



CONNELLSVILLE AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Course Descriptions 2025-2026 School Year GRADE 7

All students entering seventh grade in August are assigned four **CORE COURSES**: English Language Arts (ELA), Math, Science and Social Studies. They will be assigned a 7th grade rotation (Art, App. Creators, Family & Consumer Science, and Design), ELA Enrichment, and Math Enrichment. In addition, students select two **ELECTIVE COURSES** to complete their school schedule.

A separate selection sheet will be provided to each student to establish their schedule for the 2024-2025 school year.

CORE COURSES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Accelerated ELA 7

Students will read a variety of short pieces of literature and informational texts as they consider divergent concepts and ideas presented by the selections. The students will also use close reading strategies to grasp information, ideas, and details that will be required as students create their own understanding and arguments through individual writings and class discussions. Written responses will further develop student's analytical thinking as they develop solid text dependent analysis pieces based on various tasks and texts. A multifaceted approach to advance students' vocabulary knowledge will be reflected in their reading and writing. Students will be expected to demonstrate appropriate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

ELA 7

Students will demonstrate increased comprehension of short pieces of literature and informational texts as they begin to examine the concepts and ideas of authors of various works of fiction and nonfiction. Increased vocabulary acquisition along with a focus on written communication of the student's thoughts and ideas will be expected as students move toward proficient written communication. Skill mastery of complex comprehension and oral and written communication will be a primary focus of this course. Students will be expected to demonstrate appropriate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

ELA 7 Co-Teaching

Students will show an increase in their abilities to demonstrate comprehension through short pieces of literature and informational texts as they begin to examine the concepts and ideas of authors of various works of fiction and nonfiction. Increased vocabulary acquisition along with a focus on written communication of the student's thoughts and ideas will be expected as students move toward proficient written communication.

An increase in skill mastery of complex comprehension and oral and written communication will be a primary focus of this course. Students will be expected to demonstrate a proficient level of appropriate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

MATHEMATICS

Pre Algebra 7

Pre-Algebra focuses primarily on linear relationships. Investigations will include an emphasis on expressions, equations, functions, linear equations, linear functions and inequalities, and linear relationships based on data. Also geometry and data and statistics will be covered as well as including a review of operations with rational and real numbers. Pre-Algebra 7 course is designed to educate the students on the fundamental skills that are necessary for students to succeed in Algebra 1 the following year.

MATH 7

The Math 7 course is designed to educate the students on the fundamental skills that are necessary for students to succeed in Math 8 the following year. The primary focus of this course are the five areas of the 7th grade PA Common Core, including the number system, expressions and equations, ratios and proportional relationships, geometry, and probability and statistics. In the course, problem solving and critical thinking skills will be enhanced.

MATH 7 Co-Teaching

The Math 7 course is designed to educate the students on the fundamental skills that are necessary for students to succeed in Math 8 the following year. This course will be co-taught. The primary focus of this course are the five areas of the 7th grade PA Common Core, including the number system, expressions and equations, ratios and proportional relationships, geometry, and probability and statistics. In this course, problem solving and critical thinking skills will be enhanced.

Social Studies

World History 7

Students will study the progress of humans from "cave people" to modern humans. Study will begin with Early Humans as they began to settle in various parts of the world and establish the major civilization of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome. Moving into the Middle Ages, students will explore how modern jobs, inventions, and governments became established through research of important individuals, civilizations and cultures. Students will examine how geographic, political and economic systems played a role in the existence, development, and sometimes, the decline of civilizations as different events and elements changed the course of history. The course will conclude with the Age of Exploration and the discovery and settlement of the New World. Major religions of the world and their impact on history will be incorporated.

SCIENCE 7

This course provides an overview of physical, earth/space and life sciences, technology, engineering and math (STEM) concepts. Instructional units are arranged around a driving question in which students engage in a series of unique learning experiences that are carefully designed to immerse them in science and engineering practices as they construct their understanding of important concepts. Students have opportunities to learn and apply engineering specific practices such as designing solutions to identified problems.

ELA Enrichment 7 A/B

Students will read a variety of literature and informational novels as they consider divergent concepts and ideas presented by the selections. Close reading will be used to grasp information, ideas, and details will be required as students create their own understanding through writing and discussion. The students will increase their analytical skills in comprehension and then demonstrate these skills through text-dependent writings.

MATH Enrichment 7 A/B

This course is designed to allow students to review fundamental skills and applications for 7th grade math concepts. These concepts include the five areas of the 7th grade PA Common Core, including the number system, expressions and equations, ratios and proportional relationships, geometry, and probability and statistics.

WELLNESS A/B

During the students' time in middle school, they will be exposed to the following individual and team sports on a three-year rotational schedule: jump rope, backyard games, individual aerobic/anaerobic and cardiovascular training, pickleball, badminton, hockey, speedball, football, soccer, basketball, volleyball, softball, ultimate frisbee and nitroball. By exposing students to many different activities, the goal is for each student to find an activity they enjoy and may pursue for a lifetime. While continuing to place an emphasis on personal fitness, Wellness 7 is designed to demonstrate strategies to improve or maintain a high quality of life through regular physical activity. Fitnessgram® testing continues as students work toward their personal fitness goals. Personal hygiene, decision making, nutrition, bullying/harassment prevention, and tobacco and drug awareness will be integrated into the wellness curriculum throughout the year.

ART 7 Rotation 9 Weeks

Art 7 focuses on understanding and applying the Elements of art and introduces the Principles of Design. Students learn about rhythm/ movement, pattern/ repetition, proportion /scale, focal point / emphasis, contrast / variety, balance / symmetry, and unity / harmony through hands-on making. By exploring techniques and developing skills, students create art with a variety of 2-D and 3-D media. Art history, appreciation, and criticism are integrated into the framework of this course.

APP CREATORS 7 Rotation 9 Weeks

App Creators introduces students to computer science and the concept of creating interactive apps for computers, tablets, and cellular phones. Students will design, code, and test fun interactive games and other applications featuring a variety of media and animated objects.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE 7 Rotation 9 Weeks

Students will learn basic food preparation skills including food safety and sanitation, healthy eating habits and risk factors, and the impact of media and technology on the food industry. The class will also include various computer modules with an introduction to child development, money and consumer skills, life and family skills, sewing, and heart fitness. Highlights of the course will include hands-on lab experiences including the opportunity to taste success!

DESIGN 7 Rotation 9 Weeks

Using the CAMS FabLab featuring advanced computer software and contemporary tools, students design, develop and fabricate test objects. Products and processes are typically individualized but can

also be developed for mass production. The Lab is designed to explore interests in graphic design, visual arts, business, computer-assisted design, physical and natural science, and mathematics, as well as engineering and other advanced technologies

ELECTIVE COURSES

INNOVATORS AND MAKERS 7 Semester

Innovators and Makers is a computer science course that teaches students basic coding. The coding is combined with a microcontroller, sensors, other input devices, and output devices to solve everyday problems. Students are challenged to collaborate, problem solve, and think creatively to create games and other interactive working projects. Other fun STEM projects are also included throughout the course.

Chorus 7 A/B

Chorus 7 currently meets every other day for the entire school year. Members are selected by audition. Members are required to attend two mandatory concert performances at night and sing in small groups for singing tests. Members are required to sing and memorize various styles of music selected by the instructor.

CONCERT BAND A/B

The Connellsville Area Middle School Concert Band is a performance-based, instrumental music course that explores classical and contemporary concert band literature with a difficulty level of 2 to 3 on a scale of 1 to 6. In addition to the concert band repertoire, the students will perform in a marching band setting as well as a small ensemble study that includes group lessons conducted using a pull-out rotational schedule.

DIGITAL MEDIA 1 Semester

Students will use video and sound equipment to create and edit their own electronic media. This includes video projects, photo editing, website creation, and digital portfolios to showcase student edits. Students will gain knowledge and troubleshooting skills on school recording equipment. This includes video cameras, SD cards, tripods, microphones, green screen software and various recording and editing platforms. This course will prepare students to create their own media content for school news and classroom projects. Through project-based learning activities students will work both individually and in teams to create digital content.

GIFTED* 7 A/B

The Gifted Program is intended to be a support system that addresses the emotional and social needs of the gifted learner by suggesting strategies for coping with life's situations. It is designed to challenge students to develop their interests and abilities through individual and group projects, extended challenges, and enriching experiences that emphasize higher-order thinking skills, and may include modifications to curriculum.

*Prerequisite - Students must be evaluated by the school psychologist to be included in the Gifted Program

Intro to SPANISH – 7-8 Semester

Exploratory Spanish will provide basic concepts and vocabulary that will not only enhance overall language skills, but provide the experience for students to choose a language for future study. Students will be "exploring" and discussing the language and culture of the Spanish speaking world as they learn the alphabet, parts of speech, and various greetings while developing a positive attitude toward the people who speak Spanish.

TECH ED /ROBOTICS 7 Semester

This course has two parts: Tech Ed and Robotics. The Tech Ed segment builds on the students' previous skills as they learn basic drafting and design to build a CO2 powered car. Internet research of friction and aerodynamics will be applied to car shape and structure, the challenge to build the fastest car possible. In the Robotics segment, students will develop, build and program a Lego NXT robot as they continue to learn about programming and problem-solving strategies. Teams of students will be assigned challenges and tasks for the robot to accomplish to demonstrate the students' understanding of the underlying skills.

INTRODUCTION TO JOURNALISM Semester

This course is an introduction to news writing for newspapers and other media. Emphasis is placed on basic methods of gathering information, conducting interviews, organizing a story, writing leads, features and reviews and developing research skills. Students will be exposed to the role of social media such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram in print and digital journalism. Students will gain real world skills in partnering with the production of the CAMSI Newspaper, The Fledgling.

CHAOS: The beginnings 7 / 8 Semester

America! The wild history of America can appropriately be summed up as CHAOS! The Cool History of America's Obvious Stuff is designed to introduce students to what America was and how being an American affects your everyday life. From the Wild Wild West and pop culture icons of today and our past, to the weapons that made us undefeated in World Wars. From the homerun king, to the technology that you use in your home today. From the food you eat to the shoes on your feet. This class will dig into history like no class has done before, Bring your energy, your interest, and our excitement to experience the CHAOS that is American history.

CAMS AVENGERS Semester

Community Activists in Middle School -Pursue your inner activist by participating in Community Service Projects on the local, national, and international level. Students will explain how common problems are addressed by organizations and governments and explore the history of the social and political groups affecting change in the world. Recycling, clean water, animal shelters: which is your passion? In service learning, students learn educational standards through tackling real-life problems in their community. This class will provide students with skills needed to understand the responsibilities of citizenship to become world leaders and global citizens You CAN save the world!

AROUND THE WORLD IN 90 DAYS Semester

You can EAT your way around the World! This World Cultures elective course is an interactive class which uses all kinds of online resources and hands-on projects selected by YOU. You'll answer questions like - "Why do we eat that? Who wore this? What is this holiday about?" You'll have fun demonstrating your knowledge of how ethnic background, social classes and current events have affected the meals, fashion, and activities of people in different countries and times around the world. After researching you'll get to create and try samples of different foods, make costumes and celebrate world holidays. The goal of this class is to give you the opportunity to relate information learned in History class to real life situations. One area of focus will be the unique foods and social activities which began with your relatives who came to our area of Southwestern Pennsylvania a long time ago in order to give you a sense of pride in your family and this place we call home.

ACADEMIC WORD ENRICHMENT 1 Semester

Academic Word Enrichment is an introduction to an in-depth study of the Latin and Greek elements that make up nearly three quarters of the vocabulary of the English language. This course will focus on the study and application of the derivation of English words and word families from their roots in ancient and modern languages by examining roots, prefixes, and suffixes. The connotative and denotative meanings of words in a variety of contexts and the reasons for language change are also analyzed. This course is designed to improve vocabulary skills, promote precision of expression in writing and speaking.