2024-2025

LAUREL MIDDLE SCHOOL

COURSE CATALOG

An Equal Rights and Opportunity School District

2024-2025 LAUREL MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSES

Seventh & 8th grade classes scheduled with regard to past performance, progress monitoring, teacher recommendation and state assessments: English Language Arts, Mathematics and Math Lab. Please note that assignment of students to honors courses is competitive and generally includes a maximum of 22 students in one section.

Seventh & 8th grade classes scheduled without regard to the criteria listed above: Science, Social Studies, Physical Education and 9 week partials.

Middle School 9 week partials: Art, Exploring Spanish, Health, HomeEconomics, Humanities & Technology, Problem Solving, Resilience, Technology Education

Middle School Electives: Students may elect Band and/or Chorus with the permission of the Band and/or Choral Directors. Students who do not elect Band and/or Chorus are scheduled into a study hall.

English Language Arts

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7

In ELA 7, students are immersed in literacy. In an effort to develop critical thinking and comprehension, students will be required to compare and contrast, as well as analyze literature text, informational text, poetry, and argumentative pieces. Students will demonstrate their level of understanding by citing textual evidence to support their analysis and arguments. In addition, students will generate their own narrative, argumentative, and informative pieces. Integrated throughout will be the reinforcement of grammar, usage, punctuation, capitalization, and Tier II vocabulary. The curriculum is aligned to the Pennsylvania Core Standards.

Approved texts:

HMH Introduction to Literature 7, The Book of Virtues, William J. Bennett; *Dead End in Norvelt*, Jack Gantos; *Elements of Literature*, Holt; *Freak the Mighty*, Rodman Philbrick; *Gift of the Magi and Other Stories,* O.Henry; *The Moral Compass*, William J. Bennett; *The Outsiders*, S.E. Hinton; *Watership Down,* Richard Adams; *The Westing Game*, Ellen Raskin; *Wintering Well,* Lea Wait.

HONORS ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7

Student enrollment in this course will be based on several criteria which will include current grades, assessment scores and teacher recommendation in some cases. The content of this course is similar to English Language Arts 7 but is taught at an accelerated level and pace,

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8

In ELA 8, students will be immersed in the eligible content according to the Pennsylvania Core Standards in the areas of literature, text, informational text, writing, language, and text-dependent analysis. Students will analyze both literature text and informational text throughout the course.
Approved literature texts:
HMH Introduction to Literature 8, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Mark Twain; *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas,* John Boyne; *A Christmas Carol,* Charles Dickens; *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, J.K. Rowling; *The Diary of Anne Frank* – play, Frances Goodrich & Albert Hackett; *Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie*; Jordan Sonnerblick; *The Secret Life of Bees*, Sue Monk Kidd; *Elements of Literature*, Holt; *Writing and Grammar*, Pearson; *short stories by various authors.*

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Mathematics

Pre-Algebra 7 W/LAB

This course is designed for all seventh grade students. This course is the transition from the arithmetic of elementary school to the algebra and geometry of high school. The purpose of this course is to pave the way for more difficult and complex skills needed for students to understand algebraic concepts and prepare them for the 7th grade Math PSSA. Students should gain proficiency in the following topics: The Number System, Ratios and Proportional Relationships, Expressions and Equations (up to 2 step equations), Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. **Each student enrolled in this course will also be assigned to a lab period for 2 days out of the 6 day school schedule. This lab period is provided as extra instructional time to continue to prepare these students for the 7th grade Math PSSA and to move on to the next level of math.** At the end of the 3rd grading period an algebra diagnostic test will be given to aid in determining future class placement.
TEXT: *Intro Math Grade 7,* Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

ALGEBRA & GEOMETRY 8 W/LAB

This course is designed for *eighth* grade students who have completed Introduction to Pre-Algebra 7. The purpose of this course is to prepare the students for the Math 8 PSSA exam and to help the students develop a foundation necessary for Algebra I. **Each student enrolled in this course will also be assigned to a lab period for 2 days out of the 6 day school schedule. This lab period is provided as extra instructional time to continue to prepare these students for the Math 8 PSSA exam and to move on to Algebra I.** The general overview of the content of this course includes: operations with real numbers and expressions, rational and irrational numbers, properties of exponents, congruence, similarity, linear equations, functions from geometry, linear functions, linear inequalities, and data analysis.
TEXT: *Intro Math Grade 8,* Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

ALGEBRA I 7 & 8 w/LAB **<NCAA>** **1.0 math credit towards graduation**

This course is required for all students in the academic curriculum, and for those students who plan to enter college. Students will be proficient in the following concepts: solving equations and inequalities, graphing linear equations and inequalities, factoring polynomials, solving quadratic equations by factoring, function notation, writing equations for parallel and perpendicular lines using slope, solving systems of linear equations by graphing, substitution and elimination, and radicals. Students will be provided a scientific calculator for in class and testing. The curriculum will be aligned for the Keystone Exam in Algebra I which the students will take at the end of this course. Each student enrolled in this course will also be assigned to a lab period. This lab period is provided as extra instructional time to continue to prepare these students for the Math PSSA exam.

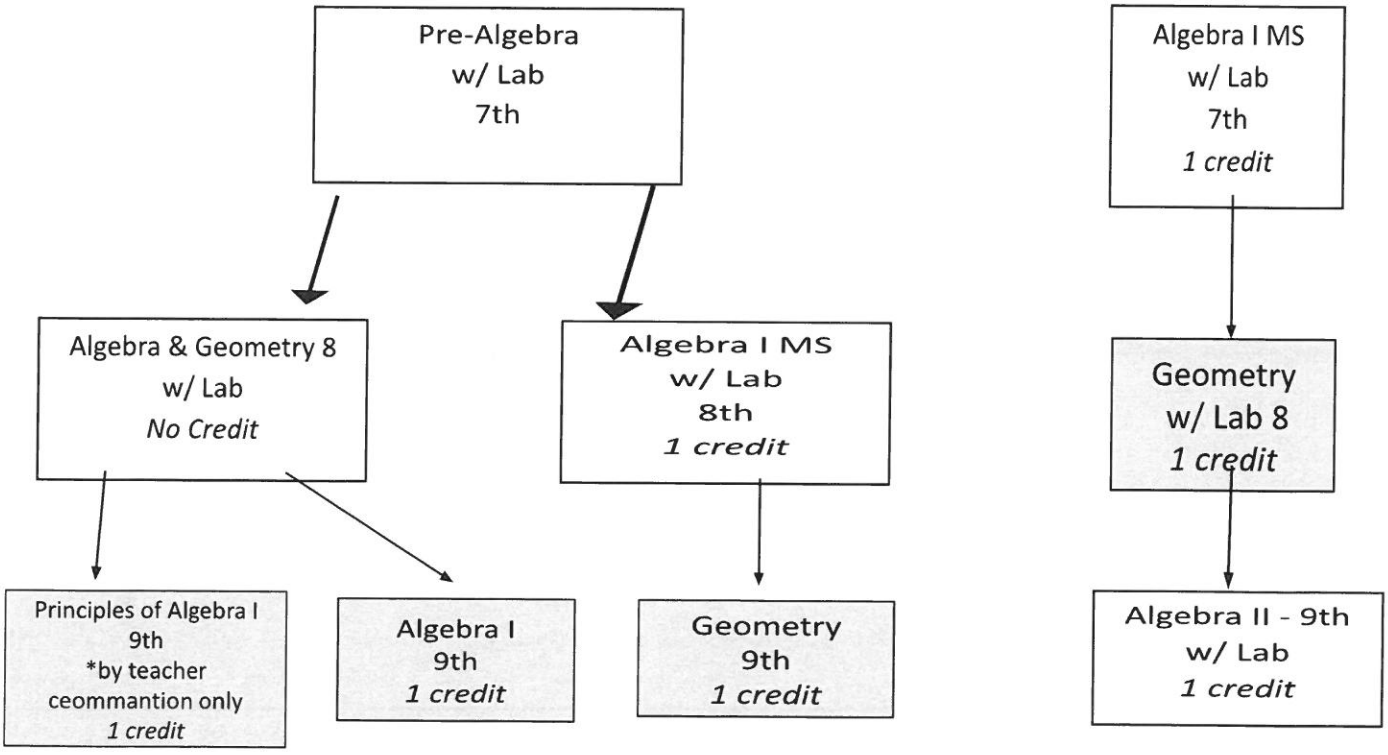
TEXT: Prentice Hall, Algebra I 2011

GEOMETRY **<NCAA>** **Grade 8** **1.0 math credit towards graduation**

This course is designed to further prepare students for collegiate mathematics. Students should be able to demonstrate proficiency in the following areas: language of geometry, inductive and deductive reasoning, similar figures, parallel and perpendicular lines, congruent triangles, polygons, introduction to trigonometry, area, surface area, volume, and circles. A scientific calculator will be provided when necessary for several topics in this course. Students will be expected to do a great deal of work inside and outside of the classroom.

TEXT" Geometry, Person

Mathematics Sequence of Courses



Science

SCIENCE 7

This is a science course designed to broaden facts and concepts in the field of physical sciences. Students develop skills of scientific reasoning, the analysis of matter, energy, electricity and waves. Developments in technology based upon the previously mentioned topics will also be explored. The development of scientific concepts and use of various methods of technology is emphasized.
TEXT: Prentice Hall Physical Science

SCIENCE 8

This course is required for grade 8. This course content consists of a comprehensive discovery of cells, the six kingdoms of the living world, genetics, taxonomy, and current scientific discoveries. Knowledge and skills the students gain are built upon in ninth grade biology. Skills from note taking and organization, to experimentation and dissection are developed. Students are encouraged to explore science concepts independently and find science in everyday examples around them. Authentic assessments are incorporated to accompany written evaluations. The Pennsylvania State Assessment for Science is administered to all students enrolled in this course.
TEXT: Prentice Hall Science Explorer

Social Studies

SOCIAL STUDIES 7

Required grade 7. This course is designed to emphasize social studies skills and concepts through the study of the history, geography, economies, and cultures of the Eastern Hemisphere. The content will include: an in-depth study of Asia and introduction to Africa.

CIVICS 8

This course will introduce students to the core principles of American civics and economics in order to prepare them to become active citizens and community members. Students will learn the basic principles of national, state, and local government as well as explore the founding American documents, current events, and citizenship. The economic position of the class is designed to teach students the basic concepts of our economic system. Students will also learn the role that they play as consumers in our economic system.
TEXT: *Civics: Government and Economics in Action*, Prentice Hall

HONORS CIVICS 8

Student enrollment in this course will be determined by teacher recommendation and current grades in Social Studies 7. The content of Honors Civics will be similar to Civics 8 with an added emphasis on primary source documents, critical thinking skills, and document based questions. Honors Civics will be taught at an accelerated level and pace.
TEXT: *Civics: Government and Economics in Action, Prentice Hall*

Physical Education & Health

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7

The junior high physical education program will provide the students with an introduction to various team sports and lifetime sports. It will prepare them for a basic understanding of the activities for further involvement in future years.

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HEALTH 8 **Nine week rotation subject**

This course presents various systems of the human body. Introduced are the cardiovascular, lymphatic, respiratory, muscular, digestive, excretory, and skeletal systems. Boole Classroom provides slide presentations, tests, quizzes and participation questions. Color drawings of each system identifies main components.

TEXT: *Health,* Glencoe

Arts & Humanities

ART 8 **Nine week rotation subject**

This introductory visual arts course will provide middle school students with a foundation in a variety of art forms, techniques, and history. This course covers a range of art mediums, including painting, drawing, sculpture, and others. Students will be assessed on class participation, project completion, creative expression, and effort.

BAND 7 & 8 **Elective subject grades 7 & 8**

Prerequisite: director's approval for admission in advance of the school year. This course will deal with the following using standard middle school band literature: Tone, intonation, technique, blend, balance, stage presence and performance etiquette. Students are required to attend lessons on a weekly basis and perform at scheduled concerts as part of their grade.

CHORUS 7 & 8 **Elective subject grades 7 & 8**

A look at various vocal literature with emphasis on performance and beginning vocal technique. Attendance is required at concerts and any announced rehearsals during the year. Emphasis is also placed on basic music theory and beginning ear training.

EXPLORING SPANISH 7 **Nine week rotation subject**

Exploring Spanish is a nine week course for 7th graders that exposes them to the Spanish language and culture. Students learn basic skills in speaking, listening, conversation and cultural exploration.

HOME ECONOMICS 7 **Nine week rotation subject**

This nine week course will start with a four week unit in the sewing room. Basic operation of a sewing machine and hand sewing techniques will be taught. A machine sewn pillow or apron will be completed. Clothing care, including repair and laundry skills will conclude this unit. A one week unit on Nutrition will follow with emphasis on the current eating plan, "The Plate". This unit will be followed up with a four week cooking class. Emphasis will include abbreviations and measures, kitchen safety, kitchen terms, kitchen tools and equipment and food preparation. Proper clean-up will be stressed. Students will work cooperatively in groups of 4-6 students.

HUMANITIES AND TECHNOLOGY 7 **Nine week rotation subject**

Students will discover the history, present state, and projected future of robotics related technologies. Students will read, respond through writing and discussion, and analyze robotics related non-fiction and fiction selections adhering to the Academic Standards for Reading in Science and Technical Subjects for the state of Pennsylvania. A hands-on approach will also be part of the class. Students will have the opportunity to reverse engineer, modify, and compete in various tasks with the robots they build utilizing the Scientific Method. In the end, students who participate in Humanities in Technology will be a part of the growing trend to integrate robotics into our daily lives.

PROBLEM SOLVING 8 **Nine week rotation subject**

This class stresses real world problem solving skills through the use of challenges, technology, and robotics. Students are encouraged to think creatively, use a combination of approaches, and come up with unique solutions. This is done through brainstorming or trial and error and applying the concepts of math, science, and computer science.

RESILIENCY WORKSHOP 7 **Nine week rotation subject**

This course is designed to help students develop skills that enable them to make healthy and socially responsible decisions in everyday living. It is designed to provide basic information and skill training in the areas of study skills and school success, self-esteem and self-awareness, career education, conflict resolution and controlling emotions. Grading of this course will be based on classwork, homework and participation.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION 8 **Nine week rotation subject**

Technology Education is a nine week course for 8th grade students that will explore the impacts of technology on our society. Students will be introduced to drafting and engineering through the use of Auto CAD, 3D printing, lasers, CNC (Computer Numerical Control) machines and problem solving. Students will also have the opportunity to create a woodworking project with a focus on safety.