

2026-2027 Pequea Valley 7th and 8th grade Elective Information

Mandatory (Required) Courses

****Other than core classes (Math, ELA, Science, Social Studies, STEM)****

Required elective courses

7th and 8th grade required electives are automatically added to your schedule.

- Prep for Success (7th grade)
- Wellness (7th and 8th grade)

Elective Offerings - Please see descriptions below!

- Agriculture Exploration
- Art 1
- Art 2
- Advanced Art (prerequisite of Art 1 or 2)
- Band (Full Year)
- Chorus (Full Year)
- Ag Mechanics and Natural Resources
- Guitar
- History Lab
- Intro to Lifetime Fitness in the Fitness Center 1
- Intro to Lifetime Fitness in the Fitness Center 2
- Intro to Spanish
- Math Plus * *Learners will be assigned this class based on their current academic level and data.*
- MCL (Mass Customized Learning)
- Modern Band
- Music Exploration
- Musical Theater
- Page to Screen: Exploring Classic Books in Film
- Piano
- Reading Plus * *Learners will be assigned this class based on their current academic level and data.*
- Spanish Cultures
- Stem Experience
- Stem Plus 7 and Stem Plus 8 (learners are scheduled for this only if STEM Core is not on their schedule.)
- Tech Exploration (8th grade only)
- Tech Gadgets
- Ukulele

Student/Parent/Guardian - Please know:

- The school makes every effort to schedule learners for the courses they request.

Course Descriptions

Agriculture Exploration: This introductory course will expose learners to many areas of agricultural science. Units of instruction will include Animal Science, Plant Science, Food Science, and Leadership Development. This course will lay the groundwork for advanced agriculture science offerings. Through hands-on labs and projects, learners in this course will explore which area of agriculture interests them the most.

Art 1: **Note: Art 1 and Art 2 can be taken out of order, Art 1 is not required to be able to take Art 2.*

Art 1 is an overview course designed to allow each learner to explore a variety of art mediums, techniques, methods and approaches to making art. Art 1 is designed to expose learners to new skills and abilities, in the process of making art through practice, play and experimentation. Art 1 introduces the elements and principles of art as a way to help develop their own personal art style. A sampling of two-dimensional and three-dimensional projects are produced, this includes; drawing, painting, clay, and printmaking and mixed media.

Art 2: **Note: Art 1 and Art 2 can be taken out of order, Art 1 is not required to be able to take Art 2.*

The Art 2 course is designed to continue to expose learners to a variety of materials, art forms, methods and approaches to making art. Art 2 allows new skills to be developed, paving the way for personal artistic expression. Art 2 utilizes the elements and principles of art as a stepping stone in the art making process. A sampling of two-dimensional and three-dimensional projects are produced, this includes; drawing, watercolor, sculpture, fiber art and collage.

Advanced Art: **Note: Advanced Art is reserved for students who have taken EITHER Art 1 OR Art 2.*

This course focuses on preparing the learner for high school level art courses. Exposure to Art subjects such as: Foundations of Art, Ceramics, World Art, Painting, 2D Design, 3D Design, and Watercolor. Advanced Art develops artistic style through planning, sketching and experimentation prior to creating a work of art. A sampling of two-dimensional and three-dimensional projects are produced, this could include; drawing, painting, clay, and printmaking and mixed media, watercolor, sculpture, fiber art and collage.

Band: The PVIS Concert Band is available to all learners who are already members of the Elementary Band as well as learners who wish to learn an instrument in 7th Grade. In addition to the standard band instruments, the Concert Band is also looking for learners who play piano. Learners can also learn a second instrument or switch instruments while at PVIS.

Learners continuing their studies in instrumental music are eligible to participate in the following groups:

PVIS Jazz Band

PVHS Marching Band (in 8th grade)

Modern Band: - Building on skills learned in piano, guitar and ukulele class, participants will play selected popular songs in a small, mixed-instrument band. They will use guitars, bass, piano and drums, switching among them as needed. Singing along is also expected and encouraged. This course requires school counselor, and facilitator approval.

Chorus: The Pequea Valley Intermediate School Chorus is open to all 7th and 8th grade learners. Chorus members will study a variety of musical styles and work as an ensemble to perform and share music with friends, family, and the community. This course is a year-long class that meets every day and is designed to help achieve greater vocal independence and confidence. Everyone experiences a positive atmosphere in which they learn to be a better vocalist and musician. Music will be memorized and members will follow conductor cues. Through group exercises, individual practice, demonstrations, and warm-ups, they will become comfortable in their vocal range and focus on proper breathing and tone production. Learners that are also in band will alternate between Band and Chorus every other day.

Chorus members have the opportunity to audition for Brave Sounds, our advanced choral ensemble. Brave Sounds performs in the community and at other events throughout the school year.

Exploration of Ag Mechanics and Natural Resources: /This course will cover 4 new agriculture units including Wildlife, Aquatics, Agricultural Mechanics, and Leadership Development. Each of these units will consist of an introduction to the topic and its relevance to agriculture, application of the content through hands-on labs and/or activities, and the reflection of skills, leadership and careers involved in each area.

Guitar: Guitar Class will teach the parts and history of the guitar, tuning, single note playing, basic strum patterns, open position chords, reading rhythmic notation and tablature. As the course progresses, more advanced chord forms, strums, rhythms, and standard notation are introduced. The skills learned will allow learners to play many genres of music, including rock and roll. Learners of all skill levels are welcome and can work at their own pace.

History Lab: Dive into history *your way!* In this engaging, project-driven elective, learners will be given an overview of an era, decade or theme and then, with facilitator approval, will choose a historical topic from that time or theme that they wish to further explore, picking the topics that interest them the most. Learners will research, design, create, and present their work while getting guidance and feedback from the facilitator and peers. This course empowers ownership of learning while developing research, communication, creativity and critical thinking skills. Projects will be

done independently and/or collaboratively. Whether you love building, crafting, designing or storytelling via old-school paper or high tech digital tools, you'll explore the past through your own work. Perfect for students who love doing projects, history and active, hands-on learning!

Intro to Lifetime Fitness in the Fitness Center 1: This dynamic health course is dedicated to instilling essential concepts of physical fitness, nutrition, and overall well-being. Through a blend of interactive activities, fitness challenges, and insightful discussions, students will not only grasp the foundations of a healthy lifestyle but also develop practical skills for maintaining their well-being throughout their lives. This class is prerequisite to Intro to Lifetime Fitness in the Fitness Center 2.

Intro to Lifetime Fitness in the Fitness Center 2: Built off of concepts learned in Part 1, the second part of Intro to Lifetime Fitness in the Fitness Center will introduce learners to innovative techniques in resistance training and conditioning. Emphasis in this course will be placed in building a workout program design and implementation. Special consideration will be placed on goal setting.

Intro to Spanish: In this course, learners acquire Spanish by listening to understand and by reading what we create in class. Beginning Spanish speaking and writing skills will also be developed too. The course will be based on a combination of stories, in-class activities, making use of readings, songs, computer programs, and games to bring the Hispanic culture into the classroom. Classes will be conducted in Spanish and English. This course is a great way to prepare for future Spanish classes offered at the high school level.

***Math Plus:** This class is available for students who need additional support for mathematics concepts. Students are chosen for this course based on various criteria including data, grades, test scores, teacher recommendations, etc. The goal of Math Prep is to help students become more familiar, comfortable, and successful at math concepts. Math prep will also incorporate test taking strategies into the second semester of the class. When students display success in this class and with the math curriculum, they are able to choose a different related arts class in place of Math Prep.
** Learners will be assigned this class based on their current academic level and data.*

MCL (Mass Customized Learning): This class is an independent learning environment that encourages learners to design custom projects around their interests. Learners will design a major project to complete during the 45-day class. The main goal of this class is to allow learners to pursue their passions and to study a topic that they may traditionally not encounter in their coursework.

Music Exploration

This general music class has a little bit of something for every learner! It explores the application of music as well as music of various historical periods and genres. Music Exploration Units include the following:

Drumming
Create a Commercial
History of modern music and Rock and Roll
GarageBand
Film Music
Boonwhacker
Creating a Parody
Ukulele

Musical Theater

If you enjoy musicals and want to know more, this is the class for you! Musical Theater will trace the history of the modern musical through video and audio examples. A wide variety of musical genres will be explored. Learners study characterization, diction, monologues, costuming, staging, sets and lighting choices. Learners will learn monologues, short scenes, songs and “songologues” during this class. Solo singing is not required.

Page to Screen: Exploring Classics in Film

Welcome to *Page to Screen: Exploring Classics in Film*, an immersive course designed for middle school students to explore and analyze classic literature through their film adaptations. In this course, students will engage with beloved stories, characters, and themes from the printed page and discover how they are transformed into the visual language of film.

Piano: Piano Class will teach basic piano skills using both hands, basic music theory including notes, rhythm, harmony and form, scales, chord progressions and accompaniment. Learners will work as a large group and individually on piano technique and piano pieces. Learners of all skill levels are welcome and can work at their own pace and will learn new songs as well as being able to choose their own songs.

Prep for Success 7 (Required for 7th Grade):! In this class, we will cover a variety of topics from the book *The 6 Most Important Decisions You Will Make As A Teen* by Sean Covey. Topics addressed in this book include school, friends, parents, dating and sex, addictions, and self-worth. In addition to these topics, students will work on individualized career readiness activities. They will include things such as a Career Matchmaker, My Skills Assessment, Myers Briggs Assessment, Multiple Intelligence Assessment, SMART Goal, Career Research, Sample Job Application, Learning Styles Assessment and Monthly Budget. We will be using an online program called Xello to assist in our career readiness activities.

***Reading Plus:**

This class will give students individualized support in the areas of reading fluency, reading comprehension, and writing. The class focuses on providing extra reading strategies to increase understanding of fiction and nonfiction texts.

Spanish Cultures: In this class learners will learn about countries where Spanish is spoken, the importance of learning Spanish, basic expressions, food, famous people, sports and entertainment, and holidays and traditions in Spanish culture.

Stem Experience: STEM Experience will cover a wide variety of technology-related topics including prototyping designs, photography, graphic design, and materials processing. The class is project-based and requires learners to utilize the design process to solve authentic, real world problems while collaborating with peers. Learners will be introduced to advanced tools and machines including laser engraving, 3D printing, and vacuum forming. Each project will be focused on providing a basic understanding of major components of technology to identify areas of interest for a greater focus in the future. The primary goal of the class will be for each learner to experience a wide variety of topics offered in Technology Education and STEM electives available at the HS level. This class is open to both 7th and 8th grade learners.

Technology Exploration: (8th grade only)

This course is geared to the learners' interests and talents. In a small group setting, you will pick a technology project of your choice. It could last the entire marking period or you could do a few smaller projects. Past projects included but are not limited to: 3D pen/printing, robotics, video game creation, digital drawing, photography, graphic design, coding, animation, music creation, etc.

Technology Gadgets:

Tech Gadgets is an exciting, hands-on elective designed to expose learners to a variety of innovative tools and technologies. In this station-based class, students will rotate every five days to explore a new "tech gadget," such as 3D pens, Sphero robots, digital design apps like Canva and Procreate, and more. Each station will feature independent activities that encourage creativity, problem-solving, and critical thinking while building familiarity with modern tools. This course is perfect for students curious about technology and eager to try out gadgets that spark innovation and fun!

Ukulele: Ukulele class will teach the parts and history of the ukulele, tuning, basic chords, varied strumming patterns, and reading standard notation and tablature. The class will play as an ensemble and in small groups and will learn new songs as well as being able to choose their own songs. Learners of all skill levels are welcome and can work at their own pace.

Wellness 7: (Required for 7th grade): In Wellness class, the students learn the basic skills of various sports and activities. These sports include softball, volleyball, basketball, and soccer. There is an emphasis on teamwork and communication skills during gameplay. Proper techniques for developing fitness are also introduced. Health class includes the introduction of tobacco and alcohol and the dangerous effects. The basic parts and functions of the circulatory, muscular, skeletal, and respiratory systems are also introduced.

Wellness 8: (Required for 8th grade): In Wellness class, the students learn the basic skills of various sports and activities. These sports include soccer, tennis, volleyball, and basketball. There is an emphasis on teamwork and communication skills during gameplay. Proper techniques for developing fitness are also introduced. Fitness testing includes the pacer test, sit and reach, push-ups, and sit-ups. We also practice track and field events for Field Day. Health class includes the introduction of the dangers of drugs and their effects. There is also a unit on human growth and development. This includes dating and relationships, character, the male reproductive system, the female reproductive system, childbirth and pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases.