needed to develop the PA Core standards of reading informational text, reading literature, writing, and speaking.

Students will be expected to work independently, think critically, and actively participate in their own learning.

Placement into this class will be determined by:

Recommendations are based on results on standardized assessments, the average of summative assessments, and consistent assignment completion.

READING SKILLS DEVELOPMENT 8

1 CREDIT

ALL YEAR

This course is designed as an intervention course to aid students in the mastery of PA Core reading skills at the grade 8 level. This is achieved through slower paced instruction and a high degree of repeated drill and practice. Instruction will focus on decoding skills, vocabulary development, comprehension, fluency, and study and test-taking skills. **PREREQUISITE:** Teacher recommendation based on current levels.

MATHEMATICS

The middle school math program addresses the skills needed to master the eligible content of the state academic anchors aligned with PA Core Standards. These anchors are integrated throughout the math curriculum as students progress through grades 5, 6, 7, and 8. Tyrone Area Middle School uses a systematic approach to enroll students in individual classes. Students are placed in their class based on PSSA scores, marking period grades, end of year post test, and teacher recommendation.

GRADE 5

MATH 5

1 CREDIT

ALL YEAR

This course is based on the PA Core Standards. Five mathematical domains are taught throughout the school year: operations and algebraic thinking, number, and operation in Base Ten, number and operation-fractions, measurement and data, and geometry.

Applied Math 5

1 CREDIT

ALL YEAR

This course is designed as an intervention course to aid students in the mastery of PA Core math skills at the grade 5 level. This is achieved through slower-paced instruction and a high degree of repeated drill and practice. Students will incorporate basic math skills to estimate and solve problems that focus on eligible content. In addition, instruction will help students improve upon problem-solving and test taking strategies, as well as increase mathematics proficiency on the PSSA assessment.

GRADE 6

MATH 6

1 CREDIT

ALL YEAR

This course is based on the PA Core Standards. Five mathematical domains are taught throughout the school year: ratios and proportional relationships, the number system, expressions, geometry, and statistics and probability.

Applied Math 6

1 CREDIT

ALL YEAR

This course is designed as an intervention course to aid students in the mastery of PA Core math skills at the grade 6 level. This is achieved through slower-paced instruction and a high degree of repeated drill and practice. Students will incorporate basic math skills to estimate and solve problems that focus on eligible content. In addition, instruction will help students improve upon problem-solving and test taking strategies, as well as increase mathematics proficiency on the PSSA assessment.

GRADE 7

MSD 7 (Math Skills Development)

1 CREDIT

ALL YEAR

Math Skills Development - This course is designed as an intervention course to aid students in the mastery of PA Core math skills at the grade 7 level. This is achieved through slower paced instruction and a high degree of repeated drill and practice. Students will incorporate basic math skills to estimate and solve problems that focus on eligible content. In addition, instruction will help students improve upon problem-solving and test taking strategies, as well as increase mathematics proficiency on the PSSA assessment. **PREREQUISITE:** Student with an average of less than **70%** on summative assessments **or** teacher recommendation

MATH 7

1 CREDIT

ALL YEAR

This course includes fundamentals of ratios and proportional relationships, the number system, expressions and equations, geometry, and statistics and probability. **PREREQUISITE:** Students with an average above **70%** in Math 6 summative assessments **and** teacher recommendation.

ADVANCED MATH 7

1 CREDIT

ALL YEAR

This course includes basic concepts of symbols, terms, expressions, use of variables in solving practical problems in one variable, study of rational numbers, number theory, graphing, probability, and exponents. **Placement into this class will be determined by:** Results on standardized assessments, the average of summative assessments and consistent assignment completion.

GRADE 8

MSD 8 (Math Skills Development)

1 CREDIT

ALL YEAR

This course is designed as an intervention to aid students in the mastery of PA Core math skills at the grade 8 level. This is achieved through slower paced instruction and a high degree of repeated drill and practice. Students will use basic math skills to estimate and solve problems that focus on **eligible content**. In addition, instruction will help students improve upon problem-solving and test taking strategies, as well as increase mathematics proficiency on the PSSA assessment. **PREREQUISITES:** Students with an average of less than 70% on summative assessments in previous course **or** teacher recommendation.

MATH 8

1 CREDIT

ALL YEAR

This course includes fundamentals of the number system, expressions and equations, functions, geometry, and statistics and probability. **PREREQUISITE:** **PREREQUISITE:** Students with an average less than 95% in Math 7 summative assessments **and** teacher recommendation. Students with an average of less than 85% in Advanced Math 7 on summative assessments, results of pre-algebra test, **and** teacher recommendation.

ALGEBRA I-8

1 CREDIT

ALL YEAR

This course includes basic concepts of symbols, terms, expressions, use of variables in solving practical problems in one variable, study of rational numbers, number theory, graphing, probability, and exponents. **PREREQUISITE:** Students with an average above **95%** in Math 7 assessments, performance on pre-algebra test, **and** teacher recommendation; students with an average greater than **85%** in Advanced Math 7 on summative assessments, performance on pre-algebra test, **and** teacher recommendation.

SCIENCE

GRADE 5

SCIENCE 5

1 CREDIT

ALL YEAR

In the Science 5 course, the students will study the following units: Scientific Method, Physical Science, Earth Science, Biological Sciences, and Environment and Ecology. Scientific concepts and terminology will be taught to the students. Students will use science process skills to determine how science impacts their daily lives. Semester content area classes meet every day for a block of two periods.

GRADE 6

SCIENCE 6

1 CREDIT

ALL YEAR

The goal of the sixth-grade science program is to develop critical and analytical skills through exposure to a variety of scientific areas. The content of the science units includes: The Scientific Method, Ecology, Biology Concepts, Earth Science, Physical Science, and Technology in Science. The content of the health units includes Body Systems, Heart Disease, AIDS Education, First Aid, and Life Skills Curriculum, a substance abuse prevention program.

Students will learn to use the scientific method to solve a variety of problems in the various science content areas as well as be provided with information to make healthy life choices in dealing with substance abuse, AIDS, and general health concerns.

A combination of technology enriched lessons, laboratory sessions, projects, research, and class work will be used to evaluate a student's performance. Students will have 1 semester of science and 1 semester of Health

GRADE 7

SCIENCE GRADE 7

1 CREDIT

ALL YEAR

Science 711: This course will focus on the science process skills along with addressing the PA Core standards of science and technology. Emphasis will be applied to the scientific method, forces, matter, energy, waves, and work. Students in this section will:

*Focus on skill development and application of scientific methods

*Develop an understanding of science concepts

*Illustrate learning through projects, labs, activities, and tests

This class will progress at a pace appropriate to the student's ability. Semester content area classes meet every day for a block of two periods.

Science 712: This course will focus on the science process skills along with addressing the PA core standards of science and technology. Emphasis will be applied to the scientific method, forces, matter, energy, waves, and work.

Students in this section will:

- *Focus on advanced skills and their application
- *Apply and analyze scientific concepts
- *Illustrate learning through projects, labs, activities, and tests

This class will progress at a pace appropriate to the student's ability.

Placement into this class will be determined by:

Recommendations are based on results on standardized assessments, the average of summative assessments, and consistent assignment completion.

*Students must qualify for both social studies and science to be placed into this class.

GRADE 8

SCIENCE GRADE 8

1 CREDIT

ALL YEAR

Science 811: This course will focus on the science process skills along with addressing the PA Core standards of science and technology. Emphasis will be on the scientific method, the classification of living things, genetics, DNA, ecology, geology, and energy.

Students in this section will:

- *Focus on skill development and application
- *Develop an understanding of science concepts through application of the scientific method
- *Illustrate learning through projects, labs, and activities

The class will progress at a pace appropriate to the student's ability.

Science 812: This course will focus on the science process skills along with addressing the PA standards of science and technology. Emphasis will be on the scientific method, the classification of living things, genetics, ecology, geology, and energy.

Students in this section will:

- *Focus on advanced skills and their application of the scientific method
- *Apply and analyze scientific concepts and their implications to society
- *Illustrate learning through advanced projects, labs, and activities

The class will progress at a pace appropriate to the student's ability.

Placement into this class will be determined by:

Recommendations are based on results on standardized assessments, the average of summative assessments, and consistent assignment completion.

*Students must qualify for both social studies and science to be placed into this class

HISTORY

GRADE 5

SOCIAL STUDIES 5

1 CREDIT

ALL YEAR

Fifth grade social studies will incorporate reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills as students learn about pre-history and the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome. This course will provide students with a solid foundation of map skills. Students will explore how our society's current economy, government, and civic duties have been affected by ancient civilizations, how physical features of the earth, atmosphere, and human activities affect the distribution of population, resources, land use, and industries and what we can learn from past leaders and events, and how they have influenced today's society.

GRADE 6

SOCIAL STUDIES 6

1 CREDIT

ALL YEAR

Social Studies teach students about the world in which they live. In sixth grade, the curriculum will highlight the study of: Canada, Mexico, United States history from 1940 to the present, and map/global skills. The student will acquire knowledge and understanding of the historical, geographical, economic, social, and political facets of Canada and Mexico and their interdependence with the United States. The student will utilize map and globe skills correctly during the study of latitude, longitude, elevations, major land and water areas, hemispheres, and map projections. During the study of United States history, the students will gain understanding of social, political, and economic events during each decade. Other time is devoted to developing the students' understanding of research, projects, and current events.

GRADE 7

U.S. HISTORY I

1 CREDIT

ALL YEAR

U.S. History 711 The 7th Grade US History course will discuss the emergence and foundation of the United States, from its Native American origins, through colonization, and eventually Revolution. Course units will focus on how early Americans handled times of drastic change and how the decisions and events that took place still affect the world today.

*Focus on critical reading skills and an understanding of secondary sources

*Develop a basic understanding of United States History

*Participate in discussions, group activities, projects, and classwork assignments

U.S. History 712: The 7th Grade US History course will discuss the emergence and foundation of the United States, from its Native American origins, through colonization, and eventually Revolution. Course units will focus on how early Americans handled times of drastic change and how the decisions and events that took place still affect the world today.

*Students will have more exposure and opportunities with higher-level primary source activities

*Students will have higher-level readings, including primary sources

*Read and interpret primary and secondary source documents in addition to their textbook

*Complete independent research for class projects

*Develop a thorough understanding of United States History

*Participate in group activities, projects, and classwork assignments

Recommendations are based on results on standardized assessments, the average of summative assessments, and consistent assignment completion.

*Students must qualify for both social studies and science to be placed into this class. Summative assessments include Unit, Midterm, and Final exam.

GRADE 8

U.S. HISTORY II

1 CREDIT

ALL YEAR

US History 811: This course is a survey of United States History from George Washington's Presidency through World War I. Emphasis is placed on the topics of formation and establishment of our early government, westward expansion, the Industrial Revolution, causes and effects, events and important people of the Civil War and WWI. Students in this section will:

*Focus on critical reading skills and an understanding of secondary sources

*Receive opportunities for enrichment

- *Develop a basic understanding of United States History
 - *Participate in group activities, projects, and homework assignments
- The class will progress at a pace appropriate to the student's ability.

US History 812: This course is a survey of United States History from George Washington's Presidency through World War I. Emphasis is placed on the topics of formation and establishment of our early government, westward expansion, the Industrial Revolution, causes and effects, events and important people of the Civil War and WWI. Students in this section will:

- *Read and interpret primary and secondary source documents in addition to their textbook
 - *Complete independent research for class projects
 - *Participate in class discussions and lectures
 - *Develop a thorough understanding of United States History
 - *Participate in group activities, projects, and homework assignments
- The class will progress at a pace appropriate to the student's ability.

Placement into this class will be determined by:

Recommendations are based on results on standardized assessments, the average summative assessments, and consistent assignment completion.

**Students must qualify for both social studies and science to be placed in this class.

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

CHORUS - GRADE 5

ALL YEAR

Grade 5 students will focus on music written in unison or two-part harmony. Emphasis will be placed on proper singing techniques such as: pitch accuracy, rhythmic accuracy, vocal placement, proper breathing, diction, projection, and proper posture. This course is required and will meet twice during every 6-day rotation.

BAND - GRADE 5

ALL YEAR

Grade 5 band is for students beginning instrumental studies. It will focus on proper tone production, reading music notation, pitch recognition, posture, ensemble awareness, and instrument care. Students will be scheduled for individual and/or small sectional rehearsals and full ensemble rehearsals. Participation in the program is not mandatory but is highly recommended to students who have shown ability playing the recorder in the instrumental awareness class in grade 4.

CHORUS - GRADE 6

ALL YEAR

Students will focus on music written in unison or two-part harmony. Emphasis will be placed on the vocal techniques of pitch accuracy, rhythmic accuracy, vocal placement, breath control, diction, projection, and posture. This course is required and will meet once during every 6-day rotation.

BAND - GRADE 6

ALL YEAR

Grade 6 band is designed to continue the individual growth of student instrumentalists through selected band music for fall and spring performances. Emphasis is placed on individual development as a musician, through lessons and sectional rehearsals. All band rehearsals and lessons will take place during the band/chorus period. New instrumental students are encouraged to participate.

ELECTIVES GRADES 7 & 8

CHORUS - GRADES 7 & 8

ALL YEAR

Students will focus on music written in two- and three-part harmony. Emphasis will be placed on the vocal techniques of pitch accuracy, rhythmic accuracy, vocal placement, breath control, diction, projection, and posture. Students will also have the opportunity to sing in other languages and to perform music representing a wide variety of musical styles.

BAND - GRADES 7 & 8

ALL YEAR

The middle school band program is designed to further develop skills of instrumentalists preparing them for a future in the senior high bands. School emphasis is placed on the development of the individual's skill level through music for fall and spring performances. Instrumental lessons are included as part of this course and are scheduled during the school day. All grade 7 students who have played band in grade 6 are strongly encouraged to participate.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARBOOK

ALL YEAR

In this class, students in 7th and 8th grade will be planning, designing, producing, financing, and marketing the annual edition of the Tyrone Area Middle School *Eagle*. Students will learn organizational skills, journalism, computer skills, budgeting, and marketing skills to produce and sell the yearbook and its supplement. Teacher recommendation is needed for this class. (Class limited to 12 students)

SOAR

QUARTER

This class allows students to work collaboratively with classmates and staff to build a community within Tyrone Area Middle School and support our SOAR program. Students will help staff with projects, help plan SOAR events and participate in a variety of activities to promote a positive school climate.

ADVANCED DRAWING

QUARTER 1 ONLY

This course teaches students how to use hand-eye coordination to create drawings and renderings on paper using a variety of drawing media. This course will cover topics such as: elements of design, perspective, composition, and visual observation.

PAINTING

QUARTER 2 ONLY

This course will focus on using the elements of art for exploration of different painting media (watercolor, acrylic). Topics covered will include: color theory, composition, realism, and expressionism.

INTRO TO CLAY

QUARTER 3 ONLY

This course will focus on a variety of hand-building techniques using clay (pinch, coil, slab). Students will explore form and structure to create both functional and sculptural works of art.

MIXED MEDIA ART**QUARTER 4 ONLY**

This course will teach students how to combine different artistic mediums to create unique artworks. Students will learn how to work with a variety of materials, such as paint, fabric, paper, and found objects. They will also examine art theories and historical contexts of famous works.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT**QUARTER**

This class is designed to support students who are struggling in their core classes. Teachers will provide tutoring and support with homework and other assignments. Students may be recommended for this class by teachers if they are falling behind academically.

ELECTIVES GRADE 7**INTRODUCTION TO POETRY****QUARTER**

This introductory course will take 7th grade students on a creative journey of reading and writing poetry. In addition to studying famous works, learners will work to compose their own creative pieces using the information they have learned throughout the course. Students will learn about the most important components of poetry, which include studying meter, rhyme, genre, figurative language, and much more. This course will provide students with fundamental terminology and concepts of poetry, while also building on their textual analysis, presentation, and collaborative skills.

CREATIVE WRITING**QUARTER**

Creative Writing is a course that is designed to give 7th grade students the opportunity to think and write creatively beyond their regular English or ELA class. Students will explore various genres of writing, including fiction (shorter pieces as well as the opportunity to write longer stories), non-fiction (autobiographies, memoirs, etc.), poetry, plays, "mixed media" pieces, journal writing, etc. Though there will be some required assignments, students will be encouraged to explore original ideas and create original pieces. There will be opportunities to publish and share work throughout the course as well. This class would be most appropriate for the student who enjoys writing for their own purposes or who enjoys expressing themselves through the written word.

INTRO TO SPORTS STATISTICS**SEMESTER**

The class will discuss relevant statistics from multiple sports including football, baseball, basketball, hockey, and other sports. Students will take an in-depth look at how to calculate common statistics and development, and application of analytics in sports. Students will learn about the application of analytics in sports for purposes of in-game strategy, player performance, team management, sports operations, and many other situations.

STEAM**QUARTER**

STEAM is an elective that will integrate Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics to help students learn how to be good critical thinkers and problem solvers. Students will use hands-on projects that will require them to learn how to use the Technology Design Process and Scientific Process to solve problems. Students will use hands-on projects that will require them to learn how to use the Technology Design Process and Scientific Process to

solve problems. Students will then explore STEAM careers, including engineering agriculture, entrepreneurship, etc. (Class limited to 15 students)

TYRONE AND LOCAL HISTORY

QUARTER

The 7th Grade elective will discuss the foundation, growth, and decline of Tyrone, from its agricultural roots to its modern issues. Course units will focus on how early Tyronians handled times of drastic change and how the decisions and events that took place still affect Tyrone today. A special emphasis will be placed on locations of both the past and present and the significant role they place in Tyrone history.

INTRO TO COMPUTER PROGRAMING USING SCRATCH

QUARTER

In this course, students will be introduced to the world of computer science by learning how to create animations, computer games, and interactive projects. The students will use Scratch, a visual programming language developed at MIT, to learn fundamental programming concepts such as variables, loops, conditional statements, and event handling. This course will show students how to make and import objects, create audio recordings, and use them to develop interactive projects. With the program, students will learn how to use math and computer code to think creatively.

METALWORKING AND MANUFACTURING

QUARTER

Metalworking and Manufacturing introduces the student to different careers in the metal fabrication field. The student will be introduced to different occupations as well as some of the skills necessary in these areas. Instruction is project-based. Students will complete projects that include a sampling of the knowledge and skills involved in this industry. Students will choose a career, research it, and report to the class as one of their projects. Integration of science and math skills related to the Metalworking field will be part of this project-based program. Instruction will include theory, hands-on activities, and class presentations. (Class size limited to 15 students)

ELECTIVES GRADE 8

SPORTS JOURNALISM & MEDIA

QUARTER

Throughout the marking period, we will be covering a range of topics surrounding the world of sports. This can range from the NFL, NBA, NHL, NCAA, MLB, and even local sports. The idea behind this course is to gain exposure to how the sports media world operates. Writing sports articles and designing sports media content are just a few things that will be covered.

Pre-Requisite: 80% average in English.

WOOD WORKING TECHNOLOGY

QUARTER

In this course students will focus on the design process. Brainstorming, modeling, testing, evaluating, and modifying will be used to apply the design process in the invention or innovation of a new product, process, or system. Students participate in engineering design activities to understand how criteria, constraints, and processes affect design. Throughout the design process, students will develop skills to communicate design information. Students will learn how various inventions and innovations impact their lives. (Class limited to 15 students)

HEALTH SERVICES

QUARTER

Health Services is the career exploratory class that examines careers in the health field. We begin by looking at professional appearance, personal characteristics, health care settings, and education levels. From there, we look at the many jobs in the health care field from Therapeutic, Diagnostic, communication-Information, Biotechnology, and Supportive Career paths. Hands-on activities are included to demonstrate the duties of some jobs. A field trip is included to a local health care facility to see it all come together. (Class limited to 15 students)

SCIENCE, AG, & NATURAL RESOURCES

QUARTER (Qtrs. 1 & 2 only)

This course emphasizes the development of competencies in plant science, animal science, food science, rural and urban living, leadership, basic metal and woodworking operations, soils, and natural resource conservation. The students will also identify emerging technologies as well as explore career opportunities in the field of agriculture. Subject materials include plants, animals, floral design, wildlife and natural resources, Ag mechanics, and the youth leadership organization - FFA. This is a hands-on lab-based course where students will be applying classroom information into their projects which may include growing plants, flower arranging, wood shop projects, welding, food tasting, wildlife conservation role play and small animal awareness. (Class limited to 15 students)

THE HISTORY OF ROCK AND ROLL

QUARTER

This course will cover the time period from 1950 to modern day, and students will examine how rock music originated (from rhythm and blues from the 1940's) and how it changed over time. Throughout this course students will analyze lyrics from many popular rock songs and artists and study the history surrounding the songs (examples include Fortunate Son by Creedence Clearwater Revival – Vietnam War and Ohio by Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young – Kent State shooting of 1970). Throughout this course students will also watch documentary clips and music videos to visually see how pop culture, music, and the world, as a whole, evolved and changed over time.

ROTATIONS

GRADE 5 – SIX DAY ROTATION

The courses included in the rotation are **Chorus, Band/General Music, Art, Life Skills, and Physical Education**. Except for Phys. Ed., each course meets once every six days all year.

GENERAL MUSIC 5 (and/or Band Lessons)

1 DAY

Grade 5 General Music will focus on the instruments of the orchestra and their family classifications. Students will also learn about text painting, which is when a composer uses music to tell a story without the use of words or pictures. During these activities, students will be asked to create stories and drawings that relate to the music that they are listening to.

Band (and/or General Music)

1 DAY

Grade 5 band is designed to continue individual growth of student instrumentalists through selected band music for fall and spring performances. Emphasis is placed on individual development as a musician, through lessons and sectional rehearsals. All band rehearsals and lessons will take place during the band/chorus period. New instrumental students are encouraged to participate.

LIFE SKILLS

1 DAY

Life Skills Curriculum is a program for students created by educators and counselors designed to facilitate the development of self-control, emotional awareness, peer relations, interpersonal problem-solving, and healthy habits. In addition, we have implemented the program Second Step into our Life Skills Curriculum. In collaboration with the elementary school, Second Step is an interactive program geared toward helping students explore, learn, and devise strategies to help them succeed socially, emotionally, and academically.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

2 DAYS

This course is required yearly for all students. It is designed to increase individual physical and social growth through sports, games, and competition. Emphasis is put on team sports and large motor movement activities e.g., touch football, soccer, swimming, basketball, volleyball, softball, and aerobics. Students are always expected to maintain their own personal safety and the safety of others. Students are encouraged to create and maintain a high level of physical fitness to meet the demands of everyday living. Participation and sneakers are **mandatory** for all physical education students.

Chorus

1 DAY

Students will focus on music written in unison or two-part harmony. Emphasis will be placed on the vocal techniques of pitch accuracy, rhythmic accuracy, vocal placement, breath control, diction, projection, and posture. This course is required and will meet once during every 6-day rotation.

ART

1 DAY

The middle school art program for Grade 5 provides an integrated and comprehensive curriculum with opportunities for the students to become familiar with various art forms. The course will continue to develop vocabulary as well as increase their knowledge base of art skills, techniques and concepts required in creating art forms. Students will learn about contemporary art and understand the cultural messages wrapped up in works of art. Students will practice skills in analyzing, critiquing, and drawing reasoned conclusions about what they see and hear and then use this knowledge to enhance their own creative expression.

GRADE 6 – SIX DAY ROTATION

The courses included in the rotation are **Art, Chorus, Band/General Music, Physical Education, and Technology**. Except for Phys. Ed., each course meets once every six days all year.

ART

1 DAY

The middle school art program for Grade 6 provides an integrated and comprehensive curriculum with opportunities for the students to become familiar with various art forms. The course will continue to develop vocabulary as well as increase their knowledge base of art skills, techniques and concepts required in creating art forms. Students will learn about contemporary art and understand the cultural messages wrapped up in works of art. Students will practice skills in analyzing, critiquing, and drawing reasoned conclusions about what they see and hear and then use this knowledge to enhance their own creative expression.

GENERAL MUSIC 6

1 DAY

Students will study the basic elements of pitch and rhythmic recognition. They will also focus on the use of dynamics in musical composition. By the end of this course, students will have a basic understanding of how to read and interpret music.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

2 DAYS

This course is required yearly for all students. It is designed to increase individual physical and social growth through sports, games, and competition. Emphasis is put on team sports and large motor movement activities e.g. touch football, soccer, swimming, basketball, volleyball, softball, and aerobics. Students are always expected to maintain

their own personal safety and the safety of others. Students are encouraged to create and maintain a high level of physical fitness to meet the demands of everyday living. Participation and sneakers are **mandatory** for all physical education students.

TECHNOLOGY 6

1 DAY

In this course students will learn the basics of operating a computer and how to properly use software, which includes but is not limited to Google Docs, Google Sheets, Google Slides, Google Drive and Microsoft Office products. Students will also use a variety of online learning tools, such as Code.org to create block coding projects. In addition, students will also learn about the importance of having good digital citizenship skills and how to safely utilize the internet.

BAND

1 DAY

Grade 6 band is designed to continue individual growth of student instrumentalists through selected band music for fall and spring performances. Emphasis is placed on individual development as a musician, through lessons and sectional rehearsals. All band rehearsals and lessons will take place during the band/chorus period. New instrumental students are encouraged to participate.

CHORUS

1 DAY

Students will focus on music written in unison or two-part harmony. Emphasis will be placed on the vocal techniques of pitch accuracy, rhythmic accuracy, vocal placement, breath control, diction, projection, and posture. This course is required and will meet once during every 6-day rotation.

GRADE 7 – SIX DAY ROTATION

Four courses included in the rotation are **Exploratory Physical Science, Life Skills I, Physical Education, General Music and Information Literacy Skills**. Except for Phys. Ed., each course meets once in a 6-day rotation, all year.

EXPLORATORY PHYSICAL SCIENCE

1 DAY

This course aims to provide a hands-on introduction to the physical sciences to facilitate a seamless transition from traditional conceptual classrooms to the laboratory based physical sciences (i.e. chemistry and physics). The topics for the class will include lab safety, measuring with accuracy and precision, graphing and analyzing graphs, dimensional analysis, and the scientific method.

LIFE SKILLS I

1 DAY

Life Skills is a comprehensive prevention program that is designed to target the primary causes of substance abuse, particularly tobacco and alcohol, by teaching a combination of health information, general life skills, and drug resistance skills. Students will also complete units on decision making skills, peer and media influences, bullying prevention, character education, internet safety, and career education.

GENERAL MUSIC

1 DAY

7th Grade General Music is a rotation class that meets once every six days. In this course, students will strengthen music vocabulary, listen critically to music from a variety of genres, and strengthen music literacy through active playing and composing. Students will perform on pitched and unpitched percussion instruments, read, and compose using notation on the staff, and identify musical elements found in musical examples.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

2 DAYS

This course is required yearly for all students. It is designed to increase individual physical and social growth through sports, games, and competition. Emphasis is put on team sports and large motor movement activities, e.g., touch football, soccer, swimming, basketball, volleyball, softball, and aerobics. Students are always expected to maintain their own personal safety and the safety of others. Students are encouraged to create and maintain a high level of physical fitness to meet the demands of everyday living. Participation and dressing in t-shirt, shorts/sweatpants, and tennis shoes is **mandatory** for all physical education students.

INFORMATION LITERACY SKILLS

1 DAY

This course will show students how to locate and evaluate information in both print and digital sources. After reviewing basic library skills, students will learn how to access, use, and cite information from the databases found in the Middle & High school library digital collections.

GRADE 8 – SIX DAY ROTATION

The courses included in the rotation are **Exploratory Health 8, Life Skills II, Physical Education, Art, and Popular Music**. Except for Phys. Ed., each course meets once every 6 days all year.

EXPLORATORY HEALTH 8

1 DAY

Exploratory health is a study of the digestive system and nutrition. Along with knowing the basic structure and function of the digestive system, students will be exposed to a variety of nutrition-related topics including, but not limited to, major and minor nutrients, the interrelation of the digestive system/nutrition to the functioning of other body systems, nutrient deficiencies and toxicities, the danger of eating added sugars, food labels and fad diets. Students will look at the recommended dietary allowances for teenagers and calculate a variety of base line measurements including BMR, BMI, resting heart rate, caloric requirements and how many calories are burned during exercise.

LIFE SKILLS II

1 DAY

Life Skills II is a continuation of the Life Skills I drug and alcohol prevention program. The purpose of this booster curriculum is to reinforce the material learned in grades 6 and 7. Students will review important concepts and have an opportunity to practice specific skills. A unit on career development and exploration is included.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

2 DAYS

This course is required yearly for all students. It is designed to increase individual physical and social growth through sports, games, and competition. Emphasis is put on team sports and large motor movement activities e.g. touch football, soccer, swimming, basketball, volleyball, softball, and aerobics. Students are always expected to maintain their own personal safety and the safety of others. Students are encouraged to create and maintain a high level of

physical fitness to meet the demands of everyday living. Participation and dressing in t-shirt, shorts/sweatpants, and tennis shoes is **mandatory** for all physical education students.

ART 8

1 DAY

8th grade Visual Arts classes have been designed to expose students to a variety of art media and techniques. Students will consider how art is used to express our ideas and to impact a viewer. Topics covered include elements and principles of art, drawing and painting: 2-D concepts, proportions, value, texture, mixed media, and art history and contemporary art.

POPULAR MUSIC

1 DAY

The 8th Grade music rotation is an exploratory and introduction to the basics of popular music genres and styles, including rock-and-roll, rap, pop, and more. Students will learn the history of each genre and style of music, followed by an introduction to harmony, melody, and rhythm and how they are used within these genres. Students will have a chance during the year to further study the music styles and artists that interest them (music that students select to study will follow strict school guidelines for appropriate lyrics). Students will also learn how to use basic music technology through several online music creation tools and will have the opportunity to write their own song or mix their own music track using this technology.