

Middle School Program of Studies

GRADE 6

2010-2011

Eyer Middle School

Administration: 610-965-1600
Counseling Office: 610-965-1605
Eyer Fax: 610-966-9649
Web Page: <http://www.eastpennsd.org>

Lower Macungie Middle School

Administration 610-395-8593
Counseling Office 610-398-4388
Counseling Fax #610-398-4393
Web Page: <http://www.eastpennsd.org>

EAST PENN SCHOOL DISTRICT MIDDLE SCHOOL

MISSION STATEMENT

As a school and community, we are committed to providing a diversified middle level program that addresses the unique needs of early adolescents and that results in academic excellence and inspires life-long learning.

BELIEF STATEMENTS

- We believe in a positive and secure environment where all members of the school community feel safe and valued.

**EAST PENN SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

- We believe that the development of the whole child is crucial and must extend beyond academics to include the early adolescent's social, emotional, physical, and ethical well being.
- We believe that the school, family, and community all share in the responsibility for the student's learning.
- We are a community of diverse learners, and we believe that every student can experience success through multiple teaching strategies, approaches, and technology.
- We believe that students learn and develop best when they are members of, and feel connected to, a small learning community.
- We believe that the uniqueness of individuals and cultures must be understood and respected.
- We believe that every student is responsible for his/her own success.

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Alan C. Earnshaw, President
Charles H. Ballard, Vice President

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Michael Policano, Jr.
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Emmaus, PA 18049
610-966-8300
24-hour Information Line 610-966-8400

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For information regarding 1) civil rights, 2) grievance procedures, 3) services, activities and facilities that are accessible to and usable by handicapped persons, or 4) employee or participant complaints of harassment or discrimination, contact Mrs. Lesl Daniel, Director of Personnel, 800 Pine Street, Emmaus, PA 18049. The Federal Drug-Free Workplace Act requires that your workplace be free of the illegal use of drugs and requires that we issue the following statements to you: No one is allowed to use, make, sell, distribute, or have in their possession any illegal drugs. Any violation of the act will lead to severe disciplinary action, which will normally include dismissal.

BAND – 6700 scheduled during 9th period

This instrumental program serves to fulfill a need for those students with special talents in music by providing ongoing small group lessons and performance opportunities on instruments of the woodwind, brass, and percussion families. The program offers performance opportunities. The band performs in parades and two concerts.

ORCHESTRA – 6710 scheduled during 9th period

This program is designed to fulfill a need for students with musical talents on stringed instruments. It gives students ensemble playing experience and prepares them for public performances.

CHORUS – 6720 scheduled during 9th period

Vocal music activities are offered to both boys and girls. All styles, forms, and periods of music are studied culminating in two concerts each year.

A combination of the above classes may be selected.

12. Provide a program which will foster respect and understanding of cultural diversity in our global society.

NOTE: Students will receive their final schedule on the first day of school. Changes to a student's schedule may only be requested prior to October 1st. Music electives may be added or dropped through October 15th and January 1-15.

GOALS

1. Provide a curriculum that addresses the various learning styles, abilities, and interests of all students.
2. Create and maintain a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment that promotes social, emotional and physical well being by fostering success and growth of the learners.
3. Guide children in their transition from childhood into adolescence.
4. Provide a variety of activities appropriate for the middle-level learner.
5. Provide a program which fosters life-long learning and encourages physical fitness.
6. Provide a common program of core academics for all students which integrate higher order thinking skills, problem-solving techniques, and basic study skills.
7. Provide an integrated program of technology that enhances and extends the instructional program.
8. Provide a program of exploratory courses that allows for discovery, encourages creativity, and offers opportunities for career exploration.
9. Provide the opportunity for students to participate in a variety of activities allowing for growth beyond the academic realm.
10. Provide for continual professional development for staff and administration to address the unique needs of the middle-level learner.
11. Create and maintain a positive atmosphere that encourages broad community awareness, communication, and involvement in support of the middle school program thereby fostering community service experiences for the students.

Middle School Instructional Support Program

The purpose of the Instructional Support Program is to help academically at-risk students succeed in school. There are several facets to this program, some of which include study support, organizational help, and study skills training.

Instructional Support is a state initiative, which is mandated for the elementary level but voluntary on the secondary level. This program is full-time program at the secondary level, employing one teacher and one remedial aide in each middle level building.

Students are usually referred to Instructional Support by their teaching team or by their counselor. Student needs are then assessed by a team of professionals who are familiar with the student. Strategies are agreed upon and implemented. The student's progress is reviewed on a regular basis.

The best result of Instructional Support is that students gain confidence and the ability to help themselves succeed.

What will Learning Support and Gifted programs look like?

Children identified as having a learning disability will be included in regular education classes except where pull-out is required, as specified in the I.E.P.

Children identified as gifted will have the program delivered within the classroom by the gifted teacher for three marking periods. The fourth marking period will be pull-out.

WELLNESS/FITNESS – 6PE

This course is designed to help students improve and monitor personal physical fitness. Students are provided with opportunities to learn fundamental skills for developing physical abilities. A variety of

activities and games are presented to stimulate student interest and aptitudes. **Students are expected to dress for and to participate in every class unless they have a written physician's excuse.**

ADAPTIVE FITNESS - 6ADP

Offers a program designed to meet the needs of individual students. It is available for those students who are unable to participate in a regular physical education setting. (Students are expected to dress and participate in every class unless they have a written physician's excuse.)

ELECTIVES

(None of the music electives listed is mandatory)

- A. Students may select a combination of music electives.
- B. Music electives meet during Period 9.
- C. Only students who have been in band or orchestra in fifth grade, or have arranged an audition with the director, may select band or orchestra for sixth grade.
- D. Auditions are not required for grade level choruses.
- E. Music electives are graded courses.
- F. Attendance at rehearsals and the winter and spring concerts are mandatory and are one of the components for the marking period grade.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE - 6RF

This survey course will incorporate the Food Guide Pyramid in choosing and preparing healthy and nutritious snacks. Emphasis will be placed on developing skills necessary to become a competent child care provider. Using resource management skills, students will produce an individual project that can be utilized as a tool when caring for children.

EXPLORATORY PROGRAM (12-WEEK ROTATION)

COMPUTERS – 6CP

This course will provide students with: file management skills, Internet research skills, computer ethics, and word processing fundamentals using

Microsoft Word. An emphasis will be placed on learning alphabetic keyboarding skills.

HEALTH – 6HE

This course is designed to introduce students to the decision-making process as it relates to healthful living and managing stress. Students will gain basic knowledge of many human body systems including: respiratory, circulatory, excretory, digestive, and an introduction to puberty and the male and female reproductive systems. There is also focus on educating children about the dangers of tobacco and anabolic steroid use.

NOTE: The middle school wellness curriculum includes a unit on 'human sexuality' dealing with the reproductive system of the body, and a unit on HIV/AIDS prevention will be taught. Detailed information on these units is available at each school. HIV/AIDS/steroids education is state mandated every year.

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS SIXTH GRADE

LANGUAGE ARTS - 6100

This course is a comprehensive one derived from the PA State Standard namely anchors of reading, writing, speaking, and literacy. This course designed to integrate the previous areas mentioned through writing effective paragraphs/essays, reading passages, short stories, and novels from all fact and fiction genres, presenting and discussing on higher levels, and developing proper grammar, research and study skills. The integration of subject matter will bring meaning to the student's as they continue to use the English language effectively.

SOCIAL STUDIES - 6200

Ancient Civilizations - This course will evaluate early civilizations to the collapse of the Roman Empire, approximately 500 AD. Studies will focus on geography, culture, and history on the continents of Africa, Asia, and Europe, including the following major civilizations: the Fertile Crescent, Egypt, India, China, Greece, and Rome. Current events will also be covered.

NOTE: SPECIAL MATHEMATICS STATEMENT TO PARENTS - High school mathematics classes (Algebra II and higher) are provided in the middle school for students who have demonstrated the skill and maturity required for a more challenging curriculum. This higher-level challenge is accompanied with higher expectations for performance. Grades earned in high school level courses are reported on a student's high school transcript, and beginning with the graduating class of 2013, the grade will not be included in the high school GPA calculation unless the course is taken at the high school.

MATHEMATICS - 6300

The math curriculum is organized around such areas as problem solving, number sense, mental math, calculators, whole numbers, fractions, decimals and geometry. The emphasis is on applying learned skills to practical every-day usage.

PRE-ALGEBRA – 6310

This course is designed for the student who has excelled in an above average 5th grade math class and has qualified under the Pre-Algebra eligibility which includes a Pre-Algebra Prognosis test. The Pre-Algebra course is recommended for students who plan to take Algebra I Honors in seventh grade. Topics covered in Pre-Algebra will include geometry, pre-algebra, problem solving, probability and percents.

SCIENCE - 6400

The science program will concentrate on the physical science area. Among the topics to be included are properties and structure of matter, principles of force and motion, natural resources and energy, and geological formations. Instruction is organized on a hands-on, process-oriented perspective, which includes experiences that will lead to an

understanding of the practical uses of science. Metric measurements, science process skills and experimental design topics are covered in det

RELATED ARTS (NINE-WEEK ROTATION)

ART - 6RA

This course serves as an introduction to basic design principles and art terminology. Projects will include figure drawing, painting, and some form of 3D art. Students will have experiences in art criticism, art aesthetics, and art history. Students will also be exposed to a computer mini-lab and a full ceramic studio as part of the middle school art program.

MUSIC - 6RM

Music at the middle level serves to introduce students to the study of various music elements including melody, vocal harmony, musical notation, rhythm, and form. A study of musical styles, historical period and different cultures will also be included.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION:

Exploring Technology - 6RT

This activity-based course introduces students to technology by examining the basic definition of “technology” and exploring the different areas within technology: communication, manufacturing, construction, transportation, and bio-technology. Students will study the evolution of technology, impacts of technology on mankind, the system approach, elements of design, and various problem-solving methods. Students will explore technology through a variety of hands-on problem solving activities. They will work independently, cooperatively in pairs, and in small groups during this course.

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**EAST PENN SCHOOL
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**MIDDLE SCHOOL
PROGRAM OF STUDIES**

GRADE 7

2010-2011

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thereby fostering community service experiences for the students.

12. Provide a program which will foster respect and understanding of cultural diversity in our global society.

MIDDLE SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

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Students are usually referred to Instructional Support by their teaching team or by their counselor. Student needs are then assessed by a team of professionals who are familiar with the student. Strategies are agreed upon and implemented. The student's progress is reviewed on a regular basis.

The best result of Instructional Support is that students gain confidence and the ability to help themselves succeed.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION: Applying Technology – 7RT

Applying Technology is an activity-based course that focuses on the application of the tools, materials, and processes of communication, manufacturing, construction, transportation, and bio-technology. Students will study the ways that materials, energy, and information are processed to transmit information, build structures, make products, and move passengers and freight. The students will have the opportunity to apply technology to solve problems in each of the areas through the use of multimedia computers, hands-on activities and problem-solving experiences. The students will learn to work cooperatively through a variety of small and large group settings.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE – 7RF

Instruction in seventh grade Family and Consumer Science is organized around three areas: Individual and Family Development, Nutrition and Foods, and Resource Management. This course will incorporate the guidelines of the Food Pyramid in choosing and preparing healthy and nutritious breakfasts and snacks. Emphasis will be placed on the strength and vitality of the family throughout the life cycle. Using resource management skills, students will produce an individual project.

NOTE: SPECIAL WELLNESS STATEMENT TO PARENTS

The middle school health curriculum includes units on ‘human sexuality’ dealing with the reproductive system and pregnancy. Also, a unit on HIV/AIDS/Steroids will be taught. Detailed information on these units is available at each school. HIV/AIDS/Steroid education is state mandated every year.

HEALTH– 7HE

This course is designed with an emphasis on decision-making as it relates to the importance of exercise and lifelong fitness, keeping body systems healthy and preventing violence. Body systems from the 6th grade health curriculum are briefly reviewed as well as new information presented about the skeletal, muscular, and reproductive systems. There is also focus on infectious diseases and the dangers of alcohol abuse.

RELATED ARTS CLASSES NINE WEEK ROTATION

Related Arts courses will receive a letter grade.

ART – 7RA

This course refines skills and attitudes formed in sixth grade. Students will improve their abilities in drawing as well as observation. Projects and experiences may include: drawing and painting in a variety of media, experiencing three-dimensional art, and exploring art history/cultural expressions of art.

MUSIC – 7RM

This course focuses on understanding the fundamentals of music, which include basic music notation, keyboard performance, composition, and vocal performance. Current technology is used to enhance daily class activities.

GUIDELINES FOR COURSE SELECTION SEVENTH GRADE

Students in Grade 7 will once again be assigned to courses from both the core academic and exploratory programs. Core academic courses are divided into two levels of instruction:

HONORS AND ON-LEVEL

NOTE: Students will receive their final schedule on the first day of school. Changes to a student’s schedule may only be requested prior to October 1st. Music electives may be added or dropped through October 15th and January 1-15.

HONORS CLASSES are offered in the four core curriculum areas: language arts, science, social studies, and mathematics. They are designed for the student who:

- Achieves consistently at the top of the grade range in specific subject areas.
- Does homework consistently in a conscientious manner, is organized, and has excellent work-study habits.
- Demonstrates a willingness to study unfamiliar or challenging subject matter to mastery level.
- Desires an enriched curriculum and accelerated level of instruction.
- Reads well above grade level and works well independently.
- Expresses herself/himself well in writing.
- Participates willingly in class activities and discussions.

The number of honors level courses, which a student may select, is a decision that should be made by the parents and student after consultation with your child’s current teachers and your child’s counselor. A student may be scheduled for one, two, or four **Honors Level** courses.

Please review the specific course descriptions in the Program of Studies booklet. Some of the honors level courses require some summer reading and other activities throughout the school year.

Please do not select an honors course with the idea that the student's schedule can be changed easily if the course turns out to be too difficult, too challenging, or contains too much work. The scheduling process that takes place over the summer is designed to balance the number of students in course sections. Changing schedules after the school year starts often has a negative impact on class size.

Students will also be presented with the opportunity to schedule honors level courses in grade eight and throughout the high school program.

Students who wish to select Algebra 1 Honors in Grade seven should:

- be in an above average math group in Grade 6
- have an 'A' average in that above-level math group
- obtain the required score on an algebra assessment.
- have the recommendation of their current math teacher

ON-LEVEL COURSES provide a level of instruction appropriate for grade seven students in the four core academic areas: language arts, social studies, mathematics, and science. Most of the topics covered in the honors level courses are also covered in the on-level courses. The courses differ in terms of depth of presentation, rate of instruction, and type of assessments. **On level courses are not remedial courses.** They provide students with a rich curriculum that offers appropriate challenges and opportunities for academic success.

Students, who select on-level courses in grade seven and achieve high academic success in them, may wish to attempt one or more honors level courses in grade eight. It is our school philosophy to provide opportunities for all students to excel academically, but we also understand that middle level students mature academically, physically, and socially at different points in their lives. Our goal is to provide an appropriately challenging program for all students.

COMMUNICATIONS APPLICATIONS – 7600

This course will expand opportunities for developing skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening and will apply these skills as activities that are integrated into the grade seven core curriculum (language arts, math, science, and social studies). In addition, students will learn how to achieve success in the middle school program with specific instruction and activities in the following skill areas: organization, studying, test taking, and research using both print and electronic resources including the Internet. Class instruction will include both individual and group based activities and will be centered around hands-on activities which will require all students to be active learners. The class will meet in various school locations including the library and will require all students to use computers.

EXPLORATORY CLASSES - 12 WEEK ROTATION

Exploratory courses will receive a letter grade.

COMPUTERS – 7CP

This course will provide students with the knowledge required to use word processing, presentation, desktop publishing and spreadsheet software programs. In addition, effective Internet research skills will be expanded.

WELLNESS/FITNESS – 7PE

This course provides the student with opportunities to improve their physical fitness and develop fundamental skills in a variety of games and activities. The activities in this course provide experiences that stimulate student interests and aptitude. **Students are expected to dress and to participate in every class unless they have a written physician's excuse.**

SCIENCE - 7400

The seventh grade science program deals with the characteristics of the six kingdoms of organisms while developing an ecological and environmental approach. The scientific method is explained and modeled and becomes the primary way students view and analyze natural phenomena. Laboratory activities stress application and external inquiry skills as a means of obtaining knowledge and resolving problems. Students also compare characteristics of both the basic plant and animal cell. This examination allows students to generalize the cell as the basic unit of structure and life. Students also will become familiar with terms like vertebrate, invertebrate, photosynthesis, food web, adaptation and pyramid of life.

SCIENCE HONORS - 7410

This course will focus on scientific concepts, processes, and higher-level terminology needed to make students scientifically literate in today's technological world. The scientific method will be used to investigate the various branches of life science and will be applied to independent research in carrying out investigations to complete a research project in an area of science of their choice. The students will recognize the characteristics of the six kingdoms of living organisms while developing an ecological and environmental approach to the study of life science. **NOTE:** Students who enroll in honors science are required to complete an individual science research project. The science fair project begins in September with the selection and approval of a grade appropriate topic. The students will turn in a background research report in October. The experiment phase of the science fair runs from mid-October through November. The final paper is due in December. Finally, students must give an oral presentation during January or February. Students signing up for Science Honors should plan on spending at least forty (40) hours of work to complete the research project.

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS SEVENTH GRADE

LANGUAGE ARTS – 7100 & HONORS 7110

Language Arts is a course which concentrates on effective communication through multiple modes of writing, reading, and speaking. In addition to these communication skills, a focus is on developing and improving grammar and study skills. In this course students will read, reflect, and discuss various genres of literature. Vocabulary and literary terms are also emphasized. Every attempt is made to integrate these components so that students learn to use the English language effectively. Furthermore, differentiation may be provided to meet individual needs. **NOTE:** The Honors course has pre-requisite summer readings.

LANGUAGE ACCESS PROGRAM (LAP) - 7120

This is a concentrated course for remediation in reading for those students who have scored two or more grade levels below seventh grade and are not designated as learning support students who require an IEP. This is a teacher-referred course and cannot be selected by a student.

SOCIAL STUDIES – BUILDING A WORLD COMMUNITY - 7200

This course will focus on the development of civilizations in four major geographic regions: the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Europe from the fall of Ancient Rome to the fall of the Byzantine Empire (approximately 500 CE – Mid 1500's CE). Students will explore the Middle Ages, the Renaissance and the Reformation. This framework will lead students to understand the impact of the Middle Ages on the world community.

SOCIAL STUDIES – BUILDING A WORLD COMMUNITY – HONORS - 7210

This course will focus on the development of civilizations in four major geographic regions: the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Europe from the fall of Ancient Rome to the fall of the Byzantine Empire (approximately 500 CE – Mid 1500's CE). Students will explore the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and the Reformation. This framework will lead students to understand the impact of the Middle Ages on the world community. Students will receive academic enrichment via accelerated pace of instruction, advanced instructional strategies, supplemental reading, independent research, debate, oral presentations, and higher-level assessment. Students will also have the **option** of participating in the National History Day competition.

NOTE: SPECIAL MATHEMATICS STATEMENT TO PARENTS

High school mathematics classes (Algebra 2 and higher) are provided in the middle school for students who have demonstrated the skill and maturity required for a more challenging curriculum. This higher level challenge is accompanied with higher expectations for performance. Grades earned in high school level courses are reported on a student's high school transcript, and beginning with the graduating class of 2013, the grade will not be included in the high school GP/ calculation unless the course is taken at the high school.

PRE-ALGEBRA A - 7300

This course is designed to make connections between various mathematical topics in the areas of arithmetic, algebra, and geometry. The course material is the first part of a two-year Pre-Algebra course and prepares students to take Pre-Algebra B in 8th grade. Exceptional students who also perform well on the Algebra Prognosis test may choose to take Algebra 1 in 8th grade.

PRE-ALGEBRA - 7310

This course is designed for the student who has excelled in an above average 6th grade math class and has qualified under the Pre-Algebra eligibility which includes a Pre-Algebra Prognosis test. The Pre-Algebra course is recommended for students who plan to take Algebra 1 in 8th grade. Topics covered in Pre-Algebra will include geometry, pre-algebra, problem solving, probability and percents.

ALGEBRA 1 HONORS - 7330

This is a regular Algebra 1 course with a full unit on algebraic proofs, many application problems, and some advanced topics. This is a rigorous course with many topics covered during the school year. Students should be good problem solvers, self-motivated, and interested in the study of mathematics. Students should have at least a A average in Pre-Algebra, score well on the Algebra Prognosis test and will need the recommendation of their 6th grade math teacher to take this course.

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MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES

GRADE 8

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- We are a community of diverse learners, and we believe that every student can experience success through multiple teaching strategies, approaches, and technology.
- We believe that students learn and develop best when they are members of, and feel connected to, a small learning community.
- We believe that the uniqueness of individuals and cultures must be understood and respected.
- We believe that every student is responsible for his/her own success.

MUSIC ELECTIVES

- A. Students may select a combination of music electives.
- B. Music electives meet during Period 9.
- C. Only students who have been in band or orchestra in seven grade, or have arranged an audition with the director, may select band or orchestra for eighth grade.
- D. Auditions are not required for grade level choruses.
- E. Music electives are graded courses.
- F. Attendance at rehearsals and the winter and spring concerts are mandatory and are one of the components for the marking period grade.

BAND – 8700 scheduled during 9th period

This instrumental program is designed for the student with special musical talent. The program offers small group instruction and performance opportunities. The band performs in parades and two concerts.

ORCHESTRA – 8710 scheduled during 9th period

Designed to fulfill a need for students with musical talents on stringed instruments. Gives students ensemble playing experiences and prepares them for public performance.

CHORUS – 8720 scheduled during 9th period

Vocal music activities offered to both boys and girls. All styles, forms and periods of music are studied culminating in two concerts each year.

HEALTH – 8HE

This course is designed to recognize the behavioral choices that relate to sexual health, the dangers of drug abuse, and chronic diseases/disabilities. Mental health is another area of focus with information presented regarding overall wellness, mental disorders, and stress management. Students are also exposed to opportunities for careers in health related fields.

NOTE: SPECIAL WELLNESS STATEMENT TO PARENTS

The middle school health curriculum includes a unit on ‘human sexuality’ dealing with the reproductive system, pregnancy and birth. Also, a unit on HIV/AIDS/Steroids and sexually transmitted diseases and prevention will be taught. Detailed information on these units is available at each school. HIV/AIDS/Steroids education is state mandated every year.

WELLNESS/FITNESS – 8PE

This course provides the student with opportunities to learn more complicated skills for sport, fitness, and cooperative activities. The activities and experiences also stimulate student interest and teach life skills. **Students are expected to dress for and to participate in every class unless they have a written physician’s excuse.**

ADAPTIVE FITNESS - 8ADP

Offers a program designed to meet the needs of individual students. It is available for those students who are unable to participate in a regular physical education setting. (Students are expected to dress and participate in every class unless they have a written physician’s excuse.)

GOALS

1. Provide a curriculum that addresses the various learning styles, abilities, and interests of all students.
2. Create and maintain a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment that promotes social, emotional, and physical well-being by fostering success and growth of the learners.
3. Guide children in their transition from childhood into adolescence.
4. Provide a variety of activities appropriate for the middle-level learner.
5. Provide a program which fosters life-long learning and encourages physical fitness.
6. Provide a common program of core academics for all student which integrates higher order thinking skills, problem-solving techniques, and basic study skills.
7. Provide an integrated program of technology that enhances and extends the instructional program.
8. Provide a program of exploratory courses that allows for discovery, encourages creativity, and offers opportunities for career exploration.
9. Provide the opportunity for students to participate in a variety of activities that allows for growth beyond the academic realm.

10. Provide for continual professional development for staff and administration to address the unique needs of the middle-level learners.
11. Create and maintain a positive atmosphere that encourages broad community awareness and communication involvement in support of the middle school program and fosters community service experiences for the students.
12. Provide a program which will foster respect and understanding of cultural diversity in our global society.

MIDDLE SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

The purpose of the Instructional Support Program is to help academically at-risk students succeed in school. There are several facets to this program, some of which include study support, organizational help, and study skills training.

This program is a full-time program employing one teacher and one remedial aide in each middle level building. Students are usually referred to Instructional Support by their teaching team or by their counselor. Student needs are then assessed by a team of professionals who are familiar with the student. Strategies are agreed upon and implemented. The student's progress is reviewed on a regular basis.

The best result of Instructional Support is that students gain confidence and the ability to help themselves succeed.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE - 8RF

Instruction in eighth grade is organized around three areas: Consum Education, Nutrition and Foods, and Resource Management. This course will take a look at the student's role as a consumer and how to avoid common consumer pitfalls. Students will explore the influence of advertising on our purchasing decisions. Students will have the opportunity to prepare recipes that will further their understanding of the principles of baking. Using resource management skills, students will produce a project reflective of the activities provided in this course.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION: Creating Technology - 8RT

This activity-based course encourages students to delve deeper into the various topics within our technological society. Students will expand upon their knowledge of technology's impact on mankind through a relevant, contemporary problem solving project. Students will also continue to develop their awareness of technology within their lives. Students will accomplish these goals through design and productions, using a variety of tools, machines, and computer-based multimedia packages. During this course students will have the opportunity to strengthen their interpersonal skills through small group activities.

EXPLORATORY COURSES - 12 WEEK ROTATION

COMPUTERS – 8CP

This course will provide students with the knowledge required to create web sites and will include fundamental techniques for editing images. Creation of animation and interactive content to be used on websites will be explored. Students will utilize a digital notebook to organize the vast amounts of information they will encounter in the daily lives.

READING SEMINAR - 8530

This course is designed to improve students' proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and thinking. Students will read young adult novels, develop vocabulary in context, discuss literary tools and devices, and complete oral presentations. Students will refine their writing and grammar skills by generating texts using the writing process. Students will improve study and life skills using a school-to-work component integrated throughout the course. Higher level thinking skills will be developed in reading, writing, listening, and speaking while encouraging a great appreciation of themselves as active learners. **Grade 7 teachers will recommend students for enrollment in Reading Seminar in place of a World Language.**

RELATED ARTS – 9 WEEK ROTATION

ART - 8RA

Eighth grade art expands skills and attitudes begun in seventh grade to a higher level. Students explore more advanced drawing and painting techniques including perspective, value, texture, and color theory. Projects involve more challenging materials in both two and three-dimensional areas including experience and understanding of ceramic design and production. Skills learned in eighth grade will ready the student considering elective art classes at the high school level and a possible career in art. These skills also address the middle school focus of developing lifelong skills and appreciation for art.

MUSIC - 8RM

This course continues the focus on understanding the fundamental of music, which include basic music notation, keyboard performance, composition, and vocal performance. Current technology is used to enhance daily class activities.

****GUIDELINES FOR COURSE SELECTION** EIGHTH GRADE**

Students in Grade 8 will once again be assigned to courses from both the core academic and exploratory programs. Core academic courses are divided into two levels of instruction:

HONORS AND ON-LEVEL

NOTE: Students will receive their final schedule on the first day of school. Changes to a student's schedule may only be requested prior to October 1st. Music electives may be added or dropped through October 15th and January 1-15.

HONORS CLASSES are offered in the four core curriculum areas: language arts, science, social studies, and mathematics. They are designed for the student who:

- Achieves consistently at the top of the grade range in specific subject areas.
- Does homework consistently in a conscientious manner, is organized, and has excellent work-study habits.
- Demonstrates a willingness to study unfamiliar or challenging subject matter to mastery level.
- Desires an enriched curriculum and accelerated level of instruction.
- Reads well above grade level and works well independently.
- Expresses herself/himself well in writing.
- Participates willingly in class activities and discussions.

The number of honors level courses, which a student may select, is a decision that should be made by the parents and student after consultation with your child's current teachers and your child's counselor. A student may be scheduled for one, two, or four **Honors Level** courses.

Please review the specific course descriptions in the Program of Studies booklet. Some of the honors level courses require some summer reading and other activities throughout the school year.

Please do not select an honors course with the idea that the student's schedule can be changed easily if the course turns out to be too difficult, too challenging, or contains too much work. The scheduling process that takes place over the summer is designed to balance the number of students in course sections. Changing schedules after the school year starts often has a negative impact on class size.

Students will also be presented with the opportunity to schedule honors level courses throughout the high school program.

Students who wish to select Algebra 1, or Algebra 2 Honors in Grade eight should:

- be doing at least 'B' in seventh grade Algebra 1 Honors with a teacher's recommendation.
- have an 'A' average in Pre-Algebra to schedule Algebra 1 or Honors.
- have the required score on an Algebra assessment.
- have the recommendation of their current math teacher

ON-LEVEL COURSES provide a level of instruction appropriate for grade eight students in the four core academic areas: language arts, social studies, mathematics, and science. Most of the topics covered in the honors level courses are also covered in the on-level courses. The courses differ in terms of depth of presentation, rate of instruction, and type of assessments. **On-level courses are not remedial courses.** They provide students with a rich curriculum that offers appropriate challenges and opportunities for academic success.

Students, who select on-level courses in grade eight and achieve high academic success in them, may wish to attempt one or more honors level courses at the high school level. It is our school philosophy to provide opportunities for all students to excel academically, but we also understand that middle level students mature academically, physically, and socially at different points in their lives. Our goal is to provide an appropriately challenging program for all students.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Students who are not recommended for Reading Seminar will select one of the following World Languages. **NOTE:** World Language students are required to take a mid-term and a final exam, and are committed to a full school year of World Language study.

FRENCH 1 - 8500

GERMAN 1 - 8510

SPANISH 1 – 8520

World Language courses focus on listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Students will develop a knowledge and appreciation of diverse cultures in the many language speaking countries. Students will use textbooks, workbooks, CD's, DVD's, online supports, visuals, and authentic materials to help bring the language to life. Students will study within a grammar-supported program promoting communication skills that apply to everyday situations.

SCIENCE - 8400

This course studies interpretation of meteorological data, assessing the value of water as a resource, the composition and structure of the universe, the processes that change the earth and also the sources and uses of earth resources. Throughout all of the listed courses studied, students will be expected to apply appropriate skills of scientific methodology, including measurement, graphical analysis, scientific method, and lab safety.

SCIENCE HONORS - 8410

This course studies interpretation of meteorological data, assessing the value of water as a resource, the composition and structure of the universe, the processes that change the earth and also the sources and uses of earth resources. Throughout all of the listed courses studied, students will be expected to apply appropriate skills of scientific methodology, including measurement, graphical analysis, scientific method, and lab safety. In addition, students who enroll in honors science are required to complete an individual science research project. The science fair project begins in September with the selection and approval of a grade appropriate topic and concludes in February with an oral presentation on the topic. A written report is also required. Students signing up for science honors should plan on spending at least forty (40) hours of work to complete the research project.

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS EIGHTH GRADE

LANGUAGE ARTS – 8100 & HONORS - 8110

Language Arts is a course which concentrates heavily on multiple modes of writing, reading and discussing a varied selection of novel and short stories. In addition to reading and writing our goal is to develop and improve grammar and study skills. Vocabulary and literary terms are also emphasized. Every attempt is made to integrate these components so that students learn to use the English language effectively. Furthermore, differentiation may be provided meet individual needs. NOTE: The Honors course has a pre-requisite summer reading.

SOCIAL STUDIES – BUILDING A DEMOCRACY - 8200

This course will focus on the rise of the American nation. Students will examine America's early political, economic, and social history from European exploration through the creation of the U.S. Constitution. Geographic influences, important historical events, and the foundations of U.S. government will be highlighted.

SOCIAL STUDIES HONORS – BUILDING A DEMOCRACY - 8210

Students will examine America's early political, economic, and social history from European exploration through the creation of the U.S. Constitution. Students will receive academic enrichment via accelerated pace of instruction, advanced instructional strategies, supplemental reading, independent research, debate, oral presentation, and higher-level assessment. Students will also have the **option** of participating in the National History Day competition.

NOTE: SPECIAL MATHEMATICS STATEMENT TO PARENTS

High school mathematics classes (Algebra 2 Honors and higher) are provided in the middle school for students who have demonstrated the skill and maturity required for a more challenging curriculum. This higher level challenge is accompanied with higher expectations for performance. Grades earned in high school level courses are reported on a student's high school transcript, and beginning with the graduating class of 2013, the grade will not be included in the high school GPA calculation unless the course is taken at the high school.

PRE-ALGEBRA B - 8300

This course is the 2nd part of a two-year Pre-Algebra course and is designed for students who need some additional reinforcement in Pre-Algebra. Some of the topics in Pre-Algebra A will be revisited with additional emphasis in applications and problem solving skills. Percents, probability, statistics, geometry, and pre-algebra skills will be a large part of the course material. This course is recommended for the majority of 8th grade students who are not quite ready to take a full year algebra course.

ALGEBRA 1 - 8310

This course is designed for those students who wish to take Algebra 1 prior to 9th grade. Students taking this course should have above-average ability and motivation. Some introduction to theory will be included and problem-solving skills will be expected. Students should have at least a B average in Pre-Algebra, score well on the Algebra Prognosis test and will need the recommendation of their 7th grade math teacher to take this course.

ALGEBRA 1 HONORS - 8330

This is a regular Algebra 1 course with a full unit on algebraic proof, many application problems, and some advanced topics. This is a rigorous course with many topics covered during the school year. Students should be good problem solvers, self-motivated, and interested in the study of mathematics. Students should have at least a A average in Pre-Algebra, score well on the Algebra Prognosis test and will need the recommendation of their 7th grade math teacher to take this course.

ALGEBRA 2 HONORS - 8340

This course is designed for those students who have a great work ethic and outstanding ability in mathematics as demonstrated by satisfactorily mastering the material in Algebra 1 Honors. This is a regular Algebra 2 course with a full unit on algebraic proofs, many application problems, and some advanced topics. This is a rigorous course with many topics covered during the school year. Students should be good problem solvers, self-motivated, and interested in the study of mathematics. We recommend that students who have not earned a B or higher in Algebra 1 Honors in 7th grade consider repeating Algebra 1 Honors. **Algebra 2 is a high school level course. Grades earned in high school level courses are reported on a student's high school transcript, and beginning with the graduating class of 2013, the grade will not be included in the high school GPA calculation unless the course is taken at the high school.**