

POTTSGROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL

PROGRAM OF STUDIES



2026 - 2027

Pottsgrove Middle School * 1351 N. Hanover Road * Pottstown, PA 19464
(610) 326-8243 * Fax:

SPECIAL MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS

It is very important that parents and students understand the importance of planning an educational program and then selecting courses of study to satisfy those plans. The entire scheduling of classes, the purchasing of supplies, textbooks and equipment, and the assignment of teachers is based on the information parents and students provide to the administration through the course selection requests. It is, therefore, necessary that courses be carefully selected. Courses that do not have sufficient enrollment may be dropped from the schedule.

This Program of Studies is a comprehensive collection of the curriculum and course offerings of the Pottsgrove Middle School. As you review this guide, please select courses that will challenge you as a learner. By challenging yourself academically, you prepare yourself for life beyond graduation. It is important that each student reviews their life goals and works with their parents or guardians to choose the best path to accomplish these goals. As you work through this process, remember our Teachers and Counselors are invaluable resources as you select courses and work to achieve your goals.

Administrative Contacts

District Personnel:

Dr. David Finnerty
Superintendent

Mr. Ron Linke
Business Administrator

Mr. Daniel I. Vorhis
Director of Education & Assessment

Dr. Ann Marie Lucas
Director of Pupil Services

Mrs. Erika Hinkle
Supervisor of Special Education

Ms. Paige Petrillo
Supervisor of Special Education

Board of School Directors:

Mr. Jay Strunk
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Mr. Bill Thompson
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Mrs. Ashley Custer
Secretary

Mrs. Patricia Grimm
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Mr. Jim Lopic

Mrs. Stacey Hebert

Mr. Louis Corominos

Ms. Tayna Taylor

Mrs. Annique Ruiz-Brown

Middle School Personnel:

Mr. Steve Palladino
Principal

Mr. Tom Frevert
Assistant Principal

Mr. Herb Beekley
Dean of Students

School Counselors
Mrs. Cristina Kleinfelter
Ms. DiAinni Dennis

(The Board declares it to be the policy of this district to provide an equal opportunity for all students to achieve their maximum potential through the programs offered in the schools regardless of race, color, age, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy and handicap/disability.)

The mission of the Pottsgrove School District is to educate and inspire all students to excel as productive, responsible citizens, and lifelong learners.

- Our students will attain their fullest potential while exhibiting a love of learning, a passion for excellence, and respect for humanity.
- Our students will demonstrate proficiency relative to state and district standards.
- Our graduates will be productive contributors to a changing global society.



INTRODUCTION

COURSES OF STUDY

As students enter middle school, they have the ability to take accelerated courses throughout their middle school career. This selection is based on certain criteria that includes teacher recommendation, Exact Path scores, state testing scores and grades.

An explanation concerning the program of studies includes the following:

The school day consists of 4 blocks on a 6-day cycle - A, B, C, D, E and F (example: Monday - A, Tuesday - B, Wednesday - C, Thursday - D, Friday - E, Monday - F, Tuesday A, etc.). Students are assigned each block to a class, study hall or lunch. Each class block is 84 minutes long.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

Students may not be enrolled in honors in a school year unless they receive approval of the teacher, department chairperson, and/or meet the course prerequisites and the honors level criteria as established by the departments. Students not meeting the basic course requirements will need to complete a waiver form, which can be obtained from the Guidance Department. The waiver requires agreement/signatures from the student, parent, and principal.

COURSE CHANGES AND WITHDRAWALS

Adjustments to student schedules must be addressed the first week of the academic year. Student schedules may only be changed for reliable academic reasons. Unfortunately, modifications to accommodate lunch/classes with friends or to change teachers will not be honored. Schedule changes after the first 10 days of school will not be permitted unless approved by the principal. Due to enrollment and program constraints, some sections are closed to additional students and our flexibility in changing schedules is limited.

COURSE LEVELS

HONORS COURSES are college preparatory courses that provide rigorous, in-depth study through independent interpretation, application, analysis and synthesis of course concepts, content and standards. Both in-class instruction and outside assignments focus on self-directed learning through activities and assessments that emphasize written and oral communication. Course pacing allows for additional opportunities for application and enrichment of course content.

ACADEMIC COURSES are college preparatory courses that provide rigorous, in-depth study through interpretation, application, analysis and synthesis of course concepts, content and standards. Both in-class instruction and outside assignments focus on teacher-supported, guided practice followed by independent demonstration of learning.

LEARNING SUPPORT COURSES provide content learning that prepares students for college and/or careers by providing literacy and learning strategies that support students in mastering content. The course provides a more structured learning environment, increased time spent in review, and reinforcement of major concepts to prepare for assessments and any outside assignments. Students must secure administrative or IEP team approval to schedule a Learning Support course.

LIFE SKILLS SUPPORT COURSES provide content and daily living skills learning that prepares students for college and/or careers by providing literacy and learning strategies that support students in mastering content. The course provides a more structured learning environment, increased time spent in review, and reinforcement of major concepts to prepare for assessments and any outside assignments. Students must secure administrative or IEP team approval to schedule a Life Skills course.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CORE SUBJECTS

ELA

COURSE LEVELS

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ELA 6	ELA 7	ELA 8
<p>Academic: ELA 6 Description: This course targets students' growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, discussion, reflection, and 21st century multimedia skills. Reading strategies, critical thinking skills, and vocabulary building comprise the main elements of reading instructions. Through fiction, nonfiction, and poetry reading, students will practice reading strategies and comprehension skills. The writing focus is on narrative, informational, argumentative, and research. The overall goal of the class is to increase the literacy and writing ability of students.</p>	<p>Academic: ELA 7 Description: This course targets students' growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, discussion, reflection, and 21st century multimedia skills. Reading strategies, critical thinking skills, and vocabulary building comprise the main elements of reading instructions. Through fiction, nonfiction, and poetry reading, students will practice reading strategies and comprehension skills. The writing focus is on narrative, informational, argumentative, and research. The overall goal of the class is to increase the literacy and writing ability of students. Prerequisites: ELA 6</p>	<p>Academic: ELA 8 Description: This course targets students' growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, discussion, reflection, and 21st century multimedia skills. Reading strategies, critical thinking skills, and vocabulary building comprise the main elements of reading instructions. Through fiction, nonfiction, and poetry reading, students will practice reading strategies and comprehension skills. The writing focus is on narrative, informational, argumentative, and research. The overall goal of the class is to increase the literacy and writing ability of students. Prerequisites: ELA 7</p>
<p>Honors not offered in 6th grade.</p>	<p>Honors ELA 7 Description: This curriculum is designed to challenge students with the opportunity to develop appropriate skills in writing, reading,</p>	<p>Honors ELA 8 Description: This curriculum is designed to challenge students with the opportunity to develop appropriate skills in writing, reading,</p>

	<p>viewing, word knowledge, listening, research, multimedia, and speaking skills as they prepare for a more independent role as advanced high school students. Through the use of class discussion, collaborative learning, and traditional literature (fiction, informational, literary nonfiction) students will increase their reading, verbal and communication skills. Building on previous skills, the students will continue to use the writing process skills to create writing samples of varied types. Students will also synthesize information and comprehend more complex texts in reading.</p> <p>Prerequisites: ELA 6 with at least an 90% final average, teacher recommendation, ELA PSSA score of Proficient/Advanced and Exact Path 80%-99% percentile; Must meet at least 2 out 3 with teacher recommendation. Non-negotiable- Exact Path scores</p>	<p>viewing, word knowledge, listening, research, multimedia, and speaking skills as they prepare for a more independent role as advanced high school students. Through the use of class discussion, collaborative learning, and traditional literature (fiction, informational, literary nonfiction) students will increase their reading, verbal and communication skills. Building on previous skills, the students will continue to use the writing process skills to create writing samples of varied types. Students will also synthesize information and comprehend more complex texts in reading.</p> <p>Prerequisites: ELA 7 with at least an 90% final average or Honors ELA 7 with at least an 80% final average, teacher recommendation, ELA PSSA score of Proficient/Advanced and Exact Path 80%-99% percentile; Must meet at least 2 out 3 with teacher recommendation. Non-negotiable- Exact Path scores</p>
<p>Learning Support ELA-6th Description: This course targets students' growth in the areas of reading strategies across genres, vocabulary acquisition and use, writing fluency and written expression, and listening and speaking skills. Instruction in this class will include direct, explicit instruction of skills that are not within the scope of grade level instruction, and the curriculum has been modified for pace and content. The overall goal of the class is to increase the literacy and writing ability of students in order for them to perform at grade level.</p> <p>Prerequisites: PA Common Core Grade 5</p>	<p>Learning Support ELA-7th Course Description: This course targets students' growth in the areas of reading strategies across genres, vocabulary acquisition and use, writing fluency and written expression, and listening and speaking skills. Instruction in this class will include direct, explicit instruction of skills that are not within the scope of grade level instruction, and the curriculum has been modified for pace and content. The overall goal of the class is to increase the literacy and writing ability of students in order for them to perform at grade level.</p> <p>Prerequisite Skills: PA Common Core Grade 6</p>	<p>Learning Support ELA-8th Description: This course targets students' growth in the areas of reading strategies across genres, vocabulary acquisition and use, writing fluency and written expression, and listening and speaking skills. Instruction in this class will include direct, explicit instruction of skills that are not within the scope of grade level instruction, and the curriculum has been modified for pace and content. The overall goal of the class is to increase the literacy and writing ability of students in order for them to perform at grade level.</p> <p>Prerequisites: PA Common Core Grade 7</p>
<p>Reading Intervention (6,7,8) Course Description- This class is designed to give students additional reading support using a research based program. This course addresses IEP goals in the areas of reading fluency and reading comprehension. Course Length- Full-year, Grades 6-8, 3x cycle, 40 min each class Course Prerequisite Skills –Placement in course determined by IEP team Course Requirements–Placement in course determined by IEP team</p>		
<p>Functional Reading (Life Skills)</p>		

Course Description: This course is designed to help students with significant reading disabilities to improve their literacy skills. Depending on the area(s) of student needs, students will participate in a literacy program, which targets the skills of decoding, fluency, comprehension, writing and speaking. For some students, this can include sight word programs and use of communication devices.

Course length: 60 minutes/day, 6 days per cycle, full year

Open to: All grade levels

Prerequisites: Participation in this course is based on the IEP Team decision.

Functional Language Arts (Life Skills)

Course Description: This course is designed to help students with significant reading disabilities to improve their literacy and writing skills. This course is designed to provide learners with the knowledge and understanding of language they need to achieve proficiency and reading comprehension. This class teaches children the words, concepts, and statements important to both oral and written language, and helps enable them to extend this knowledge to other areas of their development as well as leading students towards independence as writers. This class also teaches vocabulary, sentence, and organizational skills that underpin good writing.

Course length: 60 minutes/day, 6 days per cycle, full year

Open to: All grade levels

Prerequisites: Participation in this course is based on the IEP Team decision.

MATHEMATICS

COURSE LEVELS

HONORS COURSES are college preparatory courses that provide rigorous, in-depth study through independent interpretation, application, analysis and synthesis of course concepts, content and standards. Both in-class instruction and outside assignments focus on self-directed learning through activities and assessments that emphasize written and oral communication. Course pacing allows for additional opportunities for application and enrichment of course content.

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LIFE SKILLS SUPPORT COURSES provide content and daily living skills learning that prepares students for college and/or careers by providing literacy and learning strategies that support students in mastering content. The course provides a more structured learning environment, increased time spent in review, and reinforcement of major concepts to prepare for assessments and any outside assignments. Students must secure administrative or IEP team approval to schedule a Life Skills course.

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
<p>Academic: Math 6 Description: Common Core Math - 6th grade common core math focuses on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use Positive Rational Numbers ● Integers and Rational Numbers ● Numeric and Algebraic Expressions ● Represent and Solve Equations and Inequalities ● Understand and Use Ratio and Rate ● Understand and Use Percent ● Solve Area, Surface Area, and Volume Problems ● Display, Describe, and Summarize Data 	<p>Academic- Math 7 Description: Common Core Domains: *7.RP - Ratios and Proportional Relationships *7.NS - The Number System *7.EE - Expressions and Equations *7.G - Geometry *7.SP - Statistics and Probability. *Solve Problems Involving Geometry - Draw, construct, and describe geometrical figures and describe the relationships between them, solve real-life and mathematical problems involving angle measure, area, surface area, and volume.</p> <p>Prerequisites: Math 6</p>	<p>Academic- Math 8 Description: Common Core Domains: 8.NS - The Number System 8.EE - Expressions and Equations 8.F - Functions 8.G - Geometry 8.SP - Statistics and Probability</p> <p>Prerequisites: Math 7</p>
<p>Honors not offered in 6th grade.</p>	<p>Honors Math 7 Description: *Common Core Domains: -7.RP - Ratios and Proportional Relationships -7.NS - The Number System -7.EE - Expressions and Equations -7.G - Geometry -7.SP - Statistics and Probability</p>	<p>Algebra 1 Description: In this rigorous introductory Algebra I course, students will learn algebraic principles and apply them to the world around them. Students will be prepared for success on Keystone Exams.</p> <p>Prerequisites: Honors Math 7 with at least</p>

	<p>-8.NS - The Number System -8.EE - Expressions and Equations -8.G - Geometry</p> <p>Prerequisites: Math 6 with at least an 90% final average, teacher recommendation, Exact Path Spring Diagnostic using PA aligned cut scores; and 18/30 on the McGraw-Hill Algebra Diagnostic Placement Test.</p> <p>Must meet at least 3 out 4</p> <p>Non-negotiable: PSSA Raw Scores- Students must score within the proficient range in order to qualify.</p> <p>Exact Path Cut Scores</p>	<p>an 85% final average or Math 7 with 90% final average, teacher recommendation, and Exact Path Spring Diagnostic using PA aligned cut scores, 18/30 on McGraw-Hill Algebra Diagnostic and Placement Test</p> <p>Must meet at least 3 out 4</p> <p>Non-negotiable: PSSA Raw Scores- Student must score top 1/3 of Proficient (1076 or higher) or Advanced</p> <p>Exact Path Cut Scores</p>
		<p>Geometry Description: This course is designed to emphasize the study of the properties and applications of common geometric figures in two and three dimensions. It includes the study of transformations and right triangle trigonometry. Inductive and deductive thinking skills are used in problem solving situations, and applications to the real world are stressed. Other topics include logic and proof, parallel lines and polygons, perimeter and area analysis, volume and surface area analysis, similarity and congruence, trigonometry, and analytic geometry. The Mathematical Practice Standards apply throughout this course.</p> <p>Prerequisites: 7th Grade Algebra and proficiency on Algebra Keystone (scores provided in the summer)</p>
<p>Learning Support Math 6 Description: This course targets students' growth in mathematics: working on increasing math calculations skills, math concepts and application skills, and math problem solving skills focusing on everyday life situations. Instruction in this class will include direct, explicit instruction of skills that are not within the scope of grade level instruction, and the curriculum has been modified for pace and content. Lessons are structured to include repetition, student participation, collaboration, and independent and class practice. The overall goal of the class is to increase the mathematical ability of students in order for them to perform at grade level.</p>	<p>Learning Support Math 7 Description: This course targets students' growth in mathematics: working on increasing math calculations skills, math concepts and application skills, and math problem solving skills focusing on everyday life situations. Instruction in this class will include direct, explicit instruction of skills that are not within the scope of grade level instruction, and the curriculum has been modified for pace and content. Lessons are structured to include repetition, student participation, collaboration, and independent and class practice. The overall goal of the class is to increase the mathematical ability of students in order for them to perform at grade level.</p>	<p>Learning Support Math 8 Description: This course targets students' growth in mathematics: working on increasing math calculations skills, math concepts and application skills, and math problem solving skills focusing on everyday life situations. Instruction in this class will include direct, explicit instruction of skills that are not within the scope of grade level instruction, and the curriculum has been modified for pace and content. Lessons are structured to include repetition, student participation, collaboration, and independent and class practice. The overall goal of the class is to increase the mathematical ability of students in order for them to perform at grade level.</p>

Prerequisites: PA Common Core Grade 5	Prerequisites: PA Common Core Grade 6	Prerequisites:- PA Common Core Grade 7
<p>Math Intervention (6,7,8) Course Description: Math Intervention using a research based math program addressing IEP goals in mathematics in the areas of math computation and concepts and applications. Course Length Full-year, Grades 6-8, 3x cycle, 40 min each class Course Prerequisite Skills –Placement in course determined by IEP team Course Requirements–Placement in course determined by IEP team</p>		
<p>Functional Math (Life Skills) This course is a sub-separate program for students in Grades 6-8, designed to help students with significant number sense functional math skill deficits. The program provides an essential learning environment tailored to the students. In Functional Math, students will understand and apply numbers, ways of representing numbers, the relationships among numbers and different number systems. Additionally, students will be covering daily math skills that can be utilized during and outside of the classroom, which include skills such as money, time, measurement, etc.</p> <p>Course length: 60 minutes/day, 6 days per cycle, full year Open to: All grade levels Prerequisites: Participation in this course is based on the IEP Team decision.</p>		

Typical Math Sequences in Grades 6-12

Although three math courses must be taken during grades 9-12 to meet state graduation requirements, it is recommended that students take a math class each year. The advice of the student’s current math teacher should be sought before selecting the next math course.

6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Electives
CC Math 6	CC Math 7 Honors	8 th Grade Algebra I	Honors Algebra II* (MTH2510) and Honors Geometry* (MTH2500)	Honors Trig* (MTH3520)	AP Calc AB** (MTH3710)	AP Stats** (MTH3730)	Prob & Stat (MTH4330)
					Calculus (MTH4340) and AP Stats** (MTH3730)	AP Calc BC** (MTH4710)	AP Stats (MTH3730)
		8 th Grade Geometry	Honors Geometry* (MTH2500)	Honors Algebra II* (MTH2510)	Honors Trig* (MTH3520)	AP Stats** (MTH3730)	AP Calc AB** (MTH3710)
			Academic Geometry (MTH2300)	Academic Algebra II (MTH2310)	Academic Trig (MTH3320)	AP Calc AB** (MTH3710) or Calculus (MTH4340)	Calculus III** (MTH4720)

						AP Stats** (MTH3730) or Prob & Stat (MTH4330)	Intro to Computer Science (CIS1300)
							Computer Programming (CIS2300)
CC Math 6	CC Math 7	CC Math 8	Academic Algebra I (MTH1320)	Honors Geometry* (MTH2500)	Honors Algebra II* (MTH2510)	Honors Trig* (MTH3520)	AP Comp Sci Principles** (CIS2700)
				Academic Geometry (MTH2300)	Academic Algebra II (MTH2310)	Academic Trig (MTH3320)	AP Computer Science A** (CIS3700)
							Math for Financial Literacy (MTH3370)
							Decision Making in Sports* (MTH5000)

SCIENCE

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6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Academic- Science 6 Description: Earth and space science is about Earth and its place within the solar system and universe. It includes the study of the Earth's land, oceans, atmosphere, and all the life that lives there from animals to plants. Topics that will be covered throughout the course are : <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Methods of Science 2. Exploring Earth 3. Geologic Changes 4. Weather and Climate 	Academic- Science 7 Description: During the course of the year, students in this class will learn a variety of things related to life on this planet. We will look at life beginning with the smallest unit, a cell, and how these cells can combine and work together to form more complex organisms. We will also look at how diversity occurs within species, as well as how organisms are organized scientifically. Prerequisites: Science 6	Academic- Science 8 Description: Physical science is the study of inanimate natural objects, including chemistry and physics. During their time in 8th grade, students will be exposed to this fascinating subject. Students will be challenged to master new vocabulary, demonstrate critical thinking skills, respond to thought provoking questions, perform laboratory experiments, create projects, collaborate with peers, and participate in many other activities. This course is designed to prepare students for the next level of their education. Topics that will

5. Water and Other Resources		<p>be covered throughout the course are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scientific Inquiry 2. Chemistry Basics 3. Force and Motion 4. Work and Energy 5. Sound and Light Electricity and Magnetism <p>Prerequisites: Science 7</p>
Honors not offered in 6th grade.	Honors not offered in 7th grade.	<p>Honors Science 8</p> <p>Description:</p> <p>Prerequisites: At least an 80% final average-completion of Algebra I or Honors Math 7; Math PSSA score of Proficient/Advanced and Exact Path 80%-99% percentile in Math</p> <p>Must meet at least 3 out 4 with teacher recommendation.</p>

SOCIAL STUDIES

COURSE LEVELS

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6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
<p>Academic - SS 6 Description: <u>World History - Early Humans to Ancient China</u>: The purpose of the sixth grade social studies class is to expose students to the study of the beginning of early civilizations all the way through Ancient China. Students will study the social, political, religious, and economic foundations for early civilizations progressing through Ancient China. Students will start the year with analyzing the shift from early hominids and nomadic societies to become agricultural societies. Students will also study the development of civilizations; including the areas of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, and China. The study of these civilizations will include the impact of geography, early history, cultural and religious development and political and economic change.</p>	<p>Academic - SS 7 Description: <u>World History - Ancient Greece to the Renaissance</u>: This course emphasizes the economic, geographic, and cultural development of both the ancient and early modern world. Throughout their journey, students will research various civilizations and time periods beginning with Ancient Greece and the Roman Empire. Upon completion of the Roman Empire, students will discuss the effects of the fall of the Roman Empire and the economic, political, social and religious development of the Medieval period. Finally, students will investigate the emergence of early modern Europe with the development of the Renaissance. Throughout the course students will have opportunities to practice research, geography, reading, and map skills. Prerequisites: SS 6</p>	<p>Academic - SS 8 Description: <u>United States History: European Exploration to 1865</u>: This course begins with an examination of the reasons for European Exploration and the economic, geographic, religious, and cultural characteristics of the original thirteen colonies. Students discuss the road to revolution, identify the major battles and leaders of the American Revolution, and investigate the development of the United States Constitution. The presidencies of Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Jackson, and Lincoln are highlighted. As students move towards the beginnings of the Civil War, the rapidly changing United States is investigated with a focus on westward expansion and continued economic/cultural differences in regard to the north, south, and east. The course ends with an overview and discussion of the events leading to the Civil War. Students practice geography skills, map skills, reading comprehension, informative and persuasive writing, and primary and secondary source analysis. Prerequisites: SS 7</p>
<p>Honors not offered in 6th grade.</p>	<p>Honors not offered in 7th grade.</p>	<p>Honors SS 8 Description: This accelerated course explores the same content at a quicker pace.</p>

		<p>Students examine primary sources, analyze the economic, political, and cultural aspects of the new nation and debate decisions/opinions of key historical figures.</p> <p>Prerequisites: SS 7 with at least an 90% final average, teacher recommendation, ELA PSSA score of Proficient/Advanced and Exact Path 80%-99% percentile; Must meet at least 2 out 3 with teacher recommendation.</p> <p>Non-negotiable - Exact Path scores</p>
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ENCORE

Music 6	Music 7	Music 8
<p>Encore: Music 6 Description: This course focuses on the elements of music, including pitch, rhythm, expression, mood, and form. Through the study of each element, students engage in classroom performance and analysis of musical examples. In addition, students explore the art of Foley and the use of sound in film. Course Length: 1 semester, 3 days/cycle</p>	<p>Encore: Music 7 Description: This course focuses on music from different cultures around the world. Students explore the role of music in various cultures and analyze different musical styles. In addition, students engage in performance through the use of classroom instruments. Course Length: 1 trimester, 3 days/cycle</p>	<p>Encore: Music 8 Description: This course focuses on the development and cultural impact of American Popular Music in the 20th/21st centuries. Students analyze and perform examples of various styles of popular music in American culture, while also exploring the relationship between popular music and American culture. Students also engage in performance through the use of classroom instruments. Course Length: 1 semester, 2 days/cycle</p>

Library 6	Library 7	Library 8
<p>Encore: Library 6 Description: This course focuses on utilizing the resources of the Middle School Library by expanding the students' experiences with quality literature and strengthening their research skills. Course Length: – 3 times per cycle for a trimester</p>	<p>Encore: Library 7 Description: This course focuses on continuing to utilize the resources of the Middle School Library by expanding the students' experiences with quality literature, strengthening their research skills and recognizing the importance of digital citizenship. Course Length – 3 times per cycle for a trimester</p>	<p>Encore: Library 8 Description: This course focuses on continuing to utilize the resources of the Middle School Library by expanding the students' experiences with quality literature and strengthening their research skills. Course Length – – 3 times per cycle for a trimester</p>

Family Consumer Science 6	Family Consumer Science 7	Family Consumer Science 8
<p>Encore: FACS 6 Description: The 6th grade FACS curriculum is divided into 3 units: Career, Community, & Family Connections & Interpersonal Relationships (aka Character Education); Textile, Fashion, and Apparel (Basic Sewing skills); Food Science, Dietetics, & Nutrition (Basic Cooking skills). Course Length: 1 semester, 3 days/cycle</p>	<p>Encore: FACS 7 Description: The primary focus of the 7th grade FACS curriculum is the Textile, Fashion, and Apparel (Basic Sewing skills) unit. Ideally, 7th graders use the basic sewing skills used in 6th grade and build on what they learned. Additional hand-stitches are added and button sewing is included. Students move onto learning the parts and functions of a sewing machine. In the process of sewing their project, students learn about the nature of fabrics, pattern reading, and textile/garment construction. The Career, Community, & Family Connections & Interpersonal Relationships unit is incorporated to maintain the concepts and skills learned in 6th grade. In this way, students help others learn basic sewing skills and use of the sewing machine. of students.</p>	<p>Encore: FACS 8 Description: The 8th grade FACS curriculum is divided into 2 units: Textile, Fashion, and Apparel and Food Science, Dietetics, & Nutrition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Textile, Fashion, and Apparel teaches or re-teaches threading a needle, basic hand-sewing stitches (basting, running, overcast, and back stitches), and button sewing. Students move onto learning or refreshing their knowledge of sewing machine parts and their functions. The Wristlet Key Fob is a small sewing project that students create for themselves or to be given as a gift. The Career, Community, &

	<p>Course length- 1 Trimester (12 weeks); 3 times/rotation; ~40 minutes/class</p>	<p>Family Connections & Interpersonal Relationships unit is incorporated to maintain the concepts and skills learned in 6th and 7th grade. In this way, students help others learn basic sewing skills and use of the sewing machine. ~Six weeks are used to teach basic sewing skills and sew a project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food Science, Dietetics, & Nutrition teaches or re-teaches kitchen tools and their functions, the layout of a kitchen, recipe reading, and utilizing kitchen equipment such as a microwave, oven, and crockpot. More advanced recipes are taught and made to build on the skills learned in 6th grade. Students learn the art of making a food gift, try copycat recipes, and time-saving cooking for the family. Students work collaboratively while making a food item which circles back to the Career, Community, & Family Connections & Interpersonal Relationships unit. <p>Course length- 1 trimester 30 classes</p>
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Computer 6	Computer 7	Computer 8
<p>Encore: Computer 6 Description: The computer course is designed to empower students with 21st Century skills to help students develop the knowledge and skills that will enable them to be productive and innovative learners in the ever-changing world. The curriculum is organized to include the following five focus areas: Ethical Use of Technology, Keyboarding, Digital Storytelling, Productivity Applications (Google Doc, Google Slides and Google Sheet) and Coding/Program. Each focus area helps students develop the essential skills of communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity.</p>	<p>Encore: Computer 7 Description: This course targets students' growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, discussion, reflection, and 21st century multimedia skills. Reading strategies, critical thinking skills, and vocabulary building comprise the main elements of reading instructions. Through fiction, nonfiction, and poetry reading, students will practice reading strategies and comprehension skills. The writing focus is on narrative, informational, argumentative, and research. The overall goal of the class is to increase the literacy and writing ability of students.</p> <p>Course Length: 1 Trimester- 3 days per</p>	<p>Encore: Computer 8 Description: This course targets students' growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, discussion, reflection, and 21st century multimedia skills. Reading strategies, critical thinking skills, and vocabulary building comprise the main elements of reading instructions. Through fiction, nonfiction, and poetry reading, students will practice reading strategies and comprehension skills. The writing focus is on narrative, informational, argumentative, and research. The overall goal of the class is to increase the literacy and writing ability of students.</p> <p>Prerequisites: ELA 7 Course Length: 1 Trimester- 3 days per</p>

<p>Students will also use these skills and technology tools to access and evaluate information, and to create and present relevant products. The application of these tools and skills will be emphasized using project based learning. The computer program is progressive and developmentally sequential across grade levels. It reflects the increasing complexity and rigor that will provide students with the foundations to be college ready or for a career in tomorrow's workforce.</p> <p>Course Length: 1 Trimester- 3 days per cycle; 40 minute classes - 30 class periods per trimester.</p>	<p>cycle; 40 minute classes - 30 class periods per trimester</p>	<p>cycle; 40 minute classes - 30 class periods per trimester</p>
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Technology Education 6	Technology Education 7	Technology Education 8
<p>Encore: Tech Ed 6</p> <p>Description: This course focuses on using the engineering design process. Students are encouraged to use critical thinking and problem solving skills by completing hands-on build projects. 6th grade specifically covers how energy works, the different types of energy, and alternative forms of energy.</p> <p>Course Length: 1 Trimester- 3 days per cycle; 40 minute classes - 30 class periods per trimester</p>	<p>Encore: Tech Ed 7</p> <p>Description: This course continues exploring the engineering design process. Students are encouraged to use critical thinking and problem solving skills by completing hands-on build projects. 7th grade specifically covers environmental literacy & sustainability as we explore environmental issues and the human interactions, positive and negative, with our environment.</p> <p>Course Length: 1 Trimester- 3 days per cycle; 40 minute classes - 30 class periods per trimester</p>	<p>Encore: Tech Ed 6</p> <p>Description: This course builds upon our understanding of the engineering design process. Students are encouraged to use critical thinking and problem solving skills by completing hands-on build projects. 8th grade specifically covers structural engineering and integrity.</p> <p>Course Length: 1 Trimester- 3 days per cycle; 40 minute classes - 30 class periods per trimester</p>

Art Education 6	Art Education 7	Art Education 8
<p>Encore: Art 6</p> <p>Description: This course focuses on the Elements of Art including review of line, color, value, shape, form, space and texture in a composition. Students will engage and persist with two dimensional projects and development of artistic techniques including drawing, painting, and a variety of paper</p>	<p>Encore: Art 7</p> <p>Description: Continuing with the foundations of the Elements of Art, 7th grade explores emphasis of the Principles of Design in compositions. Students will engage with color theory, values in artwork, exploring various illustration techniques, perspective strategies, and utilize a variety of painting</p>	<p>Encore: Art 8</p> <p>Description: This course highlights an Art Studio format reinforcing and refining the Elements of Art and Principles of Design in artwork. A variety of warm-up sketching activities encourage exploring various art history movements and connections to influential artists. Main projects</p>

Art Education 6	Art Education 7	Art Education 8
<p>collage strategies. Three dimensional exploration includes recycled sculpture projects and introduction to clay. Students will express and expand on materials use and artist statements at the completion of each unit.</p> <p>Course Length: 1 Trimester- 3 days per cycle; 40 minute classes - 30 class periods per trimester</p>	<p>mediums and tools. Three dimensional methods include clay, sculpture materials and hands-on tasks. Students will express artist statements and project reflections at the completion of each unit.</p> <p>Course Length: 1 Trimester- 3 days per cycle; 40 minute classes - 30 class periods per trimester</p>	<p>include emphasis on observational drawing techniques, abstract art, printmaking, canvas paintings and three dimensional methods including clay and various sculpture materials and tasks. Students will express artist statements and project reflections at the completion of each unit.</p> <p>Course Length: 1 Trimester- 3 days per cycle; 40 minute classes - 30 class periods per trimester</p>

Health 6	Health 7	Health 8
<p>Encore: Health 6 Description: Unit 1 - Substance Abuse including the 8 categories of drugs - stimulants, depressants, hallucinogens, narcotics, anabolic steroids, inhalants, cannabis, OTC drugs Unit 2 - Tobacco Unit 3 - Creative Health - Too Good for Drugs curriculum inclusive of 10 lessons.</p> <p>Course Length: 1 Trimester, 30 class periods</p>	<p>Encore: Health 7 Description: Unit 1 Alcohol - Stages and Theories of AUD Unit 2 Social Media Unit 3 Systems of the Body</p> <p>Course Length: 1 triTrimester, 3 days a cycle - 300 minute class periods</p>	<p>Encore: Health 8 Description: Health class encourages students to learn how to recognize health problems, as well as, develop and maintain an overall state of well-being for now and the future. *Units of study will include personal and community health; mental, emotional, and social health; as well as growth, development, and sexual health.</p> <p>Course Length - 1 Trimester - 3 days a cycle - 40 minute class periods</p>

Physical Education 6	Physical Education 7	Physical Education 8
<p>Encore: PE 6 Description: Physical education is a course taught that focuses on developing physical fitness. P.E. classes focus on developing skill and confidence, maintaining physical fitness, learning about personal health and wellness, and demonstrating positive social skills. PE class provides cognitive content and instruction designed to develop motor skills, knowledge, and behaviors for physical activity and physical fitness.</p> <p>Course Length: Full Year, 3 times per cycle - 40 minute class periods</p>	<p>Encore: PE 7 Description: Physical education is a course taught that focuses on developing physical fitness. P.E. classes focus on developing skill and confidence, maintain physical fitness, learn about personal health and wellness, and demonstrate positive social skills. PE class provides cognitive content and instruction designed to develop motor skills, knowledge, and behaviors for physical activity and physical fitness.</p> <p>Course Length - full year, 3 times per week, 40 minute class periods.</p>	<p>Encore: PE 8 Description: Physical education is a course taught that focuses on developing physical fitness. P.E. classes focus on developing skill and confidence, maintain physical fitness, learn about personal health and wellness, and demonstrate positive social skills. PE class provides cognitive content and instruction designed to develop motor skills, knowledge, and behaviors for physical activity and physical fitness.</p> <p>Course Length - full year, 3 times per cycle, 40 minute class periods.</p>

Daily Living (Life Skills)

This course is designed to help prepare students to be successful members of society. Students will learn basic skills such as: self-discovery, family basics, career planning, hygiene, household jobs, cooking, and much more through learning opportunities in the classroom and the community.

Course length: 60 minutes/day, 6 days per cycle, full year

Open to: All grade levels

Prerequisites: Participation in this course is based on the IEP Team decision.

WORLD LANGUAGE

6th Grade World Language Exploration: Spanish, French, and German

Description: The World Language Exploration course offers an overview of the three languages offered for study at both the Middle and High School levels, with the aim of allowing students to make an informed decision about their ultimate course of study. In each course, students experience vocabulary concerning greetings, numbers, colors, weather, dates/calendar, and common classroom objects. Students are also exposed to seasonally relevant cultural information, and, in some instances, simple language structures.

Duration: 40 mins, 3 days per cycle for 1 trimester per language

Prerequisite skills: none

7th Grade World Language: Introduction level of either French, German, or Spanish (elected by student)

Description: The World Language Introduction course provides a more in-depth study of a student's chosen language at the introductory level, with the goal of expanding upon learning completed in the exploration class in preparation for level 1, which is offered in 8th grade, and at the high school. In the chosen language, students experience more cultural learning, and expanded introductory level topics with accompanying vocabulary & language concepts.

Duration: 40 mins, 3 days per cycle, full year

Prerequisites: 6th grade Exploration grade of 80% and above, qualifying PSSA score of Proficient/Advanced, Exact Path Scores of 80%-99% and teacher recommendation. Students must meet 3 out of the 4 criteria.

8th Grade World Language

SPANISH 1

Description: This is an introductory course teaching reading, writing, listening and speaking skills based on vocabulary, conversations, and idioms presented in texts; it also develops skills of grammar, translation and comprehension. It offers a basic introduction to Spanish culture, emphasizing Mexican and US Latino customs. This course is highly recommended for students planning a career in business, social work, law, criminal justice, the medical fields and political sciences.

PLEASE NOTE: Enrollment in this course in Grade 8 is necessary to reach AP Level in High School

Duration: Meets 40 mins, 6 days per cycle, full year

Prerequisites: 7th grade Introduction grade of 80% and above, qualifying PSSA score of Proficient/Advanced, Exact Path Scores of 80%-99% and teacher recommendation. Students must meet 3 out of the 4 criteria.

FRENCH I

This is an introductory course teaching reading, writing, listening and speaking skills based on vocabulary, conversations, and idioms presented in texts; it also develops skills of grammar, translation and comprehension. It offers a basic introduction to culture in France and French speaking countries around the world. This course is helpful for students planning a career in business, international affairs, the medical fields and political sciences.

PLEASE NOTE: Enrollment in this course in Grade 8 is necessary to reach AP Level in High School

Duration: Meets 40 mins, 6 days per cycle, full year

Prerequisites: 7th grade Introduction grade of 80% and above, qualifying PSSA score of Proficient/Advanced, Exact Path Scores of 80%-99% and teacher recommendation. Students must meet 3 out of the 4 criteria.

GERMAN I

This introductory subject teaches listening and speaking skills based on vocabulary, conversations, and idioms presented in the texts. It develops grammar, translation, and comprehension skills while providing German culture in a functional approach. This course is helpful for students planning to major in math and science as well as the medical and political sciences.

PLEASE NOTE: Enrollment in this course in Grade 8 is necessary to reach AP Level in High School.

Meets 40 mins, 6 days per cycle, full year

Prerequisites: 7th grade Introduction grade of 80% and above, qualifying PSSA score of Proficient/Advanced, Exact Path Scores of 80%-99% and teacher recommendation. Students must meet 3 out of the 4 criteria.

MUSIC PROGRAM

BAND Grades 6,7,8

The Band program is open to all interested students both experienced and new. The Band competes and performs throughout the school year for both school and community functions. The Band has three elements throughout the school year; the Marching Band, the Concert Band, and the Jazz Band. Students meet for 1 lesson per cycle for 30 minutes on a rotating weekly basis. Students also meet before school for full rehearsal. Students wishing to participate in this organization should enroll in this course in order to participate in Band.

Course Length-Full Year

Course PreReq- Students must be willing to rent or buy an instrument from Zeswitz Music, which is Pottsgrove's Authorized Instrument Retailer.

ORCHESTRA Grades 6,7,8

The orchestral program is open to all interested students both experienced and new. The orchestra competes and performs throughout the school year for both school and community functions. Students meet for 1 lesson per cycle for 30 minutes on a rotating weekly basis. Students also meet before school for full rehearsal. Students wishing to participate in this organization should enroll in this course in order to participate in orchestra.

Course Length-Full Year

Course Pre Req- Students can have experience from Lower Pottsgrove or be new Students. Students also must be willing to rent or buy an instrument from Zeswitz Music which is Pottsgrove's Authorized Instrument Retailer.

CHORUS - Grades 6, 7, 8

- **Course Description:** The Chorus program is open to all interested students, both experienced and new. The program focuses on building musicianship and vocal performance skills through a wide variety of choral repertoire. The Chorus competes and performs throughout the school year for both school and community functions. There are two elements to the choral program: the Concert Choir and the Show Choir. Students meet during 9th period, and after school or in the evening for full rehearsals. Students wishing to participate in this organization should enroll in this course to participate in Chorus.
- **Course Length:** Full Year
- **Course Prerequisite Skills:** NONE
- **Course Requirements:** NONE
- **Course Resources:** Quality choral literature, iPad, online resources, Sight Reading Factory, Schoology

Encore classes 3 days out of the 6 day cycle for 6th and 7th grade (ABC or DEF), and 2 days (AB, CD, or EF) for 8th grade.

Most Encore classes change at the end of Semesters for 6th/8th and and the end of the Trimesters for 7th grade.

