

# 2019 Middle School Curriculum Guide

Certain classes at the middle school have requirements that students must meet before they are able to be considered for those classes. Below are a list of all classes, as well as the specific requirements for each class.

Even though a student may meet certain requirements, we strive to ensure that all students are appropriately scheduled . Teachers and families work together to make sure that each student is placed into the classes that best meet his/her needs.

## Language Arts Department

### English - 6th, 7th, & 8th grades:

Students will read, comprehend, and analyze both fiction and nonfiction stories, articles, and essays.

There is a strong writing component in ELA classes. Students will receive direct instruction in the fundamentals of language including parts of speech, sentence and paragraph structure, capitalization, punctuation, usage, spelling, and vocabulary. Students will write three types of essays: informative, narrative, and persuasive. They will use the writing process to produce essays of at least 5 paragraphs. They will also use the **TAGSS** graphic organizer to complete text-dependent analysis essays. (Turn the prompt around, Answer the prompt, Give examples, Support examples with evidence, Summarize and conclude)

6th grade will use the curriculum selected by the district.

7th and 8th grade classes use Prentice Hall Literature Series and other selected works, as well as Heath Grammar and Composition.

### Accelerated English - 6th, 7th & 8th grades:

- Student must be advanced on their most recent PSSA Reading test
- Students must maintain a 90 % average in their previous grade English and Reading classes
- Students must be recommended by their previous English and Reading teachers
- Students must complete the summer writing/reading assignment component
- Student's PVAAS scores should be greater than 70%

### Grade 6:

Heath-Grammar Book.

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Novels may include: *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred Taylor, *The Incredible Journey* by Sheila Burnford and *The Just So Stories* by Rudyard Kipling.

## Grade 7:

Heath Grammar and Composition Text

Prentice Hall Literature Text

ELA and Text-Based Vocabulary

Various Poems: Narrative, Lyric, Ode, Elegy, Acrostic, Concrete, Free Verse, Limerick, Nonsense

Short Story: “The Three Century Woman”

Articles: “Honor or Abandon, Societies’ Treatment of Elders”, “History of Ghost Stories”,

Play: *A Christmas Carol*, “*The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street*”

Novels: *The Giver*, *The Other Side of the Island*, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, *The Golden Compass*, *The Outsiders*

## Grade 8:

Novels: *The Hobbit*, *Freedom Summer Murders*

Play: *The Diary of Anne Frank*

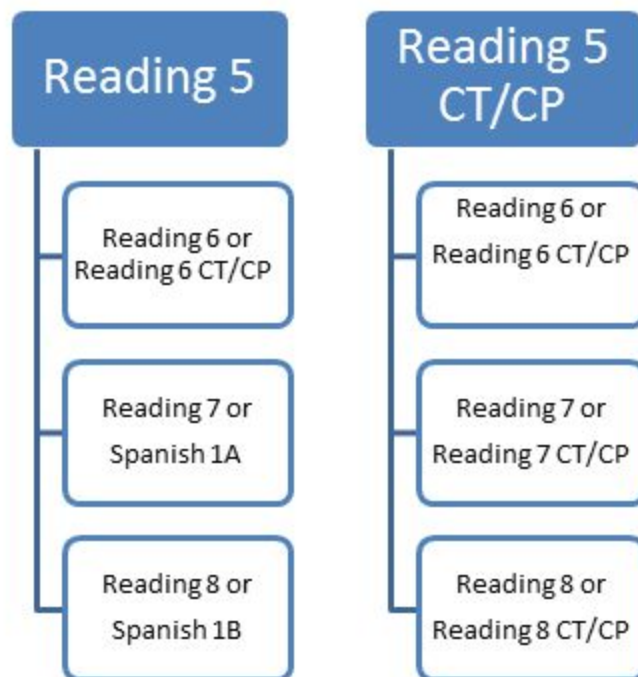
Vocabulary from Latin and Greek Roots

Prentice Hall-Literature Book

Heath - Grammar Book

## Reading

The usual sequence for reading is as follows:



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## Reading - 6th, 7th, & 8th grades

Students in all three grade levels of reading classes will learn to read independently and fluently. They will demonstrate fluency and comprehension of all genres of literature and nonfiction writing. They will learn about story elements in fiction and use and understand text structure in nonfiction. There is a strong vocabulary component in all reading classes to enable students to understand academic language at all levels. They study word origins, prefixes, and suffixes to assist in vocabulary development.

The writing instruction includes creating essays of three types: informative, narrative, and persuasive.

Students also create essays using text-dependent analysis questions based on a piece of text.

6th grade classes use the curriculum chosen by the district.

7th and 8th grades use Prentice Hall Literature Series.

## Reading Intervention classes:

1. Oiler Expansion: This class focuses on building students' academic vocabulary using a program called "Word Generation." It is designed to teach word meaning through language arts, math, science, and social studies activities. Students are scheduled for this class if they are proficient or nearly proficient on the ELA PSSA test and are not enrolled in chorus or band.

2. Rewards: This reading program focuses on teaching students multisyllabic word reading strategies to help them decode the big words found in informational text and textbooks. Students are assigned to Rewards if they are scoring basic or below basic on the ELA PSSA test. When they become proficient, they will move to an Oiler Expansion class for the second semester.

3. SRA: The class focuses on basic phonics/decoding skills to help struggling readers sound out unfamiliar words and to increase their reading fluency. Students who are 2-3 years below grade level in reading are scheduled for this class based on a diagnostic core phonics test given by the reading specialist. They generally stay in the program for three years until they have completed all the levels. Students will move out of SRA when they become proficient on the ELA PSSA test.

**Co-Taught Classes:** Co-taught classes have two teachers in the same class. They are designed for students who are significantly below grade level in a content area.

- Students must meet a minimum of two of the following categories:
- Student is two or more grade levels below in reading or math - based on AIMSweb (R-CBM or M-COMP) scores in the below average range.
- PSSA or Study Island benchmark scores must be basic or below basic range.
- PVAAS Projection of Less than or Equal to Proficient.

**Co-Paraprofessional Classes:** Co-Para classes have a teachers & a paraprofessional in the classroom. They are designed for students who need extra help in the subject matter.

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## Spanish:

The goal of students starting Spanish in 7th grade is for them to be able to reach AP Spanish as a senior (6 years). Most students begin their foreign language in 9th grade and can elect Spanish or French. Most college admissions like a student to have at least two years of the same language.

### IA (Spanish 1, Part A) Grade 7

Spanish IA is the first half of Spanish I. To complete Spanish in middle school, the student must pass Spanish IA & IB to be referred to Accelerated Spanish II in high school.

- Students must be Advanced on their most recent PSSA ELA test.
- Students must maintain a 90% average in their previous grade's English and Reading classes.
- Students must be recommended by their previous English and Reading teachers.
- Student's PVAAS scores should be greater than 60%.

### IB (Spanish 1, Part B) Grade 8

Spanish IB is the second half of Spanish I.

- Students have successfully passed Spanish IA with a 70% grade or higher.
- Students must be at least Proficient on their PSSA ELA test the previous year.
- Students must be recommended by their Spanish IA teacher.
- Student's PVAAS scores should be greater than 60%.

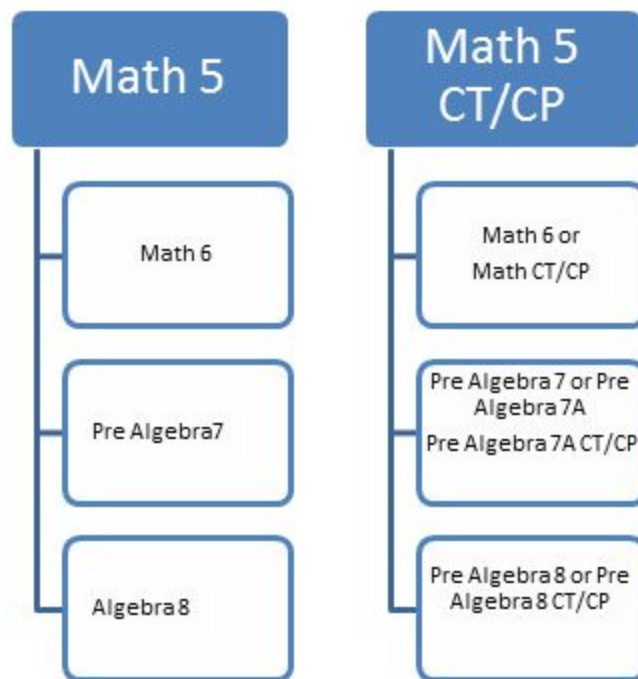
Why a student might be removed from Spanish IA or IB:

1. If the student fails to show proficiency on the PSSA test the previous year.
2. If the student receives a grade of 59% or lower in the first two quarters in any school year.
3. Class can be changed at semester or year end only.

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## Math Department

Usual sequence of classes from grade 6 through grade 8



### Algebra I (grade 8)

Students taking Algebra in 8th grade will sequence through to Calculus as a senior.

Students must be proficient or advanced on the PSSA Math test the previous year

- Students must maintain an 80 % average in their previous grade Math class
- Students must be recommended by their Math teacher
- Students PVAAS scores should be greater than 60%

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- Students must take the PA KEYSTONE EXAM at the end of the year for HS graduation requirements.

Topics include:

Solving linear equations, graphing relations and functions, analyzing linear equations, solving linear inequalities, solving systems of linear equations and inequalities, polynomials, factoring, radical expressions, rational expressions and equations, statistics, and probability.

## Pre Algebra 8

Topics include:

- PSSA content specific for grade 8

## Pre Algebra 7

Topics include:

- PSSA content specific for grade 7

Requirements: 80% overall GPA in previous math class. 60% PVAAS Projection and proficient or advanced on previous PSSA.

## Pre Algebra 7A

- Grade 7 PSSA content specific
- Slower paced than Pre Algebra 7

## Math 6

### Grade 6 PSSA content specific

**Accelerated 6th Grade Math:** Requirements: 80% overall GPA in previous math class. 60% or greater PVAAS Projection and proficient or advanced on previous PSSA. Students will learn grade specific content with more enrichment, problem solving and projects than Math 6.

**Co-Taught Classes:** Co-taught classes have two teachers in the same class. They are designed for students who are significantly below grade level in a content area.

- Students must meet a minimum of two of the following categories:
- Student is two or more grade levels below in reading or math - based on AIMSweb (R-CBM or M-COMP) scores in the below average range.
- PSSA or CDT benchmark scores must be basic or below basic range.
- PVAAS Projection of Less than or Equal to 25%.

**Co-Paraprofessional Classes:** Co-Para classes have a teacher & a paraprofessional in the classroom. They are designed for students who need extra help in the subject matter.

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## Science Department

**Science 6:** Students are introduced to the nature of science and what scientists do. They design their own investigation using the scientific method and will continue to use the scientific method and the science process skills to solve practical problems. Environmental science covers the basics of life and the biomes around the world. In physical science students will learn about energy, including electricity, chemical reactions and phases of matter. Earth science covers the processes of erosion and rocks and minerals. Parts of the atmosphere.

**Science 7:** All students in 7th grade will take 7th grade science. The course will build upon topics covered in 6th grade science as well as be introduced to several others. Major units to be covered are the nature of science, earth and space, physical science, ecology and cells.

**Science 8:** Topics to be covered: Apply process knowledge to make and interpret observations and use the elements of scientific inquiry to solve problems. Describe essential ideas about the composition and structure of the universe and earth's place in it. Describe basic elements of meteorology. Identify and explain the principles of force and motion. Distinguish between forms of energy and how they are converted. Describe the cell as the basic structural and functional unit of living things. Explain basic concepts of living systems, their structure, and function.

## Social Studies Department

- World Cultures 6- Students will analyze and study cultures of the ancient world. These cultures include Ancient Humans of the Paleolithic & Neolithic eras to analyze how humans interacted with the world & their environments of that time. Through the five themes of geography, the cultures of Ancient Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, Ancient Israel, Ancient Greece, Ancient China, Ancient India & Ancient Rome are discussed & analyzed for their legacies, technologies, ideas of government & cultural elements. As students make connections with the past and the present, they can better understand the world in which they live.
- US & World Geography 7- Students take a journey to each of the seven continents of the world. For each continent, students are introduced to the physical features, history and culture.
- US History I -- Revolution to Civil War 8- Students begin with an introduction to the events leading to the American Revolution. From the Revolution, the beginnings of our nation's government, industry and growth, westward expansion and the division between the North and South which leads to the Civil War.

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## Music Department

- **Choir - 6th, 7th or 8th grades:**
  - Students must be proficient on their previous PSSA test to enter Chorus in grade 6
  - Students must maintain proficient on benchmark assessments throughout the year
    - Students must be recommended by their music teacher
    - Students must take the vocal test
    - Class can only be changed at semester or year end
- **Band - 5, 6, 7 & 8th grades**
- **Music class - semester grades 6 & 8**
  - A one semester course that emphasizes music from around the world. Learning to read music and play instruments.
- **Instrumental Lessons weekly**

## Technology Department

- **Computer Applications**
  - **6th Grade** - A one-semester course designed to teach basic keying skills. The course emphasizes the skill of touch-typing using correct keyboarding technique in alphabetic, numeric, symbol and function keys including the numeric keypad. Emphasis will be placed on development of accuracy and technique. Students will use their touch-typing skill to compose and produce basic word processing documents which include, but are not limited to, business letters, envelopes, tables, brochures and unbound reports. Proofreading and proper computer ethics, social media behavior, and communication skills will be emphasized throughout the course
  - **7th Grade** - A one-semester class where the student continues to discover new ways to use computers as tools for learning. In addition to practicing and improving their touch-typing skills, the student will connect computer applications to real-life problems and life-long learning tools. Students can expect to use a variety of software programs, including Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel as they navigate through real-life projects and practice. The emphasis in the course is on the development of speed, accuracy, digital citizenship and using technology resources to create projects and assignments. Students are expected to proofread and revise documents.
- **Technology Education**



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- 7th and 8th grade Tech Ed is designed to help students make logical connections between technological systems and careers. The courses offers "Minds On/Hands On Experiences" in the areas of communication, transportation, manufacturing, and construction.

## Family & Consumer Science

- **Grade 7**
  - **A semester course designed to teach proactive skills and strategies to guide students on the challenges of everyday life. Students work in teams, with partners and individually. Course content includes setting goals, time management, career interests, financial management and foods and nutrition.**

## Art Department

### Grade 5 & 6 & 8

- **Art courses are designed to build on the foundations of the elements of art and principles of design. Students taking these classes will experiment with a variety of mediums while learning about artists, art history, techniques in art, art production, culture and art esthetics. Students will learn and practice techniques and methods for creating artworks. Students will reflect upon their work and the work of others while making connections to other subjects and their own experiences.**
  - **Grades 5 and 8 are nine week courses, and grade 6 is a semester long course**
  - **Grade 5 and 6 are 2D and 3D combined**
  - **Grade 8 will break down by 3D and 2D for 9 weeks each. Students will create with a variety of media to gain experience & develop skills. Students will examine the art elements, and in particular the element of “form” in both courses. Students will explore various ways of creating actual and simulated depth in an art work.**

## Physical Education Department

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## Fifth grade Physical Education:

A nine week course divided into 2 sections. Swimming for 4.5 weeks and PE for 4.5 weeks.

## Fifth Grade Health:

A nine week course covering Health knowledge and skills. This class covers aspects of physical health, mental health, emotional health, and social health. The curriculum follows state and national standards to include the following content areas: nutrition, exercise, sleep, self-esteem, body systems, disease, peer pressure, illegal drugs, decision making, conflict resolution, goal setting, personal safety, and first aid/CPR. Developing healthy skills such as accessing reliable health related information and maintaining good hygiene are also considered.

## Sixth Grade Physical Education:

An 18 week course. 4 sport/activity days per week and 1 cardio day per week.

## Seventh and Eighth Grade Physical Education:

An 18 week course. 3 sport days per week, one cardio day and one weight room day each week.