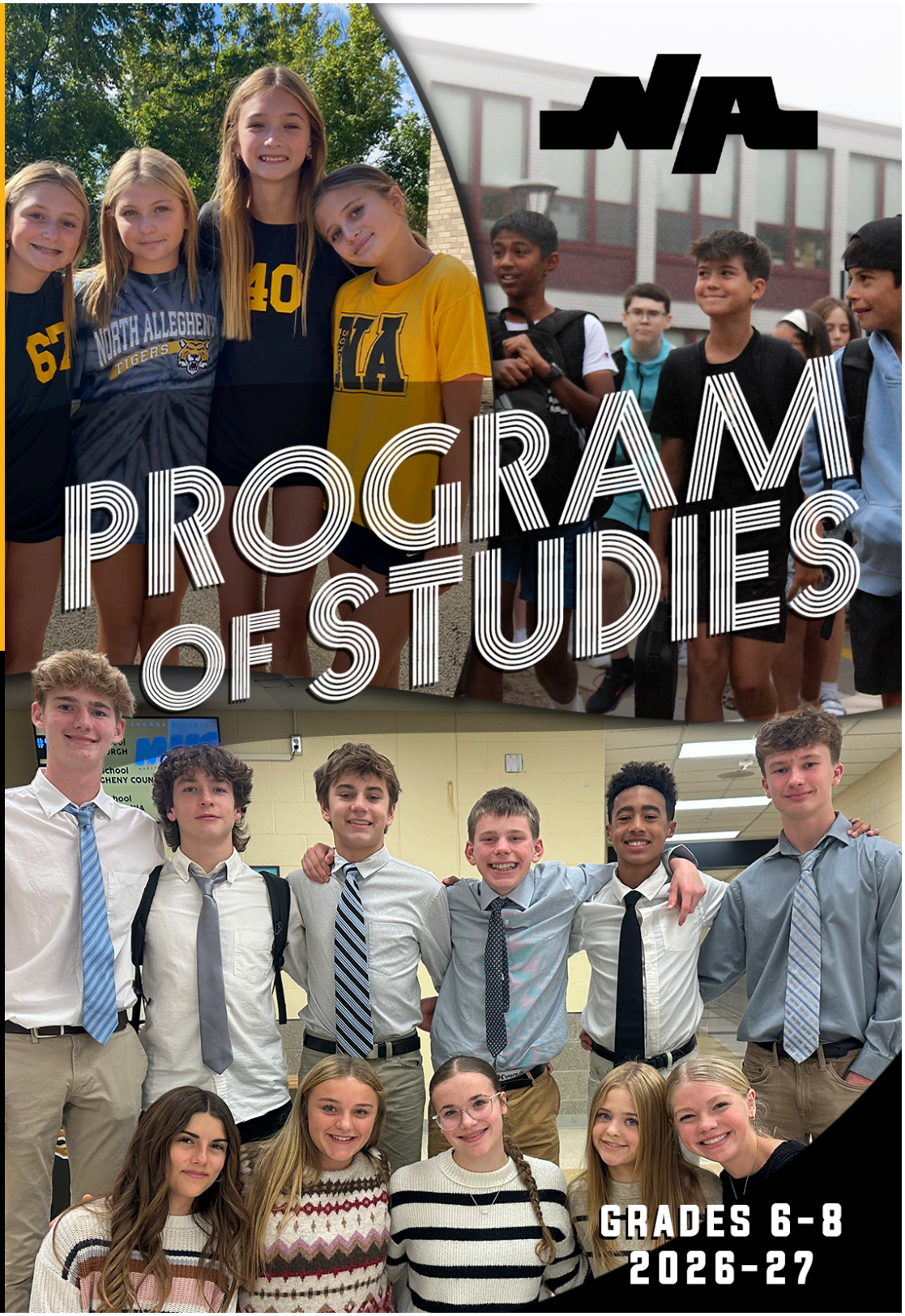
NORTH ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT



PROGRAM OF STUDIES

GRADES 6-8
2026-27

NORTH ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Middle Schools Program of Studies
2026-2027

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For more information, please contact:
EEO and Title IX Compliance Officer
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Introduction and Welcome Message

On behalf of the administration and staff of Carson, Ingomar, and Marshall Middle Schools, we are excited to share the 2026-2027 Program of Studies. Each middle school provides students with a predictable, supportive, and safe learning environment by:

- Promoting growth and exploration within a variety of activities
- Developing an open partnership between school and community
- Providing diverse educational opportunities which enhance the transition from elementary to the secondary experience
- Fostering an attitude of respect, esteem and responsibility among students and staff Developing academic and interpersonal skills so students achieve their potential and commit to lifelong learning

The North Allegheny Middle School Program has the shared goals of:

- Creating a Safe and Welcoming Environment for Everyone
- Encouraging Student Choice and Student Voice
- Ensuring All Students have an Informed and Supportive Adult

North Allegheny School District is focused on preparing every student for success in a changing world. We strive to ensure educational experiences are dynamic, rigorous, and individualized based on student interests and future goals. The purpose of our NASD Program of Studies is to provide students and their families with a comprehensive listing of courses available to students at the middle school. This document has been prepared to assist every student entering grades 6 through 8 in planning their educational plan during middle school. Our Program of Studies will help guide you to important information detailing curricular offerings, course selection, and the scheduling process.

The North Allegheny Middle School academic program provides significant opportunities for students to engage in rigorous and meaningful coursework. We encourage our students and families to sit down together and discuss the course selection process.

We encourage families to carefully review the course descriptions and requirements, as well as our scheduling process. Our middle and high school staff will work cooperatively with each student and family through the scheduling process. Our teachers work collaboratively with students and our school counselors to make course recommendations prior to scheduling. Students also complete elective course requests based on individual interests and goals. Students are encouraged to discuss any concerns with their teachers, counselors, and families.

Our middle school team looks forward to collaborating with each student and family through the scheduling process.

The building level administration reserves the right to make adjustments to the Program of Studies, including course offerings, graduation requirements, and scheduling, based on enrollment trends, staffing availability, state or federal mandates, evolving student needs, or other unforeseen circumstances upon approval of District level administration.

NORTH ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT
2025 – 2026 Program of Studies, Grades 6 – 8
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NORTH ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan 2022 - 2029

The mission of the North Allegheny School District is to prepare all students for success in a changing world.

This plan includes our strategic direction, focus areas, and strategic initiatives. Each initiative is defined by key objectives, as well as how they will be executed. Just like a compass provides direction, our plan is guided by four key principles: The North Allegheny Experience, Engagement, Support Services, and a Welcoming Environment. These areas are defined further in this plan; however, it is our hope that by following the direction of a compass our staff, students, and community will remember our guiding principles.

North Allegheny Middle Schools

Scheduling Process

The course offerings listed in this guide are tentative and subject to change, depending upon enrollment, general student interest, available staffing, and other resources.

All students are advised that registration for a course does not guarantee placement in that course or that the course will be offered in 2026-2027. The district will make every effort to limit changes in the course selection guide and will notify affected students promptly in the event of a change in the availability of a course for which a student has registered.

Scheduling 5th -> 6th Grade

We understand that the transition from elementary to middle school is a big milestone and can be overwhelming. To assist with the transition, the following opportunities will take place:

- Middle School Parent Transition Meetings will be held with middle school administrators and school counselors to explain the scheduling process and guide the student transition to middle school.
- Student Move Up Day takes place in the spring giving the 6th graders an opportunity to visit each middle school, tour the building, get to know the people, and learn what middle school is all about.
- Teachers and administrators will communicate Math and ELA placements.
- School counselors will meet with students in a variety of settings (large group, classroom, 1-1) to help guide the scheduling process and assist students and families with making the best, most appropriate choices for their middle school classes.

Scheduling 6th -> 7th Grade and 7th -> 8th Grade

- Informational Parent Meetings will be held with middle school administrators and school counselors to explain the scheduling process and guide the student transition.
- Teachers and administrators will communicate Math and ELA placements.
- School counselors will meet with students in a variety of settings (large group, classroom, 1-1) to help guide the scheduling process and assist students and families with making the best, most appropriate choices for their middle school classes.

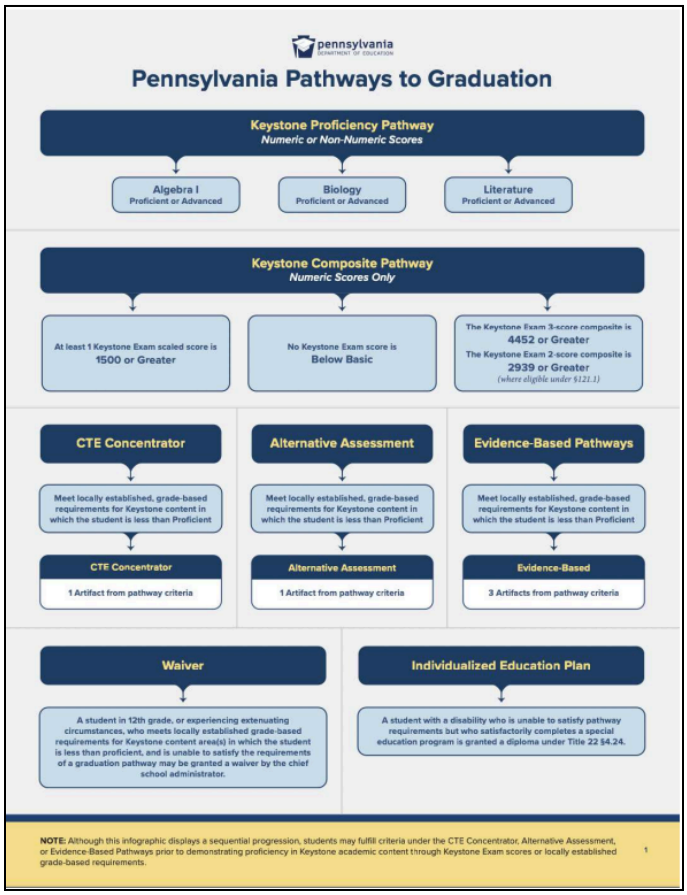
Scheduling 8th -> 9th Grade

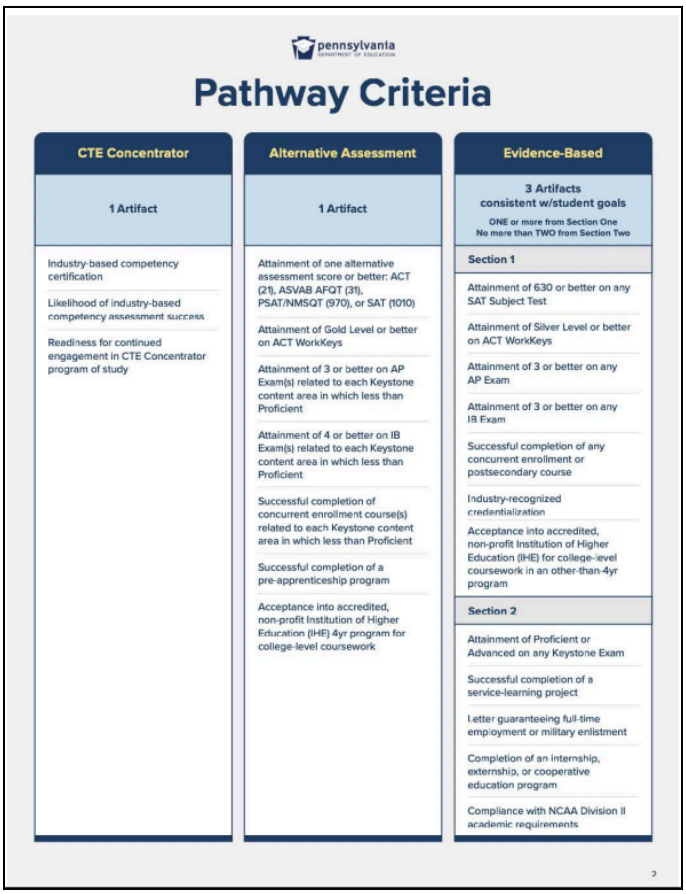
- Please refer to the North Allegheny High School Program of Studies (hard copies provided to all 8th grade students and available online) for scheduling information.

Keystone Exam Requirements and Information

Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments designed to assess proficiency in three subjects: Algebra I, Literature, and Biology. Keystone Exams are one component of Pennsylvania's system of high school graduation requirements and help school districts guide students toward meeting state standards. Federal regulations require schools to participate in state assessments. Keystone Exams are typically taken during the spring of the year in which a student is enrolled in the given course. Students must demonstrate proficiency on each of the three Keystone Exams. If a student does not receive a score of "Advanced" or "Proficient", the student will be scheduled to retest during the next designated testing window as established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. If a Proficient or Advanced score is still not obtained during a student's second attempt, additional pathways will be explored at that time. It is our goal that all North Allegheny students demonstrate a Proficient or higher score on each Keystone Exam.

Through Act 158 of 2018 and Act 6 of 2017, students graduating from a Pennsylvania public high school will have greater flexibility in reaching proficiency through five pathway options. These pathways provide greater flexibility to students; however, they are not considered until a student has made two attempts to reach Proficiency on each of the Keystone exams. These five pathways may be found below.





Early Graduation Requirements

Students generally complete their graduation requirements at the completion of their senior year; however, a student interested in graduating early must still achieve 24.0 overall credits to be eligible to graduate early. Students interested in graduating early must begin this process before scheduling their 9th grade courses to achieve all needed requirements by the District. Those requirements include the following:

- Have a discussion with the 8th, 9th or 10th grade counselor to review the Early Graduation process.
- Schedule and maintain exactly eight credits each year to complete 16 credits prior to their junior year.
- Complete an Early Graduation form with the District to certify this process and to ensure that all parties agree. These are available in the School Counseling Office.
- Students should be aware that English is a full year course that requires four years of completion. For this reason, any student interested in graduating early will need to complete their junior and senior English course during their junior year.
- No outside credits will be counted toward any District graduation requirement.
- Completion of all District requirements must be obtained. (Credits/PA Keystones)

Grading and Reporting Information

Report Cards

Student report cards will be issued through the PowerSchool System for parents to review at the end of each marking period. The letter grade for each subject is an evaluation of how well the student has met the requirements of the course. Courses are graded using A, B, C, D, or E.

Students will not pass to the next grade level if they earn failing grades in two or more full-time subject areas, or one full-time subject and two or more subjects that are taken part time. An option for summer school and/or credit recovery is available.

Honor Roll

Academic achievement will be recognized at the middle schools by placement on the Honor Roll. Eligibility for the Honor Roll is determined as follows:

1. No student will be eligible who has a grade below a “C” in any subject.
2. All graded subjects will be given equal weight.
3. Honor Roll membership is determined on a quality point average of 3.40.
4. Students must be on the Honor Roll three times to receive a certificate at the end of the year.

Transcript Information

All high school level classes taken by a middle school student will be recorded by class title and grade on the high school transcript once a student begins ninth grade. Credits earned for these classes will not be included when computing the Quality Point Average (QPA) but are on the transcript.

Middle School Courses

GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8
English Language Arts (ELA)	English Language Arts (ELA)	English Language Arts (ELA)
Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics
Social Studies	Social Studies	Social Studies
Science	Science	Science
	Exploratory World Language: French, German, Latin, and Spanish	World Language: French, German, Latin, or Spanish
Unified Arts (9 week rotation): Art Technology Education Family and Consumer Science Business, Computer & Information Sciences (BCIT)	Unified Arts (6 week rotation): Art Technology and Engineering Family and Consumer Science	Unified Arts (12 week rotation): Art Technology and Engineering Family and Consumer Science
Music: Band Orchestra Chorus General Music	Music: Band Orchestra Chorus General Music	Music Electives: Band Orchestra Chorus General Music
Health and Physical Education	Health and Physical Education	Health and Physical Education

Sixth Grade Course Descriptions

English Language Arts

Title: English Language Arts 6	Occurs: 2 Periods Daily
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 1060

This course provides a rigorous curriculum with opportunities for collaboration, social interaction, and exposure to rich media through novels, and short classic and contemporary texts. It challenges students and helps them meet rigorous academic expectations with:

- Access to diverse characters and points of view with an expansive digital library.
- Close reading instruction with various levels of text complexity.
- In-depth studies of texts, representing all genres.
- Multiple opportunities for developing foundational language and literacy skills, all while building content knowledge and helping students make meaning of literature.
- Practice and application of analytical writing to sources, with prompts and rubrics tied to the Common Core State Standards.

Title: English Language Arts Essentials 6	Occurs: 2 Periods Daily
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 1066

This course provides students with a supplemental ELA course to allow additional support in reading and writing skills. Students explore and improve their writing through integrated reading and response experiences. Selected texts include short stories, poetry, and novels in a variety of genres, including fiction, nonfiction, drama, and literary nonfiction. Students will develop and refine their skills with modifications and support.

Mathematics

Title: Math 6	Occurs: 2 Periods Daily
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 3062 (6M2)

Students enrolled in this course will experience PA Core Math Standards for grade 6. Students receive a foundation in multiplying and dividing decimals and fractions, understanding number sense with whole numbers and integers, area of two-dimensional shapes, surface area and volume of prisms, and working with expressions, equations, and inequalities which are the necessary concepts needed to be successful in pre-algebra. This course provides a foundation in statistics and how the change in one quantity affects other quantities and solving problems using ratios, rates, and percents. The course utilizes a research-based, balanced, instructional approach including inquiry-based learning and direct instruction. A smaller class setting is utilized to provide more individualized instruction and remediation. Additional attention is given to assist students in the acquisition of abstract topics.

Title: Academic Mathematics 6	Occurs: 2 Periods Daily
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 3063 (6M3)
Students enrolled in this course will experience PA Core Math Standards for grade 6. Students receive a foundation in multiplying and dividing decimals and fractions, understanding number sense with whole numbers and integers, area of two-dimensional shapes, surface area and volume of prisms, and working with expressions, equations, and inequalities which are the necessary concepts needed to be successful in pre-algebra. This course provides a foundation in statistics and how the change in one quantity affects other quantities: finding the mean, median, mode, and range of data, creating and interpreting bar, line, circle, and histograms, writing, comparing, and solving problems using ratios, rates, and percents, finding probability using outcomes, tree diagrams, and the counting principles. The course utilizes a research-based, balanced, instructional approach including inquiry-based learning and direct instruction.	

Title: Advanced Mathematics 6	Occurs: 2 Periods Daily
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 3064 (6M4)
Students enrolled in this course will experience PA Core Math Standards for grade 6. Students receive a foundation in multiplying and dividing decimals and fractions, understanding number sense with whole numbers and integers, area of two-dimensional shapes, surface area and volume of prisms, and working with expressions, equations, and inequalities which are the necessary concepts needed to be successful in pre-algebra. This course provides a foundation in statistics and how the change in one quantity affects other quantities: finding the mean, median, mode, and range of data, creating and interpreting bar, line, circle, and histograms, writing, comparing, and solving problems using ratios, rates, and percents, finding probability using outcomes, tree diagrams, and the counting principles. The course utilizes a research-based, balanced, instructional approach including inquiry-based learning and direct instruction. Assessments are designed to measure students' mastery of content at the synthesis and application levels. The Advanced Mathematics courses are intended to be more challenging and are designed to provide multiple opportunities for students to assume increased responsibility for their own learning and achievement. Advanced courses are designed for students who have demonstrated an advanced level of achievement in mathematics. The curriculum is distinguished by a difference in rigor and quality of work, not merely the quantity.	

Science

Title: Physical Science	Occurs: 1 Period Daily
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 4060
Sixth grade science consists of a combination of chemistry and physics concepts. The course begins with a review of how scientists solve problems applying critical thinking and the information available to them. Students study how scientists measure and use units to determine length, volume, mass, temperature, and time. Students are introduced to atoms, elements, and the periodic table. States of matter, physical and chemical properties, and change are included. Students are introduced to motion, momentum, and acceleration. They will study Newton's laws of motion, energy, and how energy transforms. The students conclude the year completing a project incorporating a review of Newton's laws of motion through the design, construction, and launching of model rockets.	

Social Studies

Title: World Geography	Occurs: 1 Period Daily
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 2060
Students undertake a year-long study of the geography of the world with emphasis on utilizing the tools and themes of geography to study the world's regions and people. The course begins with an overview of the essential elements of geography as the study of Earth and its people, including building skills related to the six essential elements of geography. Students engage in the study of physical and human geography with focus on the relationship between the physical Characteristics of the Earth and the historical and cultural development of its people. Students will engage in ongoing geographic skill development and global competencies by mapping and examining demographics in all regions of the world, locating and studying places of interest related to current events, and exploring global themes.	

Music Electives

Title: Band 6	Every other day (A/B day schedule)
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 6160
The North Allegheny Middle School Band program includes instruction on wind and percussion instruments. Band is a co-curricular performance class offered in 6th, 7th and 8th grades. Students are grouped according to grade level and instrument choice. This class meets every other day and the full ensemble meets during the activity period. In the small group setting, students focus on reviewing concepts, skills and information at a higher level of proficiency and understanding in keeping with the spiral curriculum. In class, emphasis is placed on proper breath support, embouchure development, tone quality, aural skills, intonation, instrument technique, music reading, listening skills, ensemble playing and teamwork. Students can expect to perform a varied repertoire of music and will learn appropriate rehearsal and concert etiquette. Students are not auditioned for inclusion in the program. Each group performs in two formal concerts (Winter and Spring) in addition to assemblies and other performances throughout the year.	

Title: Chorus 6	Occurs:Every other day (A/B day schedule)
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 6360
The North Allegheny Middle School Choral program is a natural progression from the elementary choral program. The goal of middle school vocal music is to support and develop the adolescent changing voice by performing literature that is vocally age-appropriate. Students in the middle school choral program will sing a diverse repertoire teaching them about the development of choral music. The courses include instruction in healthy vocal technique, proper tone production, and comprehensive musicianship. Each grade level incorporates an emphasis on independent musicianship including aural development, reading music, and part-singing. Students rehearse as a class every other day, and as a larger group during activity periods. Students are not auditioned for inclusion in the program. Students perform in two formal concerts throughout the school year (winter and spring) in addition to other requested school or community performances.	

Title: Orchestra 6	Occurs:Every other day (A/B day schedule)
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 6260

The North Allegheny Orchestra program begins in 3rd grade and is offered through 12th grade. To participate in orchestra at the middle school level, students should have a minimum of one year of pre-requisite experience playing violin, viola, cello, or bass. Middle School Orchestra classes meet every other day in classes of mixed instrumentation. Sections of each grade level will combine as a full grade level ensemble during the activity period.
Students focus on refining skills and building upon concepts learned at the elementary level. Emphasis is placed on proper instrument position and technique, and students spend time improving tone, intonation, rhythm skills, aural skills, and ensemble skills. Students can expect to learn literature of varying styles and time periods throughout the school year. Students will learn concert and rehearsal etiquette. Students will learn concepts such as shifting, performing in various key signatures, and bowing techniques that will advance skills in preparation for the high school program. Students are not auditioned for inclusion in the program. Each group performs in two formal concerts (Winter and Spring) in addition to assemblies and other performances throughout the year.

Participating in orchestra at the middle school level will prepare students for participation in high school orchestra, including both String Orchestra, Honors Chamber Orchestra (auditioned), Strolling Strings (co-curricular), and quartets as an extension of the class. Students will have the option to perform on trips every spring, and additionally will have opportunities to participate in PMEA Honors, District, All-State, and All-East orchestras.

Title: General Music 6	Occurs:Every other day (A/B day schedule)
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 6060

General Music is the study of music performance, history, theory, technology, and appreciation of the arts across various cultures approached by the following means:

1. Understanding types of music through the study of guided listening and moving to music.
2. Understanding and using music notation as a means to perform and compose music.
3. Understanding musical structures and forms by analyzing musical examples.
4. Creating music by improvising, composing, and arranging music for voices, instruments, computers, and electro-acoustical instruments.

General Music develops musical skills and understanding not readily acquired through ordinary school or social experiences. Students who have completed the prescribed sequence of General Music courses should:

1. Listen to music with understanding
2. Describe music verbally and/or non-verbally.
3. Read music notation.
4. Perform music.
5. Improvise and/or compose music.

General Music at the middle level includes World Music Drumming, Guitar Playing, Keyboard Playing, Music History, Music Theory, and Composition.

Unified Arts

Title: Visual Arts 6	Occurs: 9 Week Rotation
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 8160

Students explore a variety of media as they continue to build skills in drawing, painting, graphics, and sculpture. Theory is introduced to further elaborate upon ideas about color, perspective, and design. Teachers discuss artists, artwork, and provide technique demonstrations to develop the four strands of art education: creating, presenting, responding, and connecting; as well as problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

Title: Family and Consumer Science 6	Occurs: 9 Week Rotation
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 8260
The course is a nine week course with a focus on "the new teen." This hands-on course includes activities involving nutrition, food preparation labs (with emphasis on cooking techniques and kitchen safety), basic childcare, first aid, money management, and career readiness skills. Students will utilize Naviance to learn more about future career options. The class incorporates problem-solving skills, communication, and collaboration through individual and group projects.	

Title: Technology and Engineering Education 6	Occurs: 9 Week Rotation
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 8360
The course is a nine-week course which provides students opportunities to use tools and machines to create a product. Students will apply the design process to creatively solve problems through the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Design and Modeling curriculum. Students are introduced to the unit problem in the first activity and make connections relating to the design process throughout the lessons in the unit. Students learn and utilize methods for communicating design ideas through sketches, solid models, and mathematical models. Students will understand how models can be simulated to represent an authentic situation and generate data for further analysis and observations. Students work in teams to identify design requirements, research the topic, and engage stakeholders. Teams design a toy or game for entertainment, fabricate and test it, and make the necessary modifications to optimize the design solution.	

Title: BCIT 6	Occurs: 9 Week Rotation
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 8460

The nine week course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to attain skills in developing touch keyboarding of the alphabetic keyboard. Upon completion of this course, students should be able to perform the following objectives independently:

- The student will be able to use proper techniques when keyboarding (e.g. posture, touch method, finger position, hand-arm position).
- The student will be able to show improvement in accuracy and speed.

Keyboarding is a skill learned through appropriate and purposeful practice. The teacher will be active in observing and evaluating the process of learning and will provide feedback in the form of corrections (comments and demonstrations) to help the learner improve. The instructional program (EduTyping) is used extensively.

Digital Literacy is also a part of the BCIT curriculum. The platform (Everfi - Digital Wellness & Safety) covers numerous topics including: understanding online image; managing online relationships; understanding digital footprint; managing personal information; understanding the benefits and risks of online and offline time; recognizing digital dependency and when to take action; protecting digital data; recognizing digital threats; understanding digital rights, restrictions, and responsibilities; and knowing how to evaluate online content.

Health and Physical Education

Title: Health and Physical Education 6	Occurs: Every other day (A/B day schedule) 9 Week Rotation
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 7060

Health and Physical Education (HPE) in schools are integral components of a well-rounded education, contributing to the physical, mental, and social development of students, and preparing them for a healthy and active lifestyle. In 6th Grade HPE students will participate in Health Units focusing on Total Health (physical, social and mental/emotional health, analyzing influences & decision making) and The Life Cycle (growth & development, reproductive systems, and fetal development). Physical Education Units will include aerobic fitness, muscular strength, team sports, inline skating, and racquet sports.. These units will be scaffolded from one grade to the next to allow skill acquisition and exposure to a wide variety of activities. This class will focus on developing “Health and Physical Literacy” in students so they are empowered to make decisions that are in the best interest of their personal health leading to an enhanced quality of life.

Seventh Grade Course Descriptions

English Language Arts

Title: English Language Arts 7	Occurs: 2 Periods Daily
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 1070
Students will develop and refine reading and writing skills and strategies. Students will explore various genres and mediums, vocabulary development, literary elements, writing, and research. Students will be expected to analyze various forms of literature through discussion, written responses, and project-based activities. The course will focus on grammar, usage and mechanics integrated within reading and writing. Meaningful connections between the students' experiences and literature will be explored.	

Title: English Language Arts Essentials 7	Occurs: 2 Periods Daily
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 1076
Students will continue to develop and refine reading and writing skills and strategies with appropriate modifications and support. Students will explore various genres and mediums, vocabulary development, literary elements, writing, and research. Students will be expected to analyze various forms of literature through discussion, written responses and project-based activities with support. The course will focus on grammar, usage and mechanics integrated within reading and writing. Meaningful connections between the students' experiences and literature will be explored.	

Mathematics

Title: Math 7	Occurs: 2 Periods Daily
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 3072 (7M2)
Students enrolled in this course will experience PA Core Math Standards for grade 7. The course utilizes a researched-based, balanced, instructional approach including inquiry-based learning and direct instruction. The course exposes students to highly motivating and relevant problems woven with career-readiness and college-readiness preparation. The students receive a solid foundation in algebraic concepts. A smaller class setting is utilized to provide individualized instruction and remediation to meet the needs of students requiring more assistance and provide the opportunity for them to return to an academic pathway. The Math 7 curriculum provides a strong foundation in algebra while preparing students for future study in areas of geometry, probability, and data analysis.	

Title: Academic Pre-Algebra	Occurs: 2 Periods Daily
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 3073 (7M3)
Students enrolled in this course will experience PA Core Math Standards for grade 7. The course utilizes a researched-based, balanced, instructional approach including inquiry-based learning and direct instruction. The course exposes students to highly motivating and relevant problems woven with career-readiness and college-readiness preparation. The students will receive a solid foundation in algebraic concepts. The Pre-Algebra curriculum provides a strong foundation in algebra while preparing students for future study in areas of geometry, probability, and data analysis, with emphasis on mathematical reasoning and critical thinking.	

Title: Advanced Pre-Algebra	Occurs: 2 Periods Daily
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 3074 (7M4)
Students enrolled in this course will experience PA Core Math Standards for grade 7. The course utilizes a researched-based, balance, instructional approach including inquiry-based learning and direct instruction. The course exposes students to highly motivating and relevant problems woven with career-readiness and college-readiness preparation. The students will receive a solid foundation in algebraic concepts. The Advanced Pre-Algebra curriculum provides a strong foundation in algebra while also preparing students for future study in areas of geometry, probability, and data analysis, with emphasis on mathematical reasoning and critical thinking. There is a focus on challenging and rigorous content.	

Science

Title: Life Science	Occurs: 1 Period Daily
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 4070
Seventh grade science introduces students to the study of living things. Students will experience the following units; diversity of life, cells and heredity, comparative anatomy and physiology, and ecology and the environment. Students will conduct investigations, record and analyze data, and present their findings about the study of life. Animal dissections are used to compare internal anatomy of several animals to humans. The course units are an introduction to ninth grade biology course units.	

Social Studies

Title: Ancient Civilizations	Occurs: 1 Period Daily
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 2070
The course begins with a study of prehistory and early humans and continues with the ancient civilizations of the Middle East. Students will trace the development of civilization through the cultural and historical contributions of the early empires of Egypt, Greece, Rome, India, and China. The course focuses on the development of mapping and analytic skills, historical thinking, use of primary sources, and increased global competencies.	

Music Electives

Title: Band 7	Every other day (A/B day schedule)
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 6170
The North Allegheny Middle School Band program includes instruction on wind and percussion instruments. Band is a co-curricular performance class that is offered in 6th, 7th and 8th grades with students grouped according to grade level and instrument choice. This class meets every other day and the full ensemble meets during the activity period. In the small group setting, students focus on reviewing concepts, skills and information at a higher level of proficiency and understanding in keeping with the spiral curriculum. In class, emphasis is placed on proper breath support, embouchure development, tone quality, aural skills, intonation, instrument technique, music reading, listening skills, ensemble playing and teamwork. Students can expect to perform a varied repertoire of music and will learn appropriate rehearsal and concert etiquette. Students are not auditioned for inclusion in the program. Each group performs in two formal concerts (Winter and Spring) as well as assemblies and other performances throughout the year.	

Title: Chorus 7	Occurs:Every other day (A/B day schedule)
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 6370
The North Allegheny Middle School Choral program is a natural progression from the elementary choral program. The goal of middle school vocal music is to support and develop the adolescent changing voice by performing literature that is vocally age-appropriate. Students in the middle school choral program sing a diverse repertoire teaching them about the development of choral music. The courses include instruction in healthy vocal technique, proper tone production, and comprehensive musicianship. Each grade level incorporates an emphasis on independent musicianship including aural development, reading music, and part-singing depending on the grade and level of ensemble. Students rehearse as a class every other day, and as a larger group during activity periods. Students are not auditioned for inclusion in the program. Students perform in two formal concerts throughout the school year (winter and spring)in addition to other requested school or community performances.	

Title: Orchestra 7	Occurs:Every other day (A/B day schedule)
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 6270

The North Allegheny Orchestra program begins in 3rd grade and is offered through 12th grade. To participate in orchestra at the middle school level, students should have a minimum of one year of pre-requisite experience playing violin, viola, cello, or bass. Middle School Orchestra classes meet every other day in classes of mixed instrumentation. Sections of each grade level will combine as a full grade level ensemble during the activity period.

Students focus on refining skills and building upon concepts learned at the elementary level. Emphasis is placed on proper instrument position and technique, and students spend time improving tone, intonation, rhythm skills, aural skills, and ensemble skills. Students can expect to learn literature of varying styles and time periods throughout the school year. Students will learn concert and rehearsal etiquette. Students will learn concepts such as shifting, performing in various key signatures, and bowing techniques that will advance skills in preparation for the high school program. Students are not auditioned for inclusion in the program. Each group performs in two formal concerts (Winter and Spring) in addition to assemblies and other performances throughout the year.

Participating in orchestra in middle school will prepare students for participation in high school orchestra, including both String Orchestra, Honors Chamber Orchestra (auditioned), Strolling Strings (co-curricular), and quartets as an extension of the class. Students will have the option to perform on trips every spring, and additionally will have opportunities to participate in PMEA Honors, District, All-State, and All-East orchestras.

Title: General Music 7	Occurs:Every other day (A/B day schedule)
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 6070

General Music is the study of music performance, history, theory, technology, and appreciation of the arts across various cultures approached by the following means:

1. Understanding types of music through the study of guided listening and moving to music.
2. Understanding and using music notation as a means to perform and compose music.
3. Understanding musical structures and forms by analyzing musical examples.
4. Creating music by improvising, composing, and arranging music for voices, instruments, computers, and electro-acoustical instruments.

General Music develops musical skills and understanding not readily acquired through ordinary school or social experiences. Students who have completed the prescribed sequence of General Music courses should:

1. Listen to music with understanding
2. Describe music verbally and/or non-verbally.
3. Read music notation.
4. Perform music.
5. Improvise and/or compose music.

General Music at the middle level includes World Music Drumming, Guitar Playing, Keyboard Playing, Music History, Music Theory, and Composition.

Unified Arts

Title: Visual Arts 7	Occurs: 6 Week Rotation
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 8170

Students focus on further developing art skills, vocabulary, creativity, and concepts of design. Two-dimensional lessons may include painting, college, drawing, and printmaking. Three-dimensional projects may include functional or sculptural ceramic experiences. Art history, art appreciation, and art criticism are integrated into the lessons as a framework of the curriculum.

Title: Family and Consumer Science 7	Occurs: 6 Week Rotation
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 8270
This six week course focuses on "the teen consumer." Students will learn about our consumer rights and responsibilities through a variety of hands-on lessons applying concepts to real life. Students will learn different ways to incorporate sustainability into their daily lives. This course incorporates problem solving skills, communication, and collaboration through individual and group projects.	

Title: Technology and Engineering Education 7	Occurs: 6 Week Rotation
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 8370
The six-week course is designed to teach students problem solving and the engineering design process by engaging in flight and aerodynamics activities. The activities can include designing and developing wooden air cars, constructing foam gliders, straw rockets, hot air balloons and/or kites. The Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Flight and Space curriculum is utilized to discover aspects of flight such as Newton's Laws of Motion, forces of flight and how aircraft maneuver. The curriculum reinforces the design process through hands-on experiences.	

Health & Physical Education

Title: Health & Physical Education 7	Occurs: Every other day (A/B day schedule)
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 7070
Health and Physical Education (HPE) in schools are integral components of a well-rounded education, contributing to the physical, mental, and social development of students, and preparing them for a healthy and active lifestyle. In 7th Grade HPE students will participate in Health Units focusing on Substances (tobacco products, alcohol, and other drugs, and refusal skills) and Sexual Harassment (identifying harassment, how to report, as well as school & legal consequences). Physical Education Units will include aerobic fitness, muscular strength, team sports, inline skating, and racquet sports.. These units will be scaffolded from one grade to the next to allow skill acquisition and exposure to a wide variety of activities. This class will focus on developing "Health and Physical Literacy" in students so they are empowered to make decisions that are in the best interest of their personal health leading to an enhanced quality of life.	

Exploratory World Language

Title: Exploratory World Language	Occurs: Exploratory Rotation
Grade: Percentage	Course Numbers: 5470, 5179,5270, 5370
Exploratory World Language is a semester-long course in 7th grade. Students explore French, German, Latin, and Spanish. The content focuses on greetings, everyday expressions, numbers, calendar terms, geography, and culture. An important outcome of the Exploratory Program is the opportunity for students to make informed choices regarding the language they would like to study the following year, and for years to come.	

Eighth Grade Course Descriptions

English Language Arts

Title: English Language Arts 8 (ELA 8)	Occurs: 2 Periods Daily
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 1080
Students will experience a comprehensive study of literature and composition and will explore and improve various styles and types of writing in this high school preparatory course. Students will develop, refine, and polish writing skills through informational writing, argumentative writing, analytical writing, and narrative writing. Grammar and vocabulary skills will be strengthened through an integrated approach to reading and writing. Selected texts include short stories, narrative nonfiction, poetry, drama, and novels. Students will complete timed reading and writing in preparation for the PSSA ELA Exam.	

Title: English Language Arts Essentials 8	Occurs: 2 Periods Daily
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 1086
Students with a supplemental ELA course to allow for additional support in reading and writing skills. Students will explore and improve their writing through integrated reading and response experiences. Selected texts include short stories, narrative nonfiction, poetry, drama, and novels. Texts include a variety of genres such as literary nonfiction, fiction, dystopian, and drama. Students will develop and refine their skills with modifications and support.	

Mathematics

Title: Math 8	Occurs: 1 Period Daily
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 3082 (8M2)
Students enrolled in this course will experience PA Core Math Standards for grade 7. Students experience a solid foundation in preparation for the eighth grade Mathematics PSSA Exam. A smaller class setting is utilized to provide individualized instruction and remediation. Additional attention is provided to assist students in the acquisition of abstract topics. Course content is organized around equations, systems of equations, linear functions, data displays, functions, exponents, and geometry topics. Students will learn to model real-life situations using functions in order to solve problems arising from those situations.	

Title: Academic Algebra 1	Occurs: 1 Period Daily
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 3083 (8M3)
Academic Algebra 1 is the first formally structured course of the Academic sequence. The content is organized around the families of functions, with special emphasis on linear and quadratic functions, along with representing functions in multiple ways through inquiry-based learning in real world situations. The course offers lessons on probability and data analysis and numerous examples and exercises involving mathematical connections to Geometry. Algebra 1 provides instruction and practice on standardized test questions in a variety of formats including multiple-choice, short response, and extended response.	

Title: Advanced Algebra 1	Occurs: 1 Period Daily
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 3084 (8M4)
Advanced Algebra 1 is the first formally structured course of the Honors sequence. The content is organized around the families of functions, with special emphasis on linear and quadratic functions, along with representing functions in multiple ways through inquiry-based learning in real world situations. The course includes lessons on probability and data analysis and examples and exercises involving mathematical connections to Geometry. The course includes instruction and practice on standardized test questions in various formats including multiple-choice, short response, and extended response. The course is designed to lead into the Honors Geometry course and then the honors and advanced placement sequence in mathematics at the high school level. The Advanced Mathematics courses are more challenging than the Academic courses and are designed to provide multiple opportunities for students to take an increased responsibility for their own learning and achievement. These courses are designed for students demonstrating an advanced level of achievement in mathematics. The curriculum is distinguished by a difference in rigor, pacing, and quality of work, not merely the quantity.	

Title: Honors Geometry	Occurs: 1 Period Daily
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 3201
Honors Geometry is a rigorous course for students having Advanced Algebra 1 in grades 6, 7, or 8. Students will develop reasoning and problem-solving skills in the areas of congruence, similarity, properties of lines, properties of triangles, properties of quadrilaterals, and properties of circles. The course will include work with transformations, perimeter, area, circumference, surface area, and volume to solve real-world problems. Examples and exercises involving Algebra and trigonometry are included.. The course provides inquiry-based learning and practice on standardized test questions in a variety of formats including multiple choice, short response, and extended response. The Honors Mathematics courses are intended to be more challenging than Academic courses and are designed to provide multiple opportunities for students to take an increased responsibility for their own learning and achievement. The curriculum is distinguished by a difference in rigor and quality of work, not merely the quantity.	

Title: Honors Algebra 2	Occurs: 1 Periods Daily
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 3202
Honors Algebra 2 is a rigorous course for following the successful completion of Honors Geometry. The content of this course is organized around families of functions, including linear, quadratic, exponential, logarithmic, radical, and rational functions. Students will learn to model real world situations using functions. Honors Algebra 2 includes topics on probability, data analysis, geometry, and trigonometry. This course provides instruction and practice on standardized test questions in a variety of formats including multiple choice, short response, and extended response. Technology support will be used for learning Algebra 2 and preparing for standardized tests. The Honors mathematics courses are intended to be more challenging than academic courses and are designed to provide multiple opportunities for students to take an increased responsibility for their own learning and achievement. These courses are designed for students who have demonstrated an advanced level of achievement in mathematics. The curriculum is distinguished by a difference in rigor and the quality of work, not merely the quantity.	

Science

Title: Earth and Space Science	Occurs: 1 Period Daily
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 4080
This course offers students an opportunity to explore Earth, the planet on which we live. Units of study include geochemistry, minerals and rocks, natural resources, plate tectonics, volcanoes and earthquakes, geologic time, meteorology, and astronomy. Students learn through hands-on activities and real world investigations. Students will apply problem solving and critical thinking skills through data collection and interpretation, map reading, and math manipulations to discover the patterns and mechanisms that drive our planet. The practical use of the information learned is reinforced throughout the entire course of study in order for students to better analyze problems and be critical thinkers within their changing world.	

Social Studies

Title: U.S. History	Occurs: 1 Period Daily
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 2080
This course traces the events and people leading to the creation of the United States of America and its history through 1890. Students experience a sense of history and an appreciation for American cultures and traditions. Throughout the course, strands of citizenship, geography, economics and Pennsylvania history are woven into the larger context of early American history. Students are provided opportunities to develop problem solving and critical thinking skills, and engage in discussions surrounding current events. Topics in the course include the American Revolution, formation of our Constitutional government, Westward Expansion, Growth of Democracy, the Civil War and its aftermath. The course is the beginning of a three-year comprehensive course of study of American History continuing in grades 9 and 11.	

Music Electives

Title: Band 8	Every other day (A/B day schedule)
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 6180
The North Allegheny Middle School Band program includes instruction on wind and percussion instruments. Band is a co-curricular performance class that is offered in 6th, 7th and 8th grades with students grouped according to grade level and instrument choice. This class meets every other day and the full ensemble meets during the activity period. In the small group setting, students focus on reviewing concepts, skills and information at a higher level of proficiency and understanding in keeping with the spiral curriculum. In class, emphasis is placed on proper breath support, embouchure development, tone quality, aural skills, intonation, instrument technique, music reading, listening skills, ensemble playing and teamwork. Students can expect to perform a varied repertoire of music and will learn appropriate rehearsal and concert etiquette. Students are not auditioned for inclusion in the program. Each group performs in two formal concerts (Winter and Spring) as well as assemblies and other performances throughout the year.	

Title: Chorus 8	Occurs:Every other day (A/B day schedule)
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 6380
The North Allegheny Middle School Choral program is a natural progression from the elementary choral program. The goal of middle school vocal music is to support and develop the adolescent changing voice by performing literature that is vocally age-appropriate. Students in the middle school choral program sing a diverse repertoire teaching them about the development of choral music. The courses include instruction in healthy vocal technique, proper tone production, and comprehensive musicianship. Each grade level incorporates an emphasis on independent musicianship including aural development, reading music, and part-singing depending on the grade and level of ensemble. Students rehearse as a class every other day, and as a larger group during activity periods. Students are not auditioned for inclusion in the program. Students perform in two formal concerts throughout the school year (winter and spring)in addition to other requested school or community performances.	

Title: Orchestra 8	Occurs:Every other day (A/B day schedule)
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 6280

The North Allegheny Orchestra program begins in 3rd grade and is offered through 12th grade. To participate in orchestra at the middle school level, students should have a minimum of one year of pre-requisite experience playing violin, viola, cello, or bass. Middle School Orchestra classes meet every other day in classes of mixed instrumentation. Sections of each grade level will combine as a full grade level ensemble during the activity period.

Students focus on refining skills and building upon concepts learned at the elementary level. Emphasis is placed on proper instrument position and technique, and students spend time improving tone, intonation, rhythm skills, aural skills, and ensemble skills. Students can expect to learn literature of varying styles and time periods throughout the school year. Students will learn concert and rehearsal etiquette. Students will learn concepts such as shifting, performing in various key signatures, and bowing techniques that will advance skills in preparation for the high school program. Students are not auditioned for inclusion in the program. Each group performs in two formal concerts (Winter and Spring) in addition to assemblies and other performances throughout the year.

Participating in orchestra in middle school will prepare students for participation in high school orchestra, including both String Orchestra, Honors Chamber Orchestra (auditioned), Strolling Strings (co-curricular), and quartets as an extension of the class. Students will have the option to perform on trips every spring, and additionally will have opportunities to participate in PMEA Honors, District, All-State, and All-East orchestras.

Title: General Music 8	Occurs:Every other day (A/B day schedule)
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 6080

General Music is the study of music performance, history, theory, technology, and appreciation of the arts across various cultures approached by the following means:

1. Understanding many types of music through the study of guided listening and moving to music.
2. Understanding and using music notation as a means to perform and compose music.
3. Understanding musical structures and forms by analyzing musical examples.
4. Creating music by improvising, composing, and arranging music for voices, instruments, computers and electro-acoustical instruments.

General Music develops musical skills and understanding not readily acquired through ordinary school or social experiences. Students who have completed the prescribed sequence of General Music courses should:

1. Listen to music with understanding
2. Describe music verbally and/or non-verbally.
3. Read music notation.
4. Perform music.
5. Improvise and/or compose music.

At the Middle Schools, General Music includes World Music Drumming, Guitar Playing, Keyboard Playing, Music History, Music Theory, and Composition.

Unified Arts

Title: Visual Arts 8	Occurs: 12 Week Rotation
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 8180

Students express themselves creatively through drawing, graphics, sculpting, painting, metalwork, 3D ceramic sculpture, and jewelry to develop art skills and concepts. Composition, technique, the elements and principles of design, and attention-to-detail are explored. Art history, art appreciation, problem solving, and critical thinking are integrated into lessons.

Title: Family and Consumer Science 8	Occurs: 12 Week Rotation
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 8280
The eighth grade family and consumer sciences course is a 12 week course focusing on "the independent teen." This hands-on course incorporates activities involving managing personal finances, SMART goal setting, healthy lifestyle choices, nutrition, food preparation, areas of child development and the importance of literacy, care/maintenance of clothing, and community service. Students will utilize Naviance to learn more about future career options and courses at the high school level. The course incorporates problem-solving skills, communication, and collaboration through individual and group projects.	

Title:Technology and Engineering Education 8	Occurs: 12 Week Rotation
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 8380
The twelve-week course is designed for students to study areas of STEM including Robotics, Electronics, Computer Integrated Design, Game Development, and Advanced Manufacturing. Projects and problem solving methods will be a focus with the continued study of engineering, design, modeling, coding, and troubleshooting. Students will use VEXCode IQ to program robots through various challenges addressing sensor feedback and behaviors. The course will also be enhanced with the newest technologies including 3D printers, laser engravers and CNC routers, along with traditional tools and machines exposing students to a well-rounded experience. An emphasis is placed on safety, quality control, processes, evaluation of feedback, and recognition of technological problems to develop solutions.	

Health & Physical Education

Title: Health & Physical Education 8	Occurs: Every other day (A/B day schedule)
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 7080
Health and Physical Education (HPE) in schools are integral components of a well-rounded education, contributing to the physical, mental, and social development of students, and preparing them for a healthy and active lifestyle. In 8th Grade HPE students will participate in Health Units focusing on Interpersonal Relationships (communication, conflict resolution &, healthy relationships) and Communicable Diseases (transmission & exposure, STI's, symptoms & complications, prevention & screening). Physical Education Units will include aerobic fitness, muscular strength, team sports, inline skating, and racquet sports.. These units will be scaffolded from one grade to the next to allow skill acquisition and exposure to a wide variety of activities. This class will focus on developing "Health and Physical Literacy" in students so they are empowered to make decisions that are in the best interest of their personal health leading to an enhanced quality of life.	

World Language

Title: Spanish 1, French 1, German 1	Occurs: 1 Period Daily
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 5480,5180,5280
These courses are designed for students beginning their language study. The courses introduce students to the basic language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Equal emphasis is placed on all areas of study. At the same time, students learn to appreciate the similarities and differences among the cultures studied.	

Title: Latin 1	Occurs: 1 Period Daily
Grade: Percentage	Course Number: 5380
Students will comprehend the Latin language on a novice level through practice in reading, writing, and speaking. Students will relate Latin to English vocabulary and compare the structure of both languages. In addition, students will develop an understanding of the history and culture of the Romans, especially during the first century A.D. in Pompeii.	

Telephone Directory

Carson Middle School:
Telephone: 412-369-5520

	Direct Extension 412-369-
Dr. Caitlin Ewing, Principal	5425
Mrs. Janel Biagiarelli, Assistant Principal	5427
Mr. Chance Petro, Counselor (A – L)	5421
Ms. Courtney Vadnais, Counselor (M – Z)	5421

Ingomar Middle School:
Telephone: 412-348-1470

	Direct Extension 412-369-
Mrs. Carla Hudson, Principal	1473
Dr. Jason Harding, Assistant Principal	1472
Ms. Darla Allerton, Counselor (A – L)	1404
Ms. Lynne Earley, Counselor (M – Z)	1476

Marshall Middle School:
Telephone: 724-934-6060

	Direct Extension 724-934-
Dr. Dan Swoger, Principal	6036
Dr. Jenna Fraser, Assistant Principal	6037
Ms. Shannon Salpeck, Counselor (M – Z)	6038
Mr. Jeff Smalley, Counselor (A – L)	6038

District Administration:
Telephone: 412-366-2100

	Direct Extension 412-
Dr. Brendan Hyland, Superintendent	369-5419
Mr. David Deramo, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education	369-5896
Dr. Michele Dowell, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education	630-5826
Dr. Amy DeLuca, Director of Student Services	635-4110