Broadalbin-Perth CENTRAL SCHOOL

Middle School Course Descriptions

2026-2027

English Language Arts Course Descriptions

English 6
1 Unit / Full Year / Grade 6

Course Description:

English 6 establishes the foundation for students' middle school English Language Arts experience. Students will develop and strengthen their skills based on the reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language New York State Next Generation ELA Learning Standards through a variety of literary and informational texts. Students will learn to cite relevant textual evidence, determine central ideas and themes, analyze characters and authors' choices, and make connections across texts.

Writing instruction will focus on developing clear, organized responses and well-developed paragraphs and essays across a variety of purposes and genres. Students will build vocabulary, strengthen grammar and language skills, and develop effective discussion and presentation skills.

Throughout the year, students will learn to read closely, support their thinking with evidence, communicate their ideas clearly, and develop the foundational skills needed for success in the middle grades.

English 7
1 Unit / Full Year / Grade 7

Course Description:

English 7 builds upon the foundational reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language New York State Next Generation ELA Learning Standards developed in sixth grade while increasing the complexity of texts, tasks, and student thinking. Students will engage with a wider range of literary and informational texts and will be expected to analyze how authors develop ideas, themes, characters, arguments, and perspectives.

Students will continue to develop their ability to cite strong and relevant textual evidence, compare and contrast texts, analyze author's craft, determine central ideas, and evaluate arguments and claims. Writing will become more sophisticated as students develop multi-paragraph and extended responses that include clear claims, relevant evidence, thoughtful analysis, and effective organization.

Students will also strengthen their ability to participate in collaborative discussions, presentations, and academic conversations, using evidence to support and communicate their ideas. By the end of seventh grade, students should be increasingly independent in their ability to analyze complex texts, develop ideas, support their thinking, and communicate effectively.

English 8
1 Unit / Full Year / Grade 8

Course Description:

English 8 builds upon the skills developed in sixth and seventh grade and prepares students for the increased rigor and independence expected in high school English. Students will read and analyze increasingly complex literary and informational texts, examining themes, central ideas, structure, author's purpose, perspective, arguments, and the ways authors use language and craft to develop meaning based on the New York State Next Generation ELA Learning Standards.

Students will be expected to think critically, synthesize information across multiple texts, evaluate evidence and arguments, and support their interpretations with precise and relevant textual evidence. Writing instruction will emphasize developing sophisticated arguments and analyses, organizing ideas effectively, integrating evidence, and revising writing to improve clarity, style, and precision.

Students will also engage in research, collaborative discussions, presentations, and speaking and listening activities that prepare them for the demands of high school and beyond. By the end of eighth grade, students should be confident, independent readers and writers who can analyze complex ideas, think critically, use evidence effectively, and communicate their thinking with clarity and purpose.

World Languages Course Descriptions

American Sign Language I

1 Unit / Full Year / Grade 8 / 1 High School Credit / High School Graduation Requirement

Course Description:

American Sign Language I introduces students to the foundations of American Sign Language and Deaf culture while developing the communication skills necessary for successful interpersonal interaction. Aligned with New York State Learning Standards for World Languages at Checkpoint A, the course emphasizes communication through interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational modes.

Students will develop foundational skills in receptive and expressive signing, including vocabulary, grammar, sentence structure, fingerspelling, numbers, facial expressions, and non-manual markers. Students will participate in conversations and activities that require them to understand and communicate information, ask and answer questions, describe people and places, express likes and dislikes, share information about themselves, and interact in everyday situations.

The course will also introduce students to Deaf culture, history, traditions, and perspectives, helping them develop an appreciation for the diversity of the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community. Students will learn to communicate respectfully and appropriately while developing confidence in using ASL.

Spanish 8

1 Unit / Full Year / Grade 8 /1 High School Credit / High School Graduation Requirement

Course Description:

Spanish I introduces students to the Spanish language and the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. Aligned with New York State Learning Standards for World Languages, the course develops students' abilities in the interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational modes of communication.

Students will develop foundational skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in Spanish. They will learn to communicate in familiar, everyday situations by introducing

themselves and others, exchanging personal information, describing people and places, talking about school and family, expressing likes and dislikes, discussing daily routines, and sharing information about their lives and experiences. Students will also develop vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and sentence structures that allow them to communicate with increasing accuracy and confidence.

Throughout the course, students will explore Spanish-speaking cultures, traditions, communities, and perspectives, making connections between language and culture while developing an appreciation for the diversity of the Spanish-speaking world.

By the end of Spanish I, students will be prepared to demonstrate their developing language proficiency through the approved New York State Comprehensive Assessment in World Languages.

Math Course Descriptions

Math 6
1 Unit / Full Year / Grade

Course Description:

Math 6 establishes the mathematical foundation students need for success throughout middle school and beyond. Aligned with the New York State Next Generation Mathematics Learning Standards, students will develop their understanding of ratios and rates, rational numbers, expressions and equations, geometry, statistics, and probability.

Students will apply mathematical concepts to real-world situations while developing their ability to reason quantitatively, solve problems, explain their thinking, and use mathematical representations. Students will work with positive and negative numbers, fractions, decimals, and ratios; write and evaluate expressions; solve one-step equations and inequalities; explore area, surface area, and volume; and analyze and represent data.

Math 7
1 Unit / Full Year / Grade 7

Course Description:

Math 7 builds upon the concepts and skills developed in sixth grade and increases the depth and complexity of students' mathematical reasoning. Aligned with the New York State Next Generation Mathematics Learning Standards, students will focus on proportional relationships, rational numbers, expressions, equations, inequalities, geometry, probability, and statistics.

Students will extend their understanding of ratios and proportional relationships by solving multi-step problems, percent problems, scale drawings, and problems involving proportional relationships. They will deepen their understanding of rational numbers and apply operations with positive and negative numbers to increasingly complex mathematical situations.

Math 7 emphasizes problem solving, reasoning, mathematical modeling, and communication, preparing students to approach increasingly abstract mathematics with greater independence. The course serves as an important bridge between the foundational concepts of sixth grade and the algebraic and geometric reasoning emphasized in eighth grade.

Accelerated Math 7 Pre-Algebra
1 Unit / Full Year / Grades 7

Course Description:

Pre-Algebra is an accelerated course designed for students who are ready to move at a significantly faster pace in mathematics. They are learning the foundational math required to prepare for Algebra I. The course builds upon the concepts addressed in the New York State Next Generation Mathematics Learning Standards for Grades 7–8 while introducing students to the algebraic reasoning and problem-solving skills necessary for success in high school mathematics.

Students will develop a strong understanding of variables, algebraic expressions, equations and inequalities, proportional relationships, functions, linear relationships, exponents, rational and irrational numbers, and coordinate geometry. Emphasis will be placed on connecting multiple representations—including equations, tables, graphs, diagrams, and real-world situations—to develop a deeper conceptual understanding of algebra.

It is important to note that there is an expectation that students will complete quite a bit more work outside of the classroom. This ensures all standards are taught to a level appropriate to fully prepare for the Algebra I course the following year.

Prerequisite: recommendation from Math 6 teacher, a 90% or higher cumulative average in 6th grade math, and a proficiency score on the state exam. A grade of 90% or higher is expected to be maintained throughout the school year as well.

Math 8
1 Unit / Full Year / Grades 8

Course Description:

Math 8 builds upon the proportional reasoning, algebraic thinking, and problem-solving skills developed in sixth and seventh grade while preparing students for the rigor of high school mathematics. Aligned with the New York State Next Generation Mathematics Learning Standards, students will develop a deeper understanding of linear relationships, equations, functions, irrational numbers, the Pythagorean Theorem, transformations, similarity and congruence, and volume.

By the end of Math 8, students will be prepared to transition successfully into high school mathematics, with a strong foundation in algebraic reasoning, geometric reasoning, problem solving, and mathematical communication.

Algebra I
1 Unit / Full Year/ Grade 8 Acceleration / 1 High School Credit

Course Description:
Algebra I follows A Story of Functions, the Common Core curriculum for mathematics. Units of study cover operations with polynomials, systems of equations, sequence and series, factoring, graphing, methods for solving quadratic equations, transformations of functions, and statistics. A graphing calculator is permitted and used at this level. The prerequisite for this course is the successful completion of the Pre-algebra course in 7th grade, with a 90% or higher cumulative average. Students will take the Algebra I Regents Exam in June. Students are required to pass this exam in order to graduate from high school. If you are taking this course in 8th grade, as an accelerated student, NYS recommends achieving a score of at least an 85% on the regents.

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra and the Pre-Algebra teacher's recommendation.

Science Course Descriptions

Science 6
1 Unit / Full Year / Grade 6

Course Description:

Science 6 introduces students to the practices and ways of thinking that are at the heart of scientific inquiry. Aligned with the New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards, students will explore a variety of physical, life, and mostly Earth and space science concepts through hands-on investigations, models, observations, data analysis, and problem-solving.

Students will learn to ask questions, develop and use models, plan and conduct investigations, analyze and interpret data, construct explanations, and communicate scientific information. Through the study of real-world phenomena, students will begin to recognize patterns and relationships involving matter and its interactions, energy, Earth's systems, ecosystems, weather and climate, and the interaction between humans and the natural world. Students will learn how to make claims and use evidence to support their ideas, make observations and measurements, identify patterns, and communicate their findings using scientific vocabulary, models, graphs, and written explanations.

Science 7
1 Unit / Full Year / Grade 7

Course Description:

Science 7 builds upon the foundational scientific practices and concepts developed in sixth grade while increasing the complexity of investigations, data analysis, and scientific reasoning. Aligned with the New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards, students will investigate increasingly complex phenomena across physical science, life science, Earth and space science, and engineering.

Students will deepen their understanding of concepts such as matter and chemical interactions, energy and forces, ecosystems and interdependent relationships, Earth's systems, and human impacts on the environment. Students will use evidence from investigations and multiple sources to develop explanations, identify cause-and-effect relationships, and evaluate scientific claims.

Throughout the course, students will have regular opportunities to design investigations, analyze and interpret data, develop and revise models, construct evidence-based explanations, and engage in scientific argumentation. Students will also strengthen their ability to read scientific texts, interpret graphs and diagrams, and communicate their understanding through writing, discussion, and presentations.

Science 8

1 Unit / Full Year / Grade 8

Course Description:

Science 8 builds upon the knowledge and scientific practices developed in sixth and seventh grade while preparing students for the increased rigor of high school science. Aligned with the New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards, students will investigate complex phenomena and engineering problems while making connections across physical science, life science, and Earth and space science.

Students will be expected to use increasingly sophisticated models, data, evidence, and scientific reasoning to explain phenomena and solve problems. They will analyze relationships involving energy and matter, forces and interactions, ecosystems, Earth's changing systems, weather and climate, and human impacts on Earth.

Students will engage in investigations that require them to ask questions, design and carry out investigations, analyze data, evaluate evidence, develop explanations, construct scientific arguments, and communicate findings. They will also strengthen their ability to research scientific topics, evaluate sources, interpret scientific information presented in multiple formats, and apply mathematics to analyze scientific data. By the end of eighth grade, students will be prepared for the New York State Intermediate-Level Science Test.

Earth & Space Science

1 Unit / Full Year / Grade 8 /1 High School Credit

Course Description:

Earth and Space Science is an accelerated high school-level science course designed for eighth-grade students who are ready for the rigor and pace of a commencement-level science course. Aligned with the New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards, the course provides students with an in-depth study of Earth and space systems while developing the scientific reasoning, mathematical application, laboratory, and problem-solving skills necessary for success in high school science. Students will investigate major concepts in Earth and space sciences, including Earth's place in the universe, Earth's systems, Earth's history, weather and climate, plate tectonics, geologic processes, natural resources, human impacts on Earth systems, and the interactions between Earth's systems and the Sun. Students will use models, maps, graphs, data sets, laboratory investigations, and scientific evidence to analyze phenomena and develop explanations.

The course is designed to prepare students for the New York State Regents Examination in Earth and Space Sciences, which is aligned to the current P-12 Science Learning Standards.

Prerequisite: recommendation from the Science 7 teacher and a 90% or higher cumulative average in Science 7.

Social Studies Course Descriptions

Social Studies 6

1 Unit / Full Year / Grade 6

Course Description:

Social Studies 6 introduces students to the history, geography, cultures, and societies of the Eastern Hemisphere. Aligned with the New York State K–12 Social Studies Framework, students will explore the development of civilizations and societies from ancient times through the modern era while examining how geography, resources, belief systems, economics, technology, and interactions among peoples have shaped human history.

Students will investigate major civilizations, cultures, and historical developments while developing their ability to analyze primary and secondary sources, identify cause-and-effect relationships, compare societies, interpret maps and geographic representations, and place events within their historical context.

Throughout the course, students will develop the foundational practices of gathering and interpreting evidence, chronological reasoning, comparison and contextualization, geographic reasoning, economic reasoning, and civic participation.

Social Studies 7

1 Unit / Full year / Grade 7

Course Description:

Social Studies 7 begins a two-year study of the history of the United States and New York State, building upon the historical thinking and geographic reasoning skills developed in sixth grade. Students will examine the development of the United States from its earliest history through the nation's growth and expansion, with particular attention to the people, events, ideas, and movements that shaped the nation.

Students will investigate topics including Indigenous peoples, European colonization, the American Revolution, the development of the Constitution and government, the early republic, westward expansion, reform movements, slavery, and the causes and consequences of the Civil War. Students will examine how geography, economics, government, and competing perspectives influenced historical events and decisions.

Social Studies 7 places a strong emphasis on historical argument and evidence. Students will move beyond simply identifying what happened to examining why events happened, how people experienced them differently, and how historical decisions continue to influence society today.

Social Studies 8

1 Unit / Full Year / Grade 8

Course Description:
Social Studies 8 continues the two-year study of United States and New York State history, building directly upon the content and historical thinking skills developed in seventh grade. Students will examine the nation's continued development from the Gilded Age through the modern era, exploring the political, economic, social, technological, and geographic forces that have shaped the United States.

Students will investigate topics including industrialization, immigration, urbanization, the Progressive Era, imperialism, World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, and contemporary United States history. Throughout the course, students will consider how historical events and movements affected different groups and how competing perspectives influenced the development of American society.

Students will be expected to engage with increasingly complex primary and secondary sources, evaluate the credibility and perspective of evidence, analyze multiple causes and effects, compare historical interpretations, and construct evidence-based arguments.

Required Supporting Courses:

Health Education/Physical Education Course Descriptions

Health

Grades 6 & 7

Course Description:
Health Education provides students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to make healthy decisions and navigate the physical, emotional, social, and personal challenges of adolescence. Aligned with the New York State Learning Standards for Health Education, the course focuses on developing health literacy and practical skills that students can apply to their everyday lives. NYSED identifies health education as a required component of the middle-level program, with students expected to meet the applicable State learning standards by the end of Grade 8.

Throughout the course, students will explore topics including physical and mental wellness, nutrition, healthy relationships, communication, decision-making, stress management, personal safety, substance use and prevention, human growth and development, disease prevention, and responsible health behaviors. Students will learn how their choices, relationships, environments, and behaviors can influence their overall well-being.

As students progress through middle school, Health Education will become increasingly focused on independence, personal responsibility, self-advocacy, and preparing students for the challenges of adolescence and high school.

Physical Education
Full Year / Grades 6-8

Course Description:
Physical Education 6–8 provides students with opportunities to develop physical skills, improve fitness, build confidence, and develop healthy habits that support lifelong wellness. Aligned with the New York State Physical Education Learning Standards, students will participate in a variety of individual, partner, team, recreational, and fitness-based activities while developing skills in movement, strategy, teamwork, communication, leadership, sportsmanship, and personal responsibility.

Throughout middle school, students will progressively develop their ability to set and monitor personal fitness goals, make healthy choices, work collaboratively, demonstrate responsible behavior, and apply skills and strategies in increasingly challenging situations. Students will also explore ways to remain physically active beyond the school setting and understand the connection between physical activity and overall physical, mental, and social-emotional well-being.

Career and Technical Education Course Descriptions

PLTW: Design and Modeling
Grade 6

Course Description:
PLTW Design and Modeling introduces students to the engineering design process and challenges them to use creativity, innovation, problem-solving, and collaboration to develop solutions to real-world problems. As part of the PLTW Gateway program for middle school students, the course provides hands-on experiences that connect mathematics, science, technology, and engineering to authentic design challenges.

Students will learn how engineers communicate ideas through freehand sketches, multi-view drawings, measurements, mathematical models, and computer-aided design (CAD). They will explore how two-dimensional designs can be transformed into three-dimensional models and will use technology to create, test, and refine their ideas. Students will also learn how models and simulations can be used to generate data and evaluate whether a design meets specific criteria and constraints.

Through hands-on design challenges, students will work individually and collaboratively to identify problems, research possible solutions, develop design requirements, create prototypes, test their designs, analyze results, and make improvements. The course encourages students to view challenges from multiple perspectives and understand that effective engineering solutions often require creativity, persistence, teamwork, and multiple iterations.

PLTW: Flight and Space
Grade 7

Course Description:
PLTW Flight and Space brings the exciting world of aerospace to life through hands-on, collaborative STEM experiences. Students take on the role of engineers as they investigate the science of flight, explore the challenges of space travel, and apply the engineering design process to real-world aviation and space problems.

Students will explore aerodynamics, aircraft design, navigation, space travel, launch and orbit, life-support systems, and the challenges of living in space. Through hands-on activities, students will design, build, and test prototypes, analyze results, make improvements, and use evidence to evaluate their designs. Students will also explore how scientists and engineers work together to make aviation and space exploration possible.

The course culminates in a collaborative mission to Mars, where students apply what they have learned to design and model the components needed for a successful mission. Working as a

team, students will consider the astronaut crew, rocket specifications, daily schedules, landing site, and landing vehicle while solving the challenges associated with traveling to and living on another planet.

PLTW: Medical/Science Technology
Grade 8

Course Description:
PLTW Medical Detectives introduces students to the exciting world of biomedical science and healthcare through hands-on investigations, laboratory activities, and real-world medical mysteries. Students take on the role of medical detectives as they collect and analyze evidence, investigate symptoms, and use scientific reasoning to solve health-related problems.

Students will explore topics including human body systems, vital signs, infectious diseases, disease transmission, diagnosis and treatment, the nervous system, genetics, and DNA evidence. Through hands-on projects and labs, students will learn how healthcare professionals gather information, analyze data, identify patterns, and use evidence to make informed decisions about a patient's health.

Students will participate in investigations that challenge them to collect and interpret medical data, examine patient symptoms, conduct laboratory analyses, develop and use models, and construct evidence-based explanations. Students will also investigate disease outbreaks and work collaboratively to determine how illnesses or toxins may have spread within a community.

PLTW: Build the Future
Grade 8

Course Description:

PLTW Building for the Future is a hands-on, career-connected STEM course that introduces students to the exciting world of construction, architecture, and skilled trades. This course gives students opportunities to step into roles such as architect, building designer, carpenter, plumber, electrician, HVAC technician, and construction manager while solving authentic design and construction challenges.

Students will explore how buildings are planned, designed, constructed, and maintained, while developing practical skills through hands-on projects. They will learn to read and analyze blueprints, create designs, measure and plan spaces, consider materials and building systems, construct prototypes, and troubleshoot problems. Students will also explore sustainable

building practices and consider how design decisions can impact the environment and the communities in which we live.

Throughout the course, students will use the design process, mathematical reasoning, problem-solving, collaboration, communication, and critical thinking to develop solutions to real-world challenges. Students will learn that successful construction and engineering projects require careful planning, attention to detail, teamwork, creativity, and the ability to adapt when things do not go as planned.

Technology
Grade 7

Course Description:
Technology 7 introduces students to the concepts, skills, and problem-solving processes used to understand, design, and evaluate technology. Aligned with the New York State Technology Education Learning Standards, the course provides students with hands-on opportunities to explore how technology is designed and used to meet human needs and solve real-world problems.

Students will explore the technology design process, systems, resources, technological processes, problem-solving strategies, and the impact of technology on individuals, society, and the environment. Through hands-on projects and design challenges, students will have opportunities to identify problems, research possible solutions, develop ideas, build or model solutions, test their designs, analyze results, and make improvements.

Students will also examine the history and evolution of technology and consider how technological innovations have changed the way people live, work, communicate, and interact with their environment. Students will explore how technological decisions can have both intended and unintended consequences and will be encouraged to consider the ethical, social, economic, and environmental impacts of innovation. These experiences align with New York State's technology standards, including analysis and design, information systems, technological knowledge and skills, interconnectedness, and interdisciplinary problem-solving.

Family & Consumer Science

Grade 6-8

Course Description:

Family and Consumer Science in Grades 6-8 provides students with practical, hands-on experiences that develop the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to navigate everyday life, build healthy relationships, make informed decisions, and prepare for their future. Aligned with the New York State Family and Consumer Sciences Learning Standards and the state's middle-level CTE framework, the course emphasizes real-world learning through projects, problem-solving, collaboration, and hands-on experiences.

Throughout middle school, students will explore individual growth and life readiness, human development and relationships, nutrition and wellness, food systems and production, apparel and textile design, environmental design and management, financial and consumer literacy, career exploration, communication, and problem-solving. Students will have opportunities to apply what they learn to authentic situations, develop practical skills, and make connections between classroom learning and their lives outside of school.

The course is intentionally designed to progress from foundational life skills to greater independence and real-world application. As students move through Grades 6–8, they will build their ability to make responsible decisions, manage resources, communicate effectively, collaborate with others, solve problems, explore career possibilities, and take greater ownership of their personal and future goals.

Business

Grade 8

Course Description:

Business 8 introduces students to the world of business, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and career readiness through engaging, real-world learning experiences. Aligned with New York State Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) standards and the state's middle-level CTE framework, the course helps students develop practical skills that they can apply in school, the workplace, and everyday life.

Students will explore personal finance, budgeting, saving, spending, consumer decision-making, career exploration, professional communication, workplace technology, entrepreneurship, and the fundamentals of starting and operating a business. Through hands-on activities and real-world scenarios, students will learn how businesses operate and how individuals can make informed financial and career decisions.

A strong emphasis will be placed on developing communication, collaboration, problem-solving, creativity, critical thinking, organization, and decision-making skills. Students will have opportunities to develop professional documents and communication skills, explore different career pathways, create and present business ideas, and use technology to complete authentic workplace tasks.

The Arts Course Descriptions

Art 6

In this 10-week exploratory course, 6th graders are introduced to the "Teaching for Artistic Behavior" (TAB) philosophy, where the core belief is: the student is the artist, and the classroom is their studio. Rather than following step-by-step, teacher-led projects, students will learn how to navigate a choice-based art environment. They will be introduced to various studio centers—such as drawing, painting, and collage—and learn the essential routines of setting up, creating, and independently maintaining a shared workspace.

Through engaging mini-lessons and guided practice, students will spend these ten weeks answering the fundamental question, "What do artists do?" They will explore where ideas come from, learn how to experiment fearlessly with new materials, and practice planning their own original artworks. By the end of the course, students will have built the foundational skills, studio habits, and creative confidence needed to think and problem-solve like independent artists.

Art 7

Building upon the choice-based foundation established in 6th grade, this 10-week course invites 7th graders to dive deeper into the “Teaching for Artistic Behavior” (TAB) studio model. Moving beyond basic material exploration, students will transition toward intentional artistic expression and self-directed learning. The studio will open up to include more advanced centers and techniques, such as 3D construction, printmaking, or mixed media. Students will be expected to take greater ownership of their creative process, learning how to manage longer-term projects from the initial brainstorming and sketching phases all the way to the final critique.

In this expanded studio environment, the focus shifts heavily toward developing a personal artistic voice. Students will learn how to push through creative blocks, combine different mediums to solve complex visual problems, and reflect thoughtfully on the "why" behind their artistic choices. By the end of the ten weeks, 7th graders will have developed a diverse portfolio of self-directed work that showcases not just their technical growth, but their unique perspective as independent creators.

Foundations of Art

1 Unit / Full Year/ Grade 8/ High School Credit

Course Description:

Foundations of Art is an accelerated, high school-level visual arts course designed for eighth-grade students who are ready to explore art at greater depth and complexity. Aligned with the New York State Learning Standards for the Arts: Visual Arts, the course develops students' ability to create, present, respond to, and connect through a variety of artistic experiences.

Students will develop foundational skills and knowledge in drawing, painting, design, color theory, composition, two- and three-dimensional art, art history, and contemporary artistic practices. Through a variety of studio experiences, students will experiment with different media and techniques while learning how artists use the elements and principles of art to communicate ideas, emotions, perspectives, and experiences.

A major focus of the course will be the development of an individual artistic voice and creative process. Students will maintain a body of work that demonstrates experimentation, skill development, revision, and growth. Through critiques and reflection, students will learn to give and receive constructive feedback and use that feedback to strengthen their work.

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation.

Music Makers

Grade 6

Course Description:

Music 6 provides students with a strong foundation in musical understanding, creativity, and performance while introducing them to a wide variety of musical styles, cultures, and traditions. Aligned with the New York State Learning Standards for the Arts: Music, the course emphasizes the artistic processes of creating, performing, responding, and connecting.

Students will explore the fundamental elements of music, including rhythm, melody, harmony, form, dynamics, tempo, timbre, and musical expression. Through singing, movement, playing instruments, listening activities, and music-making experiences, students will develop their ability to read, perform, create, and respond to music.

Students will have opportunities to create and perform music individually and collaboratively, experiment with musical ideas, and develop their ability to evaluate and refine their work. They will also listen to and analyze music from a variety of cultures, historical periods, genres, and

traditions, developing an understanding of how music reflects the people, places, and experiences that shape it.

Enrichment Course Descriptions

Patriot Strong

Grades 7-8

Course Description:

Patriot Strong is a physical education and strength training elective designed to help students build strength, fitness, confidence, resilience, and healthy habits in a supportive and encouraging environment. The program is open to students who are interested in improving their overall fitness and to athletes who want to develop the strength, conditioning, and movement skills that can support athletic performance.

Students do not need to be experienced, strong, or comfortable with strength training when they begin the course. In fact, that is exactly what Patriot Strong is designed for. Students will learn proper techniques, safe training practices, and age-appropriate strength and conditioning principles while progressing at a level that is appropriate for them. The focus is on personal growth and improvement rather than comparison with others.

In addition to physical fitness, Patriot Strong emphasizes mental strength and resilience. Students will be challenged to set goals, persevere through challenges, learn from setbacks, and develop the mindset needed to push themselves while recognizing their own limits.

Patriot Leadership

Grade 6

Course Description:

Patriot Leadership is designed to help students develop the skills, confidence, and mindset needed to become positive leaders in their school and community. Students will explore public speaking, communication, teamwork, problem-solving, decision-making, goal setting, and leadership through hands-on activities, real-world experiences, and meaningful leadership opportunities.

Students will have opportunities to plan and participate in community service projects, school activities, and initiatives that positively impact others. Through these experiences, students will learn that leadership is not simply about having a title—it is about taking initiative, being responsible, building others up, and making a difference.

The course will place a strong emphasis on collaboration, communication, self-confidence, and personal growth. Students will participate in leadership challenges that require them to work with others, navigate challenges, consider different perspectives, advocate for themselves and others, and make thoughtful decisions. They will also reflect on their own strengths and areas for growth as they develop their individual leadership style.

Digital Literacy I and II
Grades 6- 7

Course Description:

Digital Literacy I & II provide students with the practical technology skills, digital citizenship knowledge, and confidence they need to navigate school, work, and everyday life in an increasingly digital world. Across the two courses, students will build proficiency with tools such as Google Docs, Slides, Sheets, Drive, and Canva, using them to create, organize, collaborate, communicate, and present information effectively.

Students will also learn how to be responsible, informed, and safe digital citizens. Topics will include evaluating the credibility of online sources, recognizing misinformation, understanding digital footprints, protecting personal information, practicing appropriate online communication, addressing cyberbullying, and making responsible choices when using social media and other digital platforms.

Artificial Intelligence Discovery
Grade 7

Course Description:
Artificial Intelligence Discovery is an introductory course that gives students the opportunity to explore computer science, artificial intelligence, technology, and digital creation through hands-on, engaging projects. Students will develop skills in creativity, communication, problem-solving, critical thinking, collaboration, and computational thinking while exploring how technology and AI are shaping the world around them.

Students will be introduced to foundational concepts in programming, web development, digital design, data, and artificial intelligence. Through project-based learning, students will experiment with technology, create their own digital products, solve authentic problems, and explore how AI can be used as a tool for creativity, innovation, and communication.

Ignite the Spark
Grade 8

Course Description:
Ignite your curiosity and park your potential in "Start the Spark: An Introduction to the Patriot Academy!" This course is a launchpad to Broadalbin-Perth's immersive academic adventure into the Patriot Academy program. Dive into a hands-on blend of STEM, art, service, and character development. Discover your passions through engaging projects that unleash your critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity - the four cornerstones of the Patriot Academy.

Band
Grades 6-8

Course Description:
Middle School Band provides students with the opportunity to develop their musical skills, confidence, and appreciation through the study and performance of instrumental music.

Throughout Grades 6–8, students will progressively develop skills in instrumental technique, music reading, rhythm, melody, dynamics, tone production, ensemble performance, and musical expression. Students will rehearse and perform a variety of musical styles while learning how to listen critically, respond to feedback, and contribute as an individual musician and member of an ensemble.

The program emphasizes collaboration, responsibility, perseverance, communication, and self-discipline. Students will learn the importance of preparation, practice, and accountability while working together toward shared goals.

Band members will receive individualized instruction through small group lessons that are approximately once a week and the schedule rotates to prevent students from missing too much time in any one class. Band members are expected to practice at home to reinforce the skills they have learned. Band members are also required to participate in three concerts each year and two parades in the spring.

Prerequisite: At least one year of band experience in Elementary School

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Chorus

Grade 6-8

Course Description:
Chorus 6–8 provides students with the opportunity to develop their vocal skills, confidence, creativity, and appreciation for music through singing and ensemble performance.

Throughout Grades 6–8, students will progressively develop skills in vocal technique, breath support, pitch, rhythm, diction, harmony, music reading, and musical expression. Students will perform a variety of musical styles and genres while learning how to listen critically, respond to feedback, and contribute both individually and as members of an ensemble.

Chorus emphasizes collaboration, communication, confidence, perseverance, responsibility, and self-expression. Students will learn the importance of preparation, practice, active listening, and supporting one another as they work toward shared performance goals.

Additional Descriptions

Thrive Time
Grades 6-8

Course Description:
Thrive Time is a dedicated time built into the school day for every student to develop the skills they need to be successful in middle school and beyond. We recognize that students need explicit instruction and opportunities to practice important skills such as time management, organization, study strategies, goal setting, character development, collaboration, and problem-solving.

During Thrive Time, students will also have opportunities to explore different careers, interests, and future possibilities while learning more about themselves and their strengths. Students will have regular opportunities to reinforce key ELA and math skills through targeted practice. Thrive Time will also provide a built-in opportunity for students to meet with teachers for additional help, ask questions, complete work, and receive extra support when needed.

Learning Center
Grades 6-8

Course Description:
Learning Center is a dedicated time for students to get organized, stay on top of their work, and receive additional academic support. Students will have the opportunity to complete homework, study for upcoming tests and quizzes, organize materials, make up work, and ask questions in a supportive environment.

Students can also work directly with a faculty or staff member to receive extra help, review challenging concepts, or develop strategies for completing their work successfully.