E.N. Peirce Middle School
Course Selection Meeting for
Rising 7th and 8th grade Parents
January 28, 2026
Dr. Philip Matilla

Middle School Course Description Guide Distribution

- Was pushed out to student laptops on January 15th
- Also available on the WCASD and Peirce website
  - **Course Selection 2026-2027**

Course Selection Timeline

January 7 through January 23	Teacher recommendation window
January 26 through February 13	Student and parent course selection weeks
February 14 through February 27	Course selections may be viewed on the Parent Portal. All requests to change course selections and/or recommendations must be submitted to Mrs. Roesener or Mrs. Gibb during this window.
February 27- Course change deadline – Course level waiver recommendations	Course change deadline - Course level waiver recommendations require administrative approval beyond this date.

JANUARY 7TH - JANUARY 23RD

- Teacher Recommendation Window

- Teachers made recommendations for English, Math, Reading/World Language, Science (7th grade teachers only), and Social Studies (7th grade teachers only)

January 26TH – February 13TH

- Students and parents view teachers' recommendations from content area classes
- If not recommended for Reading, select a World Language or Reading
- Select Unified Arts classes
  - Music (rising 7th and rising 8th grade students)
  - Six-day unified classes (only rising 8th grade students)

Middle School Leveling

- Leveling in the core courses of English (7th & 8th grade), Reading (7th grade), Mathematics (7th & 8th grade), Science and Social Studies (8th grade only)
- Three different levels designed to challenge students based on their learning ability and needs
- Rigor level descriptors closely align to WCASD high schools' rigor levels

Middle School Leveling

Grade Level	Honors	Accelerated Honors
➢ Students who learn at a continuous pace ➢ Courses provide essential skills & content knowledge aligned to grade level standards ➢ Collaborative & guided learning through a variety of instructional activities and assessments	➢ Students who learn enriched content at a challenging pace ➢ Rigorous grade level curriculum ➢ Collaborative, guided, & self-directed learning through a variety of instructional activities and assessments	➢ Students who learn advanced content at an accelerated pace ➢ Rigorous curriculum that extends beyond grade level ➢ Collaborative & self-directed learning through a variety of instructional activities and assessments

Academic Course Recommendation Process for 6th and 7th Grade Students for 2026-2027

- 6th Grade Academic Teachers in the areas of Reading, Math, and English will make recommendations for students for 7th Grade.
- 7th Grade Academic Teachers in the areas of Math, English, Science, Social Studies (History), and World Language (if applicable) will make recommendations for students for 8th Grade.
  - For both students/parents going to 7th and 8th grade, these academic recommendations will be able to be viewed online beginning January 26th
  - If students/parents choose to follow these recommendations, then nothing further is required.
  - If students/parents would like to change courses from what was recommended, a Course Change Form must be submitted to the school counselor.

Placement Decisions

- Placement of students into appropriate courses is an important factor that contributes to student success.
- Multiple data points: PSSA, student performance in class (report card grades), IXL scores, and teacher recommendations.
- *Additional assessment data may be considered should any be available for individual students.*

Course Waiver Form

Course Change Request Form for the 2026-2027 school year

Name_____ Current Grade (please circle) **6 7**

This form should be submitted for the following purposes:

Section 1 – requests to **change** any non-recommended classes (i.e. Music, Unified Arts, World Language)

Section 2 – must be completed by any student/parent requesting to override a teacher recommendation (as indicated in Parent Portal)

Section 1 – Request to Change Non-Recommended Classes (Current 6th and 7th Grade Students)

**This section must be completed for any change request to music classes, Unified Arts electives, or World Language.*

Courses to be Removed:	**Courses to be Added:**
Course Name _____	Course Name_____
Course Name _____	Course Name_____
Course Name _____	Course Name_____
Course Name _____	Course Name_____

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this form to your school counselor ASAP. All forms must be returned by Friday, February 27th.

Section 2 – Course **Placement** Waiver Agreement (Current 6th & 7th Grade Students)

During the course selection process, teachers make recommendations for individual students carefully after considering a variety of data. If you have questions about the course and/or level that you feel would be most appropriate for your child, or would like more information on your child's current recommendation, it is strongly encouraged that you contact your child's recommending teacher or counselor. If after consideration, you still wish to override the teacher recommendation, please complete the following section of this form:

Student's Name : _____ Current School: _____

School Counselor: _____ Grade: ____ Homeroom: _____

Recommended Course/level to be changed:	**Parent/Student Selected Course/Level to be added:**
Course Name/Level: _____	Course Name/Level: _____
Course Name/Level: _____	Course Name/Level: _____
Course Name/Level: _____	Course Name/Level: _____

- I request that my child be placed in the courses I have selected and listed above. I have discussed the selections with my child's teacher and understand why my child did not meet the criteria for the particular courses. However, after careful consideration of these criteria, I still believe that the courses we have selected represent the appropriate placement for my child.
- I understand and accept full responsibility to provide my child with any support or remediation that may be needed to ensure his/her success in this course.
- I fully understand that a request to reverse this waiver and place my child in the class originally recommended by the teacher is not guaranteed. Placement in the original teacher recommended course after my request is approved is based upon availability, considering predetermined class sizes. If the original teacher recommended course has reached the maximum capacity, my child will remain in the course I requested.
- I fully understand that waiving into this course does not guarantee placement in this course.
- I understand that this agreement does not allow a student to skip prior coursework needed to fulfill a course prerequisite.

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

Approval Routing:
☐ School Counselor
☐ Building Administrator
☐ District Supervisor

All forms must be returned by Friday, February 27th.

Special Education Students & the Course Selection Process

- Regular Education teachers will make recommendations for special education students in their classes.

- Special Education students will be able to view these recommendations on-line.

Rising 7th Grade Recommendations (current 6th grade students)

7th Grade English

7th Grade Courses

- English 7 Accelerated Honors
- English 7 Honors
- English 7 Grade Level

7th Grade Mathematics

7th Grade Courses

- Algebra 1 Accelerated Honors
- Mathematics 7 Honors
- Mathematics 7 Grade Level
- Math Plus 7 (2-day class during Unified Arts)

7th Grade Science and Social Studies (History)

7th Grade Courses

- Students will automatically be placed in Science 7 and American History to 1787 since these are unleveled courses.

7th Grade Reading OR World Language

- Rising 7th Grade Students will be recommended for either **Reading** or a **World Language.**
- If recommended for a World Language, students may still choose to take a Reading Class instead.
- 7th Grade Reading Courses: Reading Through Time 7 Honors, Reading Through Time 7 Grade Level, **Reading Plus 7 Comprehension, or *Reading Plus 7 Phonics*
  - *Either of the Reading Plus classes will be recommended by a Peirce Middle School Reading Specialist*
- 7th Grade World Language: French 1, German 1, Italian 1, Latin1, and Spanish 1

7th Grade Reading OR World Language

IMPORTANT!

- If recommended for Reading:
  - Student will see a Reading class listed as part of their recommendations (**DO NOT** select a World Language)
    - If World Language is selected but a Reading recommendation was made, it will over enroll the student and the World Language will be dropped from the student's requested courses.
    - If a student would like to take a World Language and have a Reading class recommended for 7th grade, a waiver **must be submitted** to replace Reading with a World Language.
- If NOT recommended for Reading:
  - Select either French 1, German 1, Italian 1, Latin1, Spanish 1, or Reading Through Time 7 Honors

Reading OR World Language

IMPORTANT!

- **If recommended for a Level 1 World Language**
  - Students will not see a Reading class or a World Language class listed as part of their recommendations. A non-recommendation of Reading is the way students are "recommended" to take a Level 1 World Language
    - Student may select a Level 1 World Language class
      - Select either French 1, German 1, Italian 1, Latin1, or Spanish 1
    - A student may select Reading Through Time 7 Honors. However, their reading teacher believes they are ready for a Level 1 World Language class.

7th Grade World Language

- French 1, German 1, Italian 1, Latin1, and Spanish 1
- High-proficient or advanced in reading PSSA in 5th and 6th grades (when test scores are available)
- Grades of As and Bs in English and Reading classes in 6th grade.

7th Grade Reading

- **Reading Through Time**
  Students will apply reading skills and strategies developed in this class in all content areas.

- **Reading Plus Comprehension or Phonics**
  Provides intense, formal reading intervention by a reading specialist. Students who are required to take this course will be selected based on need as determined by multiple criteria.

7th Grade Performing Music

- All rising 7th Grade students **must** select a music class: Music Production and Technology **OR** a Performing Music- Band 7, Chorus 7, or Orchestra 7

- Students in Band 7, Chorus 7, and Orchestra 7 will perform individually, in small groups, and in an ensemble.

- Students in all music classes will receive a grade.

- Students in a performing music class must have an interest in improving their singing or playing an instrument.

7th Grade Schedule for Unified Arts Classes

7th Grade Unified Arts

UA Period #1
2-Day year long classes

- Health
- P.E.
- *Music (Band 7, Chorus 7, Orchestra 7 OR Music Production and Technology)
  - *Students must choose a music class.*

UA Period #2
6-Day Quarterly Classes

- Art 7
- Computer Science 7
- Sustainable Design & Energy
- FCS 7

Sample 7th Grade Schedule

Seven full periods plus lunch

1. English
2. American History
3. Unified Arts
4. Unified Arts
5. Lunch
6. Science
7. Reading OR World Language
8. Math

Rising 8th Grade Recommendations (current 7th grade students)

8th Grade English

8th Grade Courses

- English 8 Accelerated Honors
- English 8 Honors
- English 8 Grade Level

8th Grade Mathematics

8th Grade Courses

- Geometry 8
- Algebra 1- Grade 8
- Pre-Algebra 8
- Math Plus 8 (2-day class during Unified Arts)

8th Grade Science

8th Grade Courses

- Leveled in 8th grade ONLY (two levels)
  - 7th Grade Teachers will complete recommendations
- Course Options:
  - Science 8 Honors
  - Science 8 Grade Level

8th Grade Social Studies (History)

8th Grade Courses

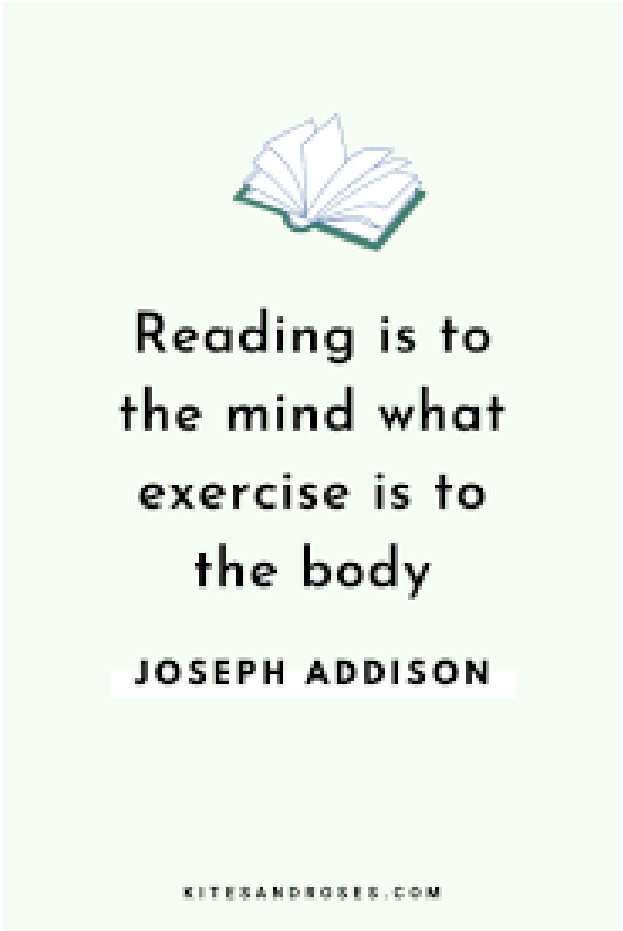
- Leveled in 8th grade ONLY (two levels)
  - 7th Grade Teachers will complete recommendations
- Course Options:
  - US History (1787-1914) Honors
  - US History (1787-1914) Grade Level

8th Grade Reading

- **Reading and Writing for Life Grade Level**
  Students will study the craft of reading and writing and expand on their skills to become lifelong critical thinkers, creative, analytical writers and avid, current readers.

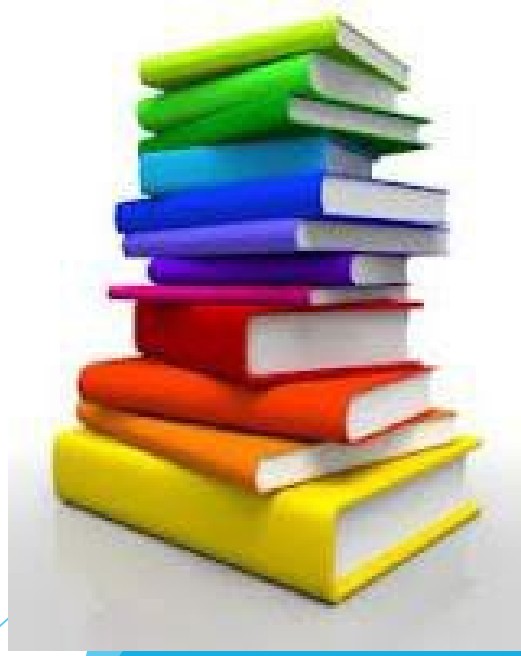
- **Reading Plus Comprehension or Phonics**
  Provides intense, formal reading intervention by a reading specialist. Students who are required to take this course will be selected based on need as determined by multiple criteria.

Reading and Writing for Life Grade Level Class (8th Grade)



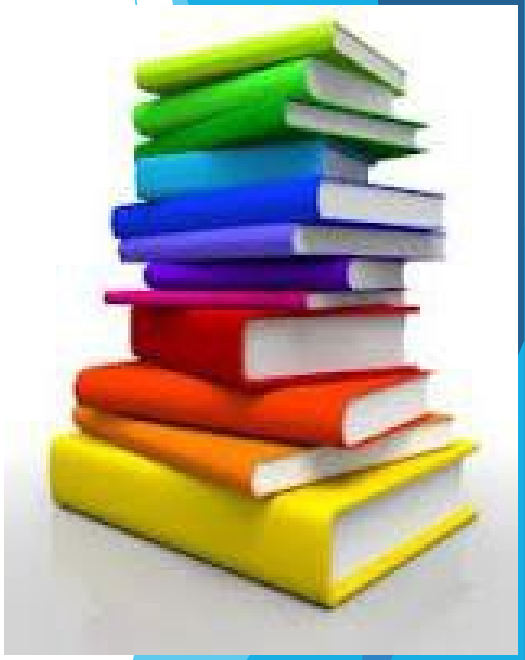
Reading and Writing for Life Grade Level Class

In this class students will study the craft of reading and writing and expand on their already exceptional skills to become lifelong critical thinkers, creative, analytical writers and avid, current readers!



Reading and Writing for Life Grade Level Class

Resources that are commonly used in the course:



- Creative writing and reading brains
- Novels, Novels, Novels—self-selected and class sets.
- Current events and Current Issues
- Project-based learning
- And all those other great interactive technologies we can get our hands on!







8th grade World Language choices

- French 1 or 2
- German 1 or 2
- Italian 1 or 2
- Latin 1 or 2
- Spanish 1 or 2











8th Grade Reading OR World Language

IMPORTANT!

- If recommended for Reading:
  - Students will see a Reading class listed as part of their recommendations (**DO NOT** select a World Language)
    - If World Language is selected but a Reading recommendation was made, it will over enroll the student and the World Language will be dropped from the student's requested courses.
    - If a student would like to take a World Language and have a Reading class recommended for 8th grade, a waiver **must be submitted** to replace Reading with a World Language.
- If NOT recommended for Reading:
  - Select either French 1, German 1, Italian 1, Latin1, or Spanish 1

Reading OR World Language

IMPORTANT!

- **If recommended for a Level 1 World Language**
  - Student will not see a Reading class or a World Language class listed as part of their recommendations. A non-recommendation of Reading is the way students are "recommended" to take a Level 1 World Language
    - Student may select a Level 1 World Language class
      - Select either French 1, German 1, Italian 1, Latin1, or Spanish 1
    - Students may select Reading and Write for Life Grade Level. However, their reading teacher believes they are ready for a Level 1 World Language class.

Reading OR World Language

IMPORTANT!

- **If recommended for a Level 2 World Language:**
  - You will see the Level 2 World Language class listed as part of your recommendations (**DO NOT** select a Level 1 World Language or Reading and Writing for Life)
    - If a Level 1 World Language or Reading and Writing for Life is selected but a Level 2 World Language recommendation was made, it will over enroll the student and the course the student selected will be dropped from the student's requested courses.
    - If you would like to take a different Level 1 World Language and have a Level 2 World Language recommended for 8th grade, a waiver **must be submitted** to move into the Level 1 World Language.

8th Grade Unified Arts Course Selection



UA Period 1 (6-day Quarterly Class)

Arts and Humanities

- **Choose 2 + 1 Alternate**
- Art in 2-D
- Art in 3-D
- Family and Life Essentials
- Popular Music
- Guitar

STEM

- **Choose 2 + 1 Alternate**
- Food and Culture
- Structural Design & Civil Engineering
- Transportation Engineering and Design
- Innovative Coding and AI
- Junior Entrepreneur

UA Period 2 (2-day classes)

Option A

- Health 8 (2 days all year)
- PE 8 (2 days all year)
- AND
- Performing Music (2 days all year)
  - Band 8, Chorus 8, or Orchestra 8

Option B

- Health 8 (2 days all year)
- PE 8 (2 days all year)
  AND
- "No Band, Chorus, Orchestra Option" (each class is 2 days for a quarter
  - *Teen Impact (Q1)
  - *Internet and Cybersecurity (Q2)
  - *Design for the Real World (Q3)
  - *Digital Media Creator (Q4)

(order of courses may vary)

8th Grade Unified Arts

UA Period #1
2-Day classes

- Health (year-long class)
- P.E. (year-long class)
- Performing Music (yearlong class) OR "No Band, Chorus, Orchestra Option" (each class is 2 days for a quarter)
  - Teen Impact
  - Internet and Cybersecurity Design for the Real World
  - Digital Media Creator

UA Period #2
6-Day Quarterly Classes

- Two quarters of these Arts and Humanities Electives
  - Art in 2-D
  - Art in 3-D
  - Family and Life Essentials
  - Popular Music
  - Guitar
- Two quarters of these STEM Electives
  - Food and Culture
  - Structural Design & Civil Engineering
  - Transportation Engineering and Design
  - Innovative Coding and AI
  - Junior Entrepreneur

8th Grade Music

Performing Music

Band 8, Chorus 8, and Orchestra 8

- These are for people who want to perform with a group and give concerts in those groups. They function the same way they did in 6th and 7th grade.
- They are elective, meaning they are not required. However, if you have been in these groups, we encourage you to stay in them.
- Concert Chorale for next year is auditioned at the end of this year and is your homeroom for 8th grade. Orchestra, Band, and Chorus students can do this.
- It *may* be possible for students to be enrolled in more than one performing music in 8th grade.

8th Grade Music

Music Electives

- 8th Grade Music Electives - Marking Period Courses that meet 6 days per cycle
  - Guitar
  - Popular Music
- **Any** student can sign up for one or both of these.
- Students can take these courses in addition to Band 8, Chorus 8, and Orchestra 8.
  - Example: An 8th Grade Band student can also be enrolled in Guitar and Popular Music.

Sample 8th Grade Schedule

Seven full periods plus lunch

1. Unified Arts
2. Unified Arts
3. English
4. Reading and Writing for Life Grade Level or World Language
5. Science
6. Lunch
7. Math
8. U.S. History

Special Education Students & the Course Selection Process

- IEP needs of each student is paramount and may exclude Special Education students from taking requested Unified Arts classes.

- Special Education students should still request their preferred Unified Arts Electives.

What do you need to do now and moving forward?



January 26th – February 13th

Rising 7th Grade Students/Parents

- View teacher recommendations from content area classes
- If not recommended for Reading, select a World Language or Reading Through Time 7 Honors
- Select a music:
  - Band 7, Chorus 7, Orchestra 7 or Music Production and Technology

Rising 8th Grade Students/Parents

- View teacher recommendations from content area classes
- If not recommended for Reading or a Level 2 World Language, select a Level 1 World Language or the Reading and Writing for Life Grade Level class
- Select a music (Band 8, Chorus 8, or Orchestra 8)
  OR "No Band, Chorus, Orchestra Option"
- Select 4 Unified Arts classes (and two alternates)

Courses where no student selection is necessary

Rising 7th Grade

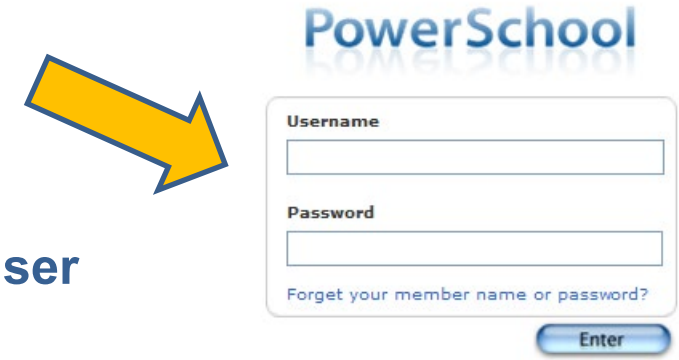
- 7th Grade Health
- 7th Grade Phys Ed
- Art 7
- Computer Science 7
- Sustainable Design & Energy
- FCS 7

Rising 8th Grade

- 8th Grade Health
- 8th Grade Phys Ed

Course Selection Login Screens for both Rising 7th and 8th Grade students

1. Go to: https://ps.wcasd.net/public/, log into PowerSchool.
   - Enter either student user name/password or parent user name/password



2. Click the "Class Registration" icon (on the menu on the left)



3. Follow the directions found for your child's grade level on their presentation.

Rising 7th Grade

Rising 8th Grade

Parent Portal HELP

Need to Create an Account or Add a Child? Call Ms. Shanyse Hill (Peirce Attendance Secretary) for assistance at 484-266-2518 or shill@wcasd.net

Lost User Name or Password?

On Parent Portal parent sign in page, click on “Forgot User Name or Password.” Enter your email address, the system will email your credentials so you can log in to the Parent Portal.

February 14th – February 27th



- Review recommendations and course requests that your child made in the portal
- Submit any course change requests by using a Course Request Form found in the main office or on the Peirce website
- A few days after submitting a course change, check to see that the changes are reflected online
- If after a few days the changes are not reflected online, students should see their school counselor or Dr. Matilla

February 27th

DEADLINE FOR

Course Level Change Waivers and

Elective Courses

Course Selection Timeline Recap

January 7 through January 23	Teacher recommendation window
January 26 through February 13	Student and parent course selection weeks
February 14 through February 27	Course selections may be viewed on the Parent Portal. All requests to change course selections and/or recommendations must be submitted to Mrs. Roesener or Mrs. Gibb during this window.
February 27- Course change deadline – Course level waiver recommendations	Course change deadline - Course level waiver recommendations require administrative approval beyond this date.

Who will I contact if I have a question?

Building Scheduler
Dr. Matilla
484-266-2503
pmatilla@wcasd.net

Rising 7th Grade Counselor
Mrs. Roesener
484-266-2513
sroesener@wcasd.net

Rising 8th Grade Counselor
Mrs. Gibb
484-266-2511
lgibb@wcasd.net

Please contact the office if you have any questions!



We are here to help you!