



EAST PENN
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Middle School Program of Studies 2024-2025

EYER

Middle School

Administration: 610-965-1600
Counseling Office: 610-965-1605
Fax: 610-966-9649
eastpennsd.org/eyer

LOWER MACUNGIE

Middle School

Administration: 610-395-8593
Counseling Office: 610-398-4388
Counseling Fax: 610-398-4393
eastpennsd.org/LMMS



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Course Selection Guidelines

GUIDELINES FOR COURSE SELECTION 6th GRADE

Students in Grade 6 will be assigned to courses from both the core academic and exploratory programs. For Math, students are placed in accelerated courses based on their performance in class, on i-Ready diagnostic assessments, past PSSA scores, and projections of their future PSSA scores.

GUIDELINES FOR COURSE SELECTION 7th and 8th GRADE

Students in Grade 7 and 8 will be assigned to courses from both the core academic and exploratory programs. Core academic courses are offered in two levels of coursework:

ON-LEVEL COURSES offers students access to East Penn's rigorous core curriculum, which encompasses all appropriate state and national standards.

HONORS COURSES are offered in Science, Language Arts and Social Studies. These courses offer the same rigorous core curriculum as on level courses. Students will enrich their learning through more complex texts, extended writing assignments, and independent research. Eligibility for Honors level courses is determined by teacher recommendation, current content area course grades, related standardized tests scores, and student interest.

EAST PENN School District

- MISSION** We foster a community in which students become effective problem solvers, collaborators, critical thinkers and communicators.
- VISION** Our students will grow into confident, adaptable, compassionate individuals who will become lifelong learners and contributors to a global society.



Academic Programs

LANGUAGE ARTS

Summer Reading Requirements:
tinyurl.com/MiddleSummerReading

Grade 6 and 7

In 6th and 7th grade the PA Core English Language Arts standards are separated into two courses: Language Arts and Reading.

LANGUAGE ARTS - This course is designed to cultivate strong analytical and communication skills through the exploration of various literary and informational texts. This course aims to empower students to become proficient writers and effective communicators by honing their ability to critically analyze and respond to a wide range of written materials. Throughout the year, students will delve into both fiction and informational texts, developing a deep understanding of literary elements, text structure, rhetorical strategies, and the nuances of effective communication. By engaging with diverse genres, students will strengthen their analytical thinking, interpretive skills, and gain a deeper appreciation for the art of written expression.

READING - This course focuses on analyzing fiction and informational texts, emphasizing critical thinking, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. Students will explore literary elements and practice writing about reading to enhance their ability to express thoughts effectively. Through interactive activities and writing connections, students will build a strong foundation in language arts, equipping them with the skills to navigate texts confidently and articulate insights thoughtfully.

Grade 8

LANGUAGE ARTS - The eighth grade Language Arts course develops our students as readers and writers. Utilizing a workshop approach, learners spend a significant amount of time reading and writing during class while receiving small group and one-on-one coaching from the teacher. Instruction centers on the study of mentor texts and in-context application. Students engage in an iterative, collaborative, writing process and there is a deliberate focus on communicating to an authentic audience. Students explore fiction and non-fiction text, as well as, student choice books. In addition, students learn to utilize reading strategies to become critical consumers of texts and respond to text through writing, journaling, and discussion.

READING SEMINAR (6th, 7th, 8th) This class employs research-based practices with the goal of helping students to learn and to apply the skills of an effective reader, not only in reading class, but as they read across the curriculum. Students are placed in this course based on teacher recommendations.

English Language LEARNERS

ESL Newcomer

ESL Newcomer is a course for students who have recently arrived in the United States. Learners will utilize the National Geographic Inside Level A curriculum including the textbook and supporting materials. This course provides students with beginning exposure to the English language in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students will be exposed to various types of fiction and non-fiction texts as well as begin to develop their academic writing through vocabulary studies. Assessments and instruction incorporate strategies for meeting the needs of newcomer English learners and are aligned with the Common Core State Standards and National Geographic's Inside, Level A. This class is one period a day and can be taken in addition to the ESL Beginner class. Enrollment in Fundamentals is dependent upon WIDA scores and teacher recommendation.

ESL Beginner

Beginner English Learners will utilize the National Geographic Inside B curriculum including the textbook and supporting materials. This course provides students with an increasing exposure to the English language in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students will develop solid English reading skills, be exposed to various genres of text, and will learn to incorporate increasingly sophisticated and complex writing skills to bolster success in all academic classes. Assessments and instruction incorporate strategies for meeting the needs of Intermediate English language learners and are aligned with the Common Core State Standards and National Geographic's Inside, Level B. This class is one period a day. Enrollment in the class is dependent upon WIDA scores and teacher recommendation.

ESL Intermediate

Intermediate English Learners will utilize the National Geographic Inside C curriculum including the textbook and supporting materials. In this course, students will engage in all language domains (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) so that they can further improve and refine their overall communication and academic language in English. Students will read and respond to increasingly challenging literature (including grade-level novels) and non-fiction texts, with vocabulary and grammar instruction, are interwoven throughout. Assessments and instruction incorporate strategies for meeting the needs of intermediate and advanced English learners and are aligned with the Common Core State Standards and National Geographic's Inside, Level C. This class is one period a day. Enrollment in the class is dependent upon WIDA scores and teacher recommendation.

ESL High Intermediate/Advanced

Students will receive in content class support to work on their English Language Development.

Academic Programs

SOCIAL STUDIES

Civic learning is a priority of the East Penn School District. It is our goal that students graduate as educated and active citizens and voters. While integrated across all subject area curriculum, civic learning is a centerpiece in our Social Studies courses. In addition, each course is designed to support student development in the area of economics, geography, and history. Through dynamic instruction including modeling, collaboration, and analysis of current events, students develop their ability to learn from the past to prepare for the future.

Grade 6

This course offers an examination of early civilizations, tracking their evolution from early human societies to the notable event identified by historians as the Fall of Rome, situated within the epoch commonly referred to as ancient history. Students will concentrate on the geography, culture, and historical narratives of Africa, Asia, and Europe. The major civilizations covered include those of the Fertile Crescent, Egypt, India, China, Greece, and Rome.

Grade 7

This course explores the progression of civilizations in the Western Hemisphere, tracing their development from the fall of Rome in 476 through the Middle Ages and into the modern era. Students will closely examine the foundational elements of civilizations across Europe, Africa, and Asia, investigating overarching themes related to power, innovation, and the environment.

Grade 8

This course centers on the emergence of the American nation, spanning from the initial Exploration to the roots of the American Civil War. Participants will analyze the early political, economic, and social history of America. Emphasis will be placed on geographic factors, pivotal historical events, and the establishment of the U.S. government, while also delving into overarching themes associated with freedom and citizenship.

Academic Programs

MATHEMATICS

NOTE: SPECIAL MATH STATEMENT TO PARENTS

High school mathematics classes (Algebra I and higher) are provided in the middle school for students who have demonstrated mastery of grade level skills and require a more challenging curriculum. Grades earned in high school level courses are reported on a student's high school transcript, however, the grade will not be included in the high school GPA calculation unless the course is taken at the high school.

*Any student planning to exempt a math class by exam must complete testing **prior to July 31st**.

Math placement process: Students are placed in accelerated courses based on their performance in class, on i-Ready diagnostic assessments, past PSSA scores, and projections of their future PSSA scores. We strive to appropriately challenge and support all students through course acceleration and individualized skill practice based on each student's math background.

ALGEBRA I HONORS - The content includes solving equations and inequalities, linear graphs and functions, systems of equations and inequalities, exponents, polynomials, radicals and an introduction to data analysis. Students will complete the Keystone Exam at the end of this course.

ALGEBRA 2 HONORS - This course includes polynomial functions, joint variations, rational zeros, systems of equations in three variables, rationalizing the denominator, probability and statistics and basic operations on matrices. An entire unit on algebraic proofs is also included to adequately prepare the students for advanced mathematics courses.

Keystone Exams Program Overview

General information

The Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments designed to assess proficiency. Currently, the only Keystone exams being administered at the middle level are in the subject areas of Algebra I. The Keystone Exams are one component of Pennsylvania's system of high school graduation requirements. Keystone Exams will help school districts guide students toward meeting state standards— standards aligned with expectations for success in college and the workplace. In order to receive a diploma, students must also meet local district graduation requirements. Detailed information about the Keystone Exams can be found at: <http://www.pdesas.org/Assessment/Keystones>

Academic Programs

MATHEMATICS

Math Course 1

This course covers the 6th grade PA Core Standards:

- Understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems
- Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions
- Identify and choose appropriate processes to compute fluently with multi-digit numbers
- Develop and/or apply number theory concepts to find common factors and multiples
- Apply and extend previous understandings of numbers to the system of rational numbers
- Apply and extend previous understandings of arithmetic to algebraic expressions
- Understand the process of solving a one-variable equation or inequality and apply to real-world and mathematical problems
- Represent and analyze quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables
- Apply appropriate tools to solve real-world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume
- Demonstrate an understanding of statistical variability by displaying, analyzing, and summarizing distributions

Math Course 2

This course covers the 7th grade PA Core Standards:

- Analyze proportional relationships and use them to model and solve real-world and mathematical problems
- Apply and extend previous understandings of operations with fractions to operations with rational numbers
- Apply properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions
- Model and solve real-world and mathematical problems by using and connecting numerical, algebraic, and/or graphical representation
- Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving angle measure, area, surface area, circumference, and volume
- Visualize and represent geometric figures and describe the relationship between them
- Draw inferences about populations based on random sampling concepts
- Draw informal comparative inferences about two populations
- Investigate chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability models

Math Course 3

This course covers the 8th grade PA Core Standards:

- Distinguish between rational and irrational numbers using their properties
- Estimate irrational numbers by comparing them to rational numbers
- Apply concepts of radicals and integer exponents to generate equivalent expressions
- Understand the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations
- Analyze and solve linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations
- Define, evaluate, and compare functions
- Use concepts of functions to model relationships between quantities
- Apply the concepts of volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres to solve real-world and mathematical problems
- Understand and apply congruence, similarity, and geometric transformations using various tools
- Understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem to solve problems
- Analyze and/or interpret bivariate data displayed in multiple representations
- Understand that patterns of association can be seen in bivariate data utilizing frequencies

MATH STANDARDS (6th, 7th, 8th) supports students' academic needs in math through research-based interventions and progress monitoring. Teachers pre-teach and reteach the skills students are learning in the core math course. Students also work on fact fluency. **This is a teacher recommended course.**

Academic Programs

SCIENCE

Grade 6

Grade 6 Science - The course content is taught through an inquiry based, problem-solving approach. Students will be introduced to three units of study that focus on populations and ecosystems, principles of force and motion, energy and geological formations. Students will be analyzing data, thinking critically, engaging in problem-solving scenarios, and utilizing technology throughout all three units.

Grade 7

Grade 7 Science - This course uses an inquiry based approach in which students will be able to describe and make sense of atomic composition of molecules, properties of substances and their effects on chemical reactions. In addition, they will be able to assess cells and their structures and processes that contribute to life, develop and use models to describe the passing of traits from parent to offspring and how this leads to genetic variation, and finally, analyze and interpret data to provide evidence to help explain this genetic variation and the changing of life forms throughout the history of life on Earth. Throughout the listed concepts, students will apply their knowledge to real world situations that require them to problem solve and think critically about the world they live in through the application of scientific methodology, including design cycle, data analysis, scientific method, and lab safety.

Grade 8

Grade 8 Science - This course uses an inquiry based approach to assess the value of water as a resource, interpret meteorological data, and explore the composition and structure of the universe. Throughout the listed concepts, students will apply their knowledge to real world situations that will require them to problem solve and think critically about the world they live in through the application of scientific methodology, including design cycle, data analysis, Claim, Evidence, Reasoning, cause and effect relationships, laboratory experience, and lab safety.

Related Arts

ARTS & MUSIC

9-Week Rotations

Grade 6

ART - 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 - This course serves as an introduction to music theory and music history. In music theory, topics include notes, rests, treble and bass clef lines and spaces. Students will learn to perform songs on keyboards. Music specific technology is used.

Grade 7

ART - 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. The use of the computer may be incorporated into the development of the projects.

MUSIC - This course refines music theory skills in notes, rests, treble and bass clef lines and spaces. Periods of music history continue to be explored. Students will play higher level keyboard songs. Music specific technology continues to be used.

Grade 8

ART - Eighth grade art expands skills and attitudes 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. The use of the computer in conjunction with projects, and experience and understanding of ceramic design/production will be areas of focus. 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 - This course expands on the music theory topics taught in sixth and seventh grades with more advanced activities. Music history topics expand to include world music. Various music specific technology is utilized to enhance instruction and activities.

Related Arts FCS & TECH ED.

9-Week Rotations

Grade 6

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE - This survey course will incorporate My Plate in choosing and preparing healthy and nutritious snacks. Emphasis will be placed on developing skills necessary to become a competent child care provider. Using time management skills, students will produce an individual project that can be utilized as a tool when caring for children.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION - 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 systems 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.

Grade 7

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE - 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 My Plate 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 time management skills, students will produce an individual project.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION - This 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.

Grade 8

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE - Instruction in eighth grade is organized around three areas: Consumer 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 time management skills, students will produce a project reflective of the activities provided in this course.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION - 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

COMPUTERS

12-Week Rotations

Grade 6

This course will provide students with: file management skills, research skills, digital literacy, and Google Applications. An emphasis will be placed on the importance of making responsible decisions online. Students will explore careers and begin creating an online portfolio.

Grade 7

This course will provide students with a basic understanding of physical computing and coding through project-based learning. Students will be exposed to multiple coding platforms and have the opportunity to physically build projects that function through coding. Students will explore careers and the types of preparation necessary for career and college. Students will also learn the basic principles and facts of money management, saving and investing.

Grade 8

This course will provide students personalized learning in the areas of physical computing and coding through project-based learning. Students will use multiple coding platforms and design thinking to problem solve and create. This course will also provide students with the knowledge required to create web sites and will include fundamental techniques for editing images.

Exploratory Courses

HEALTH

12-Week Rotations

Grade 6

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.

Grade 7

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.

Grade 8

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 HEALTH 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.

Exploratory Courses

WELLNESS/FITNESS

12-Week Rotations

Grade 6

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.

Grade 7

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.

Grade 8

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 who are well enough to attend school are expected to dress for and participate in physical education class unless they present a written note from a physician who explains why the student cannot participate in gym and the length that restriction will last.

ADAPTIVE FITNESS

This program is 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.

Electives MUSIC

MUSIC ELECTIVES are graded courses which meet during 9th period. Students may select a combination of music electives. In addition, attendance at rehearsals and the winter and spring ***concerts are mandatory.***

BAND

This program is designed to fulfill a need for students with musical talents on instruments of the woodwind, brass, and percussion families. This **graded** class provides ongoing small group lessons and performance opportunities. Students will participate in two concerts and performances in the community.*

ORCHESTRA

This program is designed to fulfill a need for students with musical talents on stringed instruments. This **graded** class provides ongoing small group lessons and performance opportunities. Students will participate in two concerts.*

CHORUS

Chorus is a graded class for students in grades 6, 7 and 8. Any student interested in chorus may sign up regardless of their skill level. Each grade level will develop/build their skills and interest in music, culminating in performances during the winter and spring.

* Only students who have been in band or orchestra in fifth grade, or have spoken with the director, may select band or orchestra for sixth grade.

Music electives may be added or dropped through October 15th and January 1st-15th.

8th Grade Only WORLD LANGUAGE

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 diverse resources 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.

Students who are not recommended for Reading Seminar will select one of the following World Languages:

FRENCH I

GERMAN I

SPANISH I

NOTE: World Language students are required to take a comprehensive assessment at the end of each trimester of study, and are committed to a full year of World Language study.

HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT: Grades earned in Level I courses taken at the middle school are **reported on a student's high school transcript**, therefore, students who pass Level I at the middle school (80 or above) will not be permitted to schedule the same level I course at the high school. The course will not be included in the high school GPA calculation.

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

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Administrative Office

800 Pine Street

Emmaus, PA 18049

610-966-8300

The East Penn District is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, ancestry, disability, union membership or other legally protected classification. Announcement of this policy is in accordance with state and federal laws, including Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504 and ADA.

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. Jessica Afflerbach, Human Resource Specialist, 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.