



**Somerset Area  
Middle School**  
Course Curriculum Guide  
(14 Pages)

## ART

### **ART (7149) (7TH GRADE BLOCK)**

**9 Wks.                      5 Pds/Wk.                      .25 Credit                      Grade 7**

**Pathway:** Arts and Communication

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** The seventh grade course of art will focus upon the elements of design and their utilization in every work of art. The students will use the elements of design to create works of art and to analyze other works of art. The student will learn through the examination of historical works of art, how artists have used the elements of design effectively and what constitutes good and bad artwork. Students will work on projects in the area of sculpture, painting, drawing, and printmaking. Demonstration, computer technology, printed texts, and multimedia will be used for instruction.

**Required Reading:** Art In Your World, Art For Today, Art Talk, and handouts.

**Required Projects:** Sculpture, drawing, painting, and printmaking.

**Other Specific Course Requirements:** None

**Grades Based On:** Projects, homework, tests and classroom participation.

### **ART (8140) (8TH GRADE BLOCK)**

**9 Wks.                      5 Pds/Wk.                      .25 Credit                      Grade 8**

**Pathway:** Arts and Communication

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** The main themes that will be emphasized in the eighth grade course of study in art include the studio experience and theory of art appreciation. In the art appreciation emphasis, the student will learn to recognize and to understand the underlying structure common to all forms of art. In the studio experience the student will be required to solve problems that an artist may experience. Students will work on projects in sculpture, drawing, painting, history, ceramic, and printmaking utilizing the principles and elements of design. Demonstrations, computer technology, printed texts and multimedia will be used.

**Required Reading:** Art In Your World, Art For Today, Art Talk, and handouts.

**Required Projects:** Sculpture, drawing, painting, and printmaking.

**Other Specific Course Requirements:** None

**Grades Based On:** Projects, homework, tests and classroom participation.

## ENGLISH

### **ENGLISH (7001)**

**Year                      5 Pds/Wk.                      1 Credit                      Grade 7**

**Pathway:** Arts and Communication

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of sixth grade English.

**Course Description:** This course will primarily consist of writing and grammar complemented with literature selections.

**Required Reading** One Novel, "A Christmas Carol," and teacher selected short stories and poems. Classroom selections require objective testing and journal responses.

**Required Projects:** Autobiography Project

**Other Specific Course Requirements:** None

**Grades Based On:** Homework, tests, projects, and presentations.

### **ENGLISH (8001)**

**Year                      5 Pds/Wk.                      1 Credit                      Grade 8**

**Pathway:** Arts and Communication

**Prerequisites:** Completion of seventh grade English.

**Course Description:** Literature and composition will be the major focus complemented by the study of vocabulary, grammar, and listening and speaking skills.

**Required Reading:** Teacher-selected short stories, plays, poems, and one novel.

**Required Projects:** Class presentations in conjunction with teacher-selected and student-selected reading.

**Other Specific Course Requirements:** Completion of writing assignments and PSSA practice lessons.

**Grades Based On:** Total points accumulated from homework, tests, writing assignments, and class participation.

**CREATIVE WRITING I (CP) (1319)****One Semester                      5 Pds/Wk.                      .5 credit                      Grade 7, 8, 9****Pathway:** Arts and Communication**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** Course Description: This course is a workshop course in which students will discover, analyze, and apply the methods and forms used in various types of fiction and poetry. It emphasizes experimentation and practice by taking cues from published writers and poets. Creative Writing provides an opportunity for all participants to express themselves. The course allows students to focus on word choice, diction, form, editing, idea generation, and other skills useful in nonfiction.

**Required Reading:** several Creative Writing textbooks, various short stories, various poems

**Required Projects:** a writing journal, several manuscripts and poems

**Other Specific Course Requirements:** None

**STUDENT PUBLICATIONS (CP) (1300)****One Semester                      5 Pds/Wk.                      .5 credit                      Grade 6, 7, 8****Pathway:** Arts and Communication**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** In this course, students will learn and practice a variety of different modes of writing, as well as how to publish them. Students will also be responsible for creating and distributing a newspaper throughout the semester. This course will provide an opportunity for students to express themselves and showcase their talent. Technology will be utilized on a regular basis to aid in the publication of their work.

**Required reading:** various examples of different genres (poetry, short story, nonfiction articles, etc.), various writing textbooks

**Other specific course requirements:** None

**Required Projects:** several manuscripts and articles, a school newspaper

**Other Specific Course Requirements:** None

**EAGLE'S EXCELLENCE (1304)****One Semester                      5 Pds/Wk.                      .5 credit                      Grade 7, 8****Pathway:** Arts and Communication**Prerequisites:** must have completed or be currently enrolled in 7<sup>th</sup> grade English.

**Course Description:** This course is meant to define, highlight, and exemplify the characteristics necessary to be deemed "great!" This includes excellence in sports, art, music, and more. Qualities such as honesty, integrity, and respect are studied and analyzed in the school and in the community. Students will learn to interview and write about people who define what it means to be excellent in a particular area. Students will write various articles and tributes, and will publish them in a variety of ways.

**Required Reading:** teacher-appointed articles, short stories, poems, etc.

**Required Projects:** semi-weekly online articles, power point presentations, written articles, bulletin boards.

**Other Specific Course Requirements:** None

**WSHS TELEVISION PRODUCTIONS (1325)****Semester Course                      5pds/Wk                      .5 credit                      Grades 6-8****Pathway:** Arts and Communication**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** Students will produce a television show that includes the accomplishments, schedule, menu, and sports at Somerset Jr/Sr High School. The show will be broadcast daily for students... and aired on our website.

**Required Reading:** Various texts

**Required Projects:**

**Grades Based On:** Performance

# FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

## **SEVENTH GRADE FACS (7143)**

**9 Wks.                      5 Pds/Wk.                      .25 Credit                      Grade 7**

**Pathway:** Health and Social Services

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** Seventh Grade FACS is designed to introduce all students to Family and Consumer Sciences concepts where student involvement is a key component. Interactive multimedia activities will help students learn skills related to child care, consumerism, housing, interpersonal relationships, and resource management.

**Required Reading:** Corresponding course materials

**Required Projects:** Multimedia projects and assessments

**Other Specific Course Requirements:** Work cooperatively with others

**Grades Based On:** Performance based criteria and unit projects

## **FOODS FACS (9081)**

**Semester.                      5 Pds. / Wk.                      .5 credit                      Grades 8, 9**

**Pathway:** Health and Social Services

**Prerequisite:** None

**Course Description:** Learn the basic concepts of food, nutrition, and food preparation techniques such as measuring, recipe reading, equipment use, safety and sanitation. We'll talk consumerism and aesthetics of finished products. Simply prepared foods will emphasize proper cooking and storage, including the use of the stove top, the oven, and the microwave. Nutritional benefits of eating breakfast and healthy lunches are stressed. Components of each of these meals become separate class topics and food labs. Units of study include eggs and breakfast meats, breads, fruits and vegetables, dairy food products, pasta, cookies, sandwiches, and pizza.

**Required Reading:** Related information

**Required Projects:** Several related to pertinent units

**Other Course Requirements:** Working cooperatively in small groups.

**Grades Based On:** Group cooperation, students participation, folder evaluation, tests, and foods labs grades.

## **BABY CARE FACS (9082)**

**Semester                      5 Pds./Wk.                      .5 Credit                      Grades 8,9**

**Pathway:** Health and Social Services

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** Students will personally experience the responsibilities of parenting a newborn infant, by caring for RealCare Baby, a computerized infant simulator. Infant care subjects will include feeding, burping, rocking, changing diapers, prenatal and postnatal development, comforting a crying infant, infant safety, and infant health concerns. Students will explore financial responsibilities of parenting and reflect on personal readiness for parenting.

**Required Reading:** Corresponding course materials

**Required Projects:** Care for RealCare Baby and maintain a diary

**Grades Based On:** Individual and cooperative group projects, class activities, notebook, tests and infant simulation performance grade.

## **TEAM FACS (9083)**

**Semester                      5 Pds./Wk.                      .5 Credit                      Grade 7**

**Pathway:** Health and Social Services

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** Students will work as a team to establish a small business network. Using internet technology and computerized embroidery machines, students will personalize ready-made products to promote Somerset Eagle spirit. While learning skills needed to succeed in the world of work, students will promote and sell their products. Class earnings will be donated to a worthy cause of their choice.

**Required Reading:** Corresponding course materials

**Required Projects:** Power point presentations, 4D Viking designs and screen printed designs, posters and advertisements, personalized pillows, workplace skills software and etiquette

**Other Course Requirements:** Students must work cooperatively with others.

**Grades Based On:** Performance based criteria will be used to evaluate the success of their business endeavor.

# WORLD LANGUAGES

Beginning courses in world languages are the first steps in a new form of expression. All courses require daily application and the habit of precise learning. Advanced courses require above-average performance and a demonstrated ability in the preceding levels. All four language skills – listening, speaking, reading and writing – are emphasized at all levels of world language learning.

**\*\*Note – The German program is being discontinued. German I will not be offered. In order to give our students a chance to finish what they have started, we will be offering German II, German III, German IV, and German V as an online course that will be facilitated by a Somerset German Certified Instructor for the 2010-2011 school year. The German program will be phased out by the 2013-2014 school year.**

## WORLD LANGUAGE 1

(8051) FRENCH 1  
(8053) SPANISH 1

Year, 5 Pds/Wk. 1 credit Grades (7), 8, 9

Pathway: Arts and Communication

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of English and Reading courses from previous years; recommended B average or above; proficient or advanced level on the PSSA – Reading.

**Course Description:** World Language 1 is a beginning course that provides a sound basis for learning the language as it is spoken and written. The course will lead students to a better understanding of peoples and lands. A series of written and oral presentations and activities will place emphasis upon the development of oral proficiency within the target language.

**Grades Based On:** Tests, quizzes, homework, projects, lab activities, notebooks, and class participation.

WORLD LANGUAGE II - (9051) French II  
(9053) Spanish II

Year Long Course 5 Pds/Wk. 1 Credit Grades 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Pathway: Arts and Communication

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of previous level; recommended C average or above.

**Course Description:** This course will advance the students in their abilities in listening, speaking, reading and writing begun in Level 1. Students will expand their study of grammar to include more complex forms and tenses. In addition, the student will learn more about the culture and customs of the related language.

**Grades Based On:** Tests, quizzes, homework, projects, lab activities, notebooks, and class participation.

# HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

HEALTH (8138) (8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE BLOCK)

9 Wks. 5 Pds/Wk. .25 Credit Grade 8

Pathway: Health and Social Services

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** This American Red Cross class will provide an opportunity for students to learn various rescue procedures. Both “prevention” and “cure” will be studied. Students will watch videos, see demonstrations, and practice the techniques on manikins. Students have an option of getting CPR certified after school with a partner. The remaining two to three weeks will be spent on human sexuality.

**Required Reading:** American Red Cross: Adult CPR and class handouts.

**Required Projects:** First Aid Kit (approximately 15% of final grade), Student/Parent Survey

**Other Specific Course Requirements:** Active practice on manikins, skills testing, written quizzes, one comprehensive test, and worksheets, video quizzes.

**Grades Based On:** Active participation, quizzes and tests, skills testing, and project.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION (7105-BOYS)(7106-GIRLS)**

**Semester**                      **5 Pds/Wk.**                      **.5 Credit**                      **Grades 7 and 8**

**Pathway:** Health and Social Services

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** The course is designed to assist students in acquiring skills, techniques, concepts, and strategies concerning various individual and team sports that will promote life-long fitness. The units covered will vary in skill level and allow for all students to achieve.

Units included: basketball, bowling, football, Frisbee, handball, physical fitness, rope jumping, soccer, softball, swimming, volleyball, weight training, and other units of interest.

Appropriate dress, active participation, personal discipline, and a positive attitude are points of emphasis that aid in maintaining a student's physical, social, and mental health.

**Required Reading:** Writing Assessments.

**Required Projects:** Completion of homework, completion of written work for medical excuses and weight training program.

**Other Specific Course Requirements:** Appropriate dress for physical education. Black or dark blue shorts, sweat, or wind pants and a white T-shirt.

**Grades Based On:** Class participation, skills and written tests.

**Skill & Written Grade:** Varies by unit

## TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

**Exploring Technology (1371)**

**One Semester Course**                      **5 Pds./Wk.**                      **.5 Credit**                      **Grades 7**

**Pathway:** Engineering, Science, and Technology

**Course Description:** Exploring Technology is an activity-based semester course that introduces students to technology by examining the basic systems of communication, manufacturing, construction, transportation. Students will study the evolution of technology, invention and innovation, impacts of technology, the systems approach and various problem-solving methods. This course provides a foundation for future studies in Technology Education.

**Required Reading:** Handouts, no text required

**Required Projects:** Complete all labs

**Grades Based On:** Homework, tests, projects, classroom participation

**VISUAL COMMUNICATION (1372)**

**One Semester Course**                      **5 Pds./Wk.**                      **.5 Credit**                      **Grades 7**

**Pathway:** Engineering, Science, and Technology

**Course Description:** Visual Communication is the art of conveying ideas or thoughts through signs, drawings, graphics, and illustrations. This semester course will introduce students to this concept and allow them to create, design, and produce stickers, posters, magnets, tablets, and T-shirts. Students will be given certain criteria and then using technology and problem solving skills develop products that will satisfy their objective. It also explores the idea of how a visual message accompanying text has the ability to inform, educate, or persuade a person or audience.

**Required Reading:** Handouts, no text required

**Required Projects:** Complete all labs and activities

**Grades Based On:** Homework, tests, projects, classroom participation

**EXPLORING WOOD TECHNOLOGY (8137)**

**(8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE BLOCK)**

**9 Wks.                      5 Pds/Wk.                      .25 Credit                      Grade 8**

**Pathway: Engineering, Science, and Technology**

**Course Description:** Wood Technology is a required course for all students of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The contents of this course will place heavy emphasis on hand tools identification and usage. Additional areas introduced are stationary machines, native lumber, and finishing techniques.

**Required Reading:** Textbook, "Working With Wood", by Gilbert Hutchings, Eugene Martin and Mario Coleman.

**Required Projects:** Two or three classroom activities will be selected by the instructor for each section.

**Other Specific Course Requirements:** Safety dress code and safety glasses.

**Grades based On:** – 100% of the grade is based on three tests, sketching, and safety quizzes. Homework is given if enough textbooks are available to all students. With some sections, two tests are replaced with a Home Study Tool Project.

**WOOD TECHNOLOGY I (9070)**

**Semester Course                      5 Pds/Wk.                      .5 Credits                      Grade 8, 9**

**Pathway: Engineering, Science, and Technology**

**Prerequisites:** Must have completed or be enrolled in Exploring Wood Technology

**Course Description:** The students are instructed in the basic safety habits, use, care, and maintenance of woodworking hand tools and machines. Finishing materials and their use are discussed and demonstrated. The identification of various kinds of lumber is presented to the students. Processes and products related to woodworking are demonstrated and illustrated. Introduction of print reading and making sketches is introduced.

**Required Reading:** Textbook, "Working With Wood", by Gilbert Hutchings, Eugene Martin, and Mario Coleman.

**Required Projects:** A teacher assigned project to determine ability and interest of the student.

**Other Specific Course Requirements:** Dress code and the ability to follow all safety rules. The understanding completion of safety test is required before using stationary machines

**Grades Based On:** Tests, safety projects accuracy and general work habits.

## **INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Keyboarding (7150)**

**9 Weeks – Part of 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Block    5 Pds/Wk    .25 credit                      Grade 7**

**Pathway:** Business and Finance

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** Students will learn the alphabetic, numeric, and symbol keys. Construction of basic Word documents such as reports in MLA format, letters, and tables will be introduced and reinforced.

**Grades Based On:** Keying technique - speed and accuracy writings - formatting.

**Grading Scale:** A 90%-100%, B 80%-89%, C 70%-79%, D 60%-69%

**INTERNET APPLICATIONS (8161)**

**Semester                      5 Pds/Wk                      .5 credit                      Grade 8**

**Pathway:** Business and Finance

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** Students will work with graphics; manage files; explore, navigate, and search the Web; discuss online communications, social networks, Internet safety, and ethical issues. Students will also engage in career exploration activities.

**Grades Based On:** computer applications, projects, homework and tests.

**Grading Scale:** A 90%-100%, B 80%-89%, C 70%-79%, D 60%-69

**PHOTOSHOP (9078)**

**One Semester**                      **5 Pds/Wk**                      **.5 credit**                      **Grades 8-12**

**Pathway:** Arts and Communication

**Prerequisite:** None

**Course Description:** Experience the role of a graphic designer by developing your creative graphic skills using Adobe Photoshop. You will work with drawing and selecting tools, correcting and modifying images, and utilizing advanced image techniques. Have fun editing your own photographs, creating ads, collages, magazine covers, and much more.

**Grades Based On:** Applications, projects, study guides, tests, and homework

**Grading Scale:** A 90%-100%, B 80%-89%, C 70%-79%, D 60%-69%

**ILLUSTRATOR (1078)**

**One Semester**                      **5 Pds/Wk**                      **.5 credit**                      **Grades 8-12**

**Pathway:** Arts and Communication

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Course Description:** Adobe Illustrator is an elective course for students who enjoy drawing and illustrating using computer software. Illustrator is used by graphic designers to prepare marketing materials and informational Illustrations. Students will work with the basic graphic tools; paths and layers; and color, effects, and styles to create ads, logos, program covers, etc.

**Grades Based On:** applications, projects, study guides, tests, and homework.

**Grading Scale:** A 90%-100%, B 80%-89%, C 70%-79%, D 60%-69%

**InDESIGN (1084)**

**One Semester**                      **5 Pds/Wk**                      **.5 credit**                      **Grades 8-12**

**Pathway:** Arts and Communication

**Prerequisite:** None

**Course Description:** Adobe InDesign is a page layout application that allows you to create a wide variety of publications. Students will work with the basic layout tools; objects, colors, and masters; types and styles; tables and graphics; and assemble and print publications. These may include advertising flyers, informational brochures, business cards, newsletters, and more.

**Grades Based On:** applications, projects, study guides, tests, and homework.

**Grading Scale:** A 90%-100%, B 80%-89%, C 70%-79%, D 60%-69%

## MATHEMATICS

**Students in grades 7-12 will be placed in the appropriate core math class based on the student's math data, which includes (but is not limited to) PSSA scores, 4Sight scores, and course grades.**

Note: Jr. High students who are on an accelerated math track should refer to the Sr. High course description guide for math elective opportunities.

# MUSIC

## **GENERAL MUSIC (7113)**

**9 Wks.                      5 Pds./ Wk.                      .25 Credit                      Grade 7**

**Pathway:** Arts and Communication

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** General music is designed to give students the opportunity to explore all of the elements of music and to foster a life-long appreciation for the creative and performing arts. Areas of study include sound, musical theater, guitar, and "Music in Education" Yamaha Keyboard System Part I.

**Required Reading:** None

**Required Projects:** None

**Other Specific Course Requirements:** Students are required to keep a folder of class exercises and activities.

**Grades Based On:** Classroom participation, skills tests, written tests, projects and homework.

**Grading Scale:** None given

## **GENERAL MUSIC (8139)**

**9 Wks.                      5 Pds./ Wk.                      .25 Credit                      Grade 8**

**Pathway:** Arts and Communication

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** General music is designed to give students the opportunity to explore all of the elements of music and to foster a life-long appreciation for the creative and performing arts. Areas of study include sound, musical theater, guitar, and "Music in Education" Yamaha Keyboard System Part II.

**Required Reading:** None

**Required Projects:** None

**Other Specific Course Requirements:** Students are required to keep a folder of class exercises and activities.

**Grades Based On:** Classroom participation, skills tests, written tests, projects and homework.

**Grading Scale:** None given

## **BAND ONLY (7055)**

**Year                                      5 Pds./Wk.                                      1 Credit                                      Grades 6, 7, 8**

**Pathway:** Arts and Communication

**Prerequisites:** At least one year of instruction on a band instrument is required. Exceptions may be granted at the discretion of the course instructor.

**Course Description:** *By selecting this course, students will only participate in Band during the assigned musical ensemble period.* Middle School Band includes participants in grades 6, 7, & 8. The band rehearses as a scheduled class for 1 period daily. In addition, music lessons in small groups are scheduled on a pull-out rotation for 1 period weekly to ensure that the proper technique on each specific instrument is learned. The band prepares for concerts that may include Pep Assemblies, Halloween, Patriotic, Christmas, Spring, and Pops performances for the school and/or public. Public performances are held in the evenings while school assemblies, lessons and rehearsals are during school time.

**Required Reading:** Method books used during this course: Best in Class, Book 1; Standard of Excellence, Books 2 & 3; Rubank Intermediate Method; Rubank Advanced Method, Books 1 & 2.

**Required Projects:** Projects may be assigned by the course instructor to supplement the musical learning in Junior High Band. Specific details will be given at the assignment of each project.

**Other Specific Course Requirements:** Attendance at all performances is mandatory and the points assigned to each performance cannot be made-up for any reason. This is a performance-based course.

**Grades Based On:** Grades in Middle School Band will be based on the following: the amount of exercises completed in method books, participation at performances (mandatory), performance-based and written examinations, as well as other various assignments or projects required by school guidelines or as assigned by the course instructor.

**ORCHESTRA ONLY (7056)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>5Pds/Wk.</b>	<b>1Credit</b>	<b>Grades 6, 7, 8</b>
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**Pathway:** Arts and Communication**Prerequisites:** Permission from orchestra director**Course Description:** *By selecting this course, students will only participate in Orchestra during the assigned musical ensemble period.* Middle School Orchestra is an ensemble composed of all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade string students. String orchestra literature of all types is rehearsed and performed.**Required Reading:** Practicing from orchestral music and lesson books is required.**Grading Scale:** None Given**CHORUS ONLY (7057)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>5 Pds/Wk.</b>	<b>1Credit</b>	<b>Grades 6, 7, 8</b>
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**Pathway:** Arts and Communication**Prerequisites:** None**Course Description:** *By selecting this course, students will only participate in Chorus during the assigned musical ensemble period.* The chorus program is designed to educate students in harmonic two and three part singing from all periods of music history. Emphasis is on the changing voice and intonation.**Required Reading:** None**Required Projects:** Participation in minimum of two performances each year.**Other Specific Course Requirements:** None**Grades Based On:** Rehearsal attendance, participation including bringing folders, and performance attendance.**BAND/CHORUS (8055)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>5 Pds./Wk.</b>	<b>1 Credit</b>	<b>Grades 6, 7, 8</b>
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**Pathway:** Arts and Communication**Prerequisites:** BAND: At least one year of instruction on a band instrument is required. Exceptions may be granted at the discretion of the course instructor. CHORUS: None.**Course Description:** *By selecting this course, students will participate in both Band and Chorus during the assigned musical ensemble period. There will be a rotation schedule given out at the beginning of the school year.* BAND: Junior High Band includes participants in grades 6, 7, & 8. The band rehearses as a scheduled class for 1 period daily. In addition, music lessons in small groups are scheduled on a pull-out rotation for 1 period weekly to ensure that the proper technique on each specific instrument is learned. The band prepares for concerts that may include Pep Assemblies, Halloween, Patriotic, Christmas, Spring, and Pops performances for the school and/or public. Public performances are held in the evenings while school assemblies, lessons and rehearsals are during school time. CHORUS: The chorus program is designed to educate students in harmonic two and three part singing from all periods of music history. Emphasis is on the changing voice and intonation.**Required Reading:** BAND: Method books used during this course: Best in Class, Book 1; Standard of Excellence, Books 2 & 3; Rubank Intermediate Method; Rubank Advanced Method, Books 1 & 2. CHORUS: None.**Required Projects:** BAND: Projects may be assigned by the course instructor to supplement the musical learning in Middle School Band. Specific details will be given at the assignment of each project. CHORUS: Participation in minimum of two performances each year.**Other Specific Course Requirements:** BAND: Attendance at all performances is mandatory and the points assigned to each performance cannot be made-up for any reason. This is a performance-based course. CHORUS: None.**Grades Based On:** BAND: Grades in Middle School Band will be based on the following: the amount of exercises completed in method books, participation at performances (mandatory), performance-based and written examinations, as well as other various assignments or projects required by school guidelines or as assigned by the course instructor. CHORUS: Rehearsal attendance, participation including bringing folders, and performance attendance.

**BAND/ORCHESTRA (8056)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>5 Pds./Wk.</b>	<b>1 Credit</b>	<b>Grades 6, 7, 8</b>
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**Pathway:** Arts and Communication**Prerequisites:** BAND: At least one year of instruction on a band instrument is required. Exceptions may be granted at the discretion of the course instructor. ORCHESTRA: Permission from orchestra director.**Course Description:** *By selecting this course, students will participate in both Band and Orchestra during the assigned musical ensemble period. There will be a rotation schedule given out at the beginning of the school year.* BAND: Middle School Band includes participants in grades 6, 7, & 8. The band rehearses as a scheduled class for 1 period daily. In addition, music lessons in small groups are scheduled on a pull-out rotation for 1 period weekly to ensure that the proper technique on each specific instrument is learned. The band prepares for concerts that may include Pep Assemblies, Halloween, Patriotic, Christmas, Spring, and Pops performances for the school and/or public. Public performances are held in the evenings while school assemblies, lessons and rehearsals are during school time. ORCHESTRA: Middle School Orchestra is an ensemble composed of all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade string students. String orchestra literature of all types is rehearsed and performed.**Required Reading:** BAND: Method books used during this course: Best in Class, Book 1; Standard of Excellence, Books 2 & 3; Rubank Intermediate Method; Rubank Advanced Method, Books 1 & 2. ORCHESTRA: Practicing from orchestral music and lesson books is required.**Required Projects:** BAND: Projects may be assigned by the course instructor to supplement the musical learning in Middle School Band. Specific details will be given at the assignment of each project. ORCHESTRA: None.**Other Specific Course Requirements:** BAND: Attendance at all performances is mandatory and the points assigned to each performance cannot be made-up for any reason. This is a performance-based course. ORCHESTRA: None.**Grades Based On:** BAND: Grades in Middle School Band will be based on the following: the amount of exercises completed in method books, participation at performances (mandatory), performance-based and written examinations, as well as other various assignments or projects required by school guidelines or as assigned by the course instructor. ORCHESTRA: Grades are assigned based on participation during class, lessons, and performances.**CHORUS/ORCHESTRA (8057)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>5 Pds/Wk.</b>	<b>1Credit</b>	<b>Grades 6, 7, 8</b>
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**Pathway:** Arts and Communication**Prerequisites:** CHORUS: None. ORCHESTRA: Permission from orchestra director**Course Description:** *By selecting this course, students will participate in both Chorus and Orchestra during the assigned musical ensemble period. There will be a rotation schedule given out at the beginning of the school year.* CHORUS: The chorus program is designed to educate students in harmonic two and three part singing from all periods of music history. Emphasis is on the changing voice and intonation. ORCHESTRA: Middle School Orchestra is an ensemble composed of all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade string students. String orchestra literature of all types is rehearsed and performed.**Required Reading:** CHORUS: None. ORCHESTRA: Practicing from orchestral music and lesson books is required.**Required Projects:** CHORUS: Participation in minimum of two performances each year. ORCHESTRA: None.**Other Specific Course Requirements:** CHORUS: None. ORCHESTRA: None.**Grades Based On:** CHORUS: Rehearsal attendance, participation including bringing folders, and performance attendance. ORCHESTRA: Grades are assigned based on participation during class, lessons, and performances.

**BAND/CHORUS/ORCHESTRA (9055)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>5 Pds./Wk.</b>	<b>1 Credit</b>	<b>Grades 6, 7, 8</b>
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**Pathway:** Arts and Communication**Prerequisites:** BAND: At least one year of instruction on a band instrument is required. Exceptions may be granted at the discretion of the course instructor. CHORUS: None. ORCHESTRA: Permission from orchestra director**Course Description:** *By selecting this course, students will participate in Band, Chorus, and Orchestra during the assigned musical ensemble period. There will be a rotation schedule given out at the beginning of the school year.* BAND: Middle School Band includes participants in grades 6, 7, & 8.

The band rehearses as a scheduled class for 1 period daily. In addition, music lessons in small groups are scheduled on a pull-out rotation for 1 period weekly to ensure that the proper technique on each specific instrument is learned. The band prepares for concerts that may include Pep Assemblies, Halloween, Patriotic, Christmas, Spring, and Pops performances for the school and/or public. Public performances are held in the evenings while school assemblies, lessons and rehearsals are during school time. CHORUS: The chorus program is designed to educate students in harmonic two and three part singing from all periods of music history. Emphasis is on the changing voice and intonation. ORCHESTRA: Middle School Orchestra is an ensemble composed of all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade string students. String orchestra literature of all types is rehearsed and performed.

**Required Reading:** BAND: Method books used during this course: Best in Class, Book 1; Standard of Excellence, Books 2 & 3; Rubank Intermediate Method; Rubank Advanced Method, Books 1 & 2. CHORUS: None. ORCHESTRA: Practicing from orchestral music and lesson books is required.**Required Projects:** BAND: Projects may be assigned by the course instructor to supplement the musical learning in Middle School Band. Specific details will be given at the assignment of each project. CHORUS: Participation in minimum of two performances each year. ORCHESTRA: None.**Other Specific Course Requirements:** BAND: Attendance at all performances is mandatory and the points assigned to each performance cannot be made-up for any reason. This is a performance-based course. CHORUS: None. ORCHESTRA: None.**Grades Based On:** BAND: Grades in Middle School Band will be based on the following: the amount of exercises completed in method books, participation at performances (mandatory), performance-based and written examinations, as well as other various assignments or projects required by school guidelines or as assigned by the course instructor. CHORUS: Rehearsal attendance, participation including bringing folders, and performance attendance. ORCHESTRA: Grades are assigned based on participation during class, lessons, and performances.

## READING

**READING (7040)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>5 Pds/Wk.</b>	<b>1 Credit</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>
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**Pathway:** Arts and Communication**Prerequisites:** Identified at end of Grade 6**Course Description:** Seventh grade developmental reading is a year-long course offered to selected students who have met specific criteria. Each student is instructed in a variety of techniques: skill development in vocabulary; comprehension; study skills; creative activities; content-area reading skills; and decoding skills to name a few. Students are expected to complete additional outside coursework for successful completion of this course.**Required Reading:** Reading Counts Materials**Other Specific Course Requirements:** None**Grades Based On:** Criteria referenced tests, mastery tests, standardized achievement tests, teacher-made tests and rubrics.**READING (8042)**

<b>Semester</b>	<b>5 Pds/Wk.</b>	<b>.5 Credit</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>
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**Pathway:** Arts and Communication**Prerequisites:** Seventh grade reading – full year**Course Description:** Eighth grade developmental reading is a semester course designed to provide additional reading training. Emphasis is placed on the mechanics of reading and comprehension. Also emphasized are functional reading, which is reading to obtain information; recreational reading, which is reading for enjoyment; and content area reading of student texts.**Required Reading:** Reading Counts Materials**Other Specific Course Requirements:** None

## SCIENCE

### **SCIENCE (7021)**

**Year**                      **5 Pds/Wk.**                      **1 Credit**                      **Grade 7**

**Pathway:** Engineering, Science and Technology

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** The 7<sup>th</sup> grade science course addresses the PSSA standards in the area of life science. It includes various types of assessments including labs, essays quizzes, tests, discussions, and projects.

**Required Reading:** Textbook series

**Required Projects:** No more than one per quarter.

**Other Specific Course Requirements:** Student must keep accurate notes and maintain a class notebook and/or folder.

**Grades Based On:** 50% - Test Scores and 50 % Homework, class work, projects, and labs

### **SCIENCE (8021)**

**Year**                      **5 Pds/Wk.**                      **1 Credit**                      **Grade 8**

**Pathway:** Engineering, Science and Technology

**Prerequisites:** 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science.

**Course Description:** The 8<sup>th</sup> grade science course addresses the PSSA standards in the area of earth science. It includes various types of assessments including labs, essays, quizzes, tests, discussions, and projects.

**Required Reading:** Textbook series

**Required Projects:** No more than one per quarter

**Other Specific Course Requirements:** Student must keep accurate notes and maintain a class notebook and/or folder.

**Grades Based On:** 50% - Test Scores and 50 % Homework, class work, and projects.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### **WORLD CULTURES (7011)**

**Year**                      **5 Pds/Wk.**                      **1 Credit**                      **Grade 7**

**Pathway:** Arts and Communication

**Prerequisites:** Completion of 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Course Description:** World Cultures I examines human history from earliest civilizations to the discovery and exploration of America. All of the academic disciplines of the social sciences are utilized to provide basic concepts in history, economics, sociology, political science, geography, and anthropology.

**Required Reading:** Glencoe: Journey Across Time (textbook). Additional readings will be provided based on teacher discretion (class ability, material availability, and time restraints).

**Required Projects:** Web Quest, ABC Books, Museum Display, and/or other various "research" projects based on teacher discretion (class ability, material availability, and time restraints).

**Other Specific Requirements:** None

**Grades Based On:** Total points earned from homework, tests, projects, classroom participation, etc. (per grading period).

### **AMERICAN CULTURES (8011)**

**Year**                      **5 Pds/Wk.**                      **1 Credit**                      **Grade 8**

**Pathway:** Arts and Communication

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** American Culture examines the social, cultural, economic, and political history of the United States from colonial times up through the Spanish American War.

**Required Reading:** Textbook plus two historical fictions throughout the year. Textbook is The American Journey plus other historical documents (primary secondary sources) as assigned by the teacher.

**Required Projects:** Various research projects will be assigned throughout the year.

**Other Specific Course Requirements:** None

**Grades Based On:** Total points earned each grading period.

**WORLD GEOGRAPHY (7016)****Semester**                      **5 Pds/Wk.**                      **.5 Credit**                      **Grade 7****Pathway:** Arts and Communication**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** The semester World Geography course is required of all students in seventh grade. The first six weeks concentrate on an introduction to geography and the Five Themes of Geography. Other topics include using tools such as maps, globes, and graphs, as well as physical geography, human geography, and human-environmental interactions.

**Required Reading:** As assigned.**Required Projects:** As assigned**Other Specific Course Requirements:** None**Grades Based On:** Homework, tests, quizzes, and classroom participation.**LEADERSHIP 101 (7022)****Semester**                      **5Pds./Wk.**                      **.5 Credit**                      **Grades 7 or 8****Pathway:** Arts and Communication

**Course Description:** In your wildest dreams, what do you see yourself doing? The answer is leadership. Knowing how to lead is only half the battle. Understanding leadership and actually leading are two different activities. The key is transforming yourself into someone who understands leadership and who leads in the world with character. Your character qualities activate and empower your leadership ability - or stand in the way of success. In Leadership 101, you will explore the 21 qualities which all great leaders possess. In addition, you will grow as a leader as you investigate the laws of leadership. It is the goal of this class to develop these character qualities.

**Required Reading:** As assigned.**Required Projects:** As assigned**Other Specific Course Requirements:** None**Grades Based On:** Homework, tests, quizzes, and classroom participation

## GIFTED EDUCATION

**MIDDLE SCHOOL GIFTED SEMINAR (1320)****Semester**                      **5Pds./Wk.**                      **.5 Credit**                      **Grades 6, 7, 8****Pathway:** All

**Prerequisites:** Identification as a student who meets the Pennsylvania Chapter 16 Regulations as a student who is mentally gifted.

**Course Description:** See Mrs. Pile for details.**Required Reading:** Corresponding research materials.**Required Projects:** A research paper, oral presentation, and a tangible project.**Grades Based On:** Class participation, project outline and mid-project evaluation, research paper, oral presentation, and tangible product.