

2010-2011 Junior High Course Offerings

ART

Seventh Grade Art - 1/4 Credit

This introductory art class draws upon the fundamental disciplines that contribute to the understanding and making of art. Studio production activity units in drawing, painting and crafts are integrated with studies of works of art, artists, and art vocabulary to establish a rudimentary understanding of the nature and scope of art.

CONSUMER SCIENCE

7th Grade Consumer Science –1/4 Credit

This course introduces students to concepts and practices that help them develop awareness to become savvy consumers. Subjects covered over the nine week course include self concept and decision making skills necessary to analyze buying decisions and patterns, advertising, money management, healthy food choices and nutrition. All concepts are developed further when the student continues with Consumer Science in 10th grade.

COMPUTER LITERACY

Computer Literacy 7 - 1/2 Credit Elective

Computer Literacy 7 is a course that introduces/orientates the seventh grade students to the high school computer network and software that will be most pertinent and available throughout their high school careers. Students will also be taught basic typing techniques and introduced to a future typing program (Micro Type Pro) that will hone their keyboarding skills.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Seventh Grade Language Arts - 1 Credit

This course is an integrated language arts program offering high quality traditional and contemporary literary selections in the following genres: short story, drama, nonfiction, poetry, myths, folk tales, and novels. Emphasis is placed on the reading and appreciation of literature as well as the writing process. Different types and styles of writing are studied. These include composition, journal, research, and creative writing. All language arts skills, especially grammar and vocabulary, are addressed within the context of the literature.

Honors Seventh Grade Language Arts - 1 Credit

This course is offered to students who would like an accelerated study of Language Arts. The course is an integrated language arts program offering high quality traditional and contemporary literary selections in the following genres: short story, drama, non-fiction, poetry, myths, folk tales and novel. Emphasis is placed on the reading and appreciation of literature as well as on the writing process. Different types and styles of writing are studied. These include composition, journal, research, and creative writing. All language arts skills, especially grammar and vocabulary, are addressed within the context of the literature. A student's academic record and Standardized Test Scores are reviewed prior to acceptance into the course.

MATHEMATICS

A student must pass one Credit of Pre-Algebra in seventh and/or eighth grade.

Math 7 - 1 Credit

The Math 7-8 sequence prepares a student for high school mathematics courses by reviewing the fundamentals of arithmetic and introducing basic algebraic and geometric concepts. Students receive extensive practice with operations on different forms of numbers.

Pre-Algebra A - 1 Credit

The Pre-Algebra A-B sequence prepares a student for Algebra I by reviewing the fundamentals of arithmetic and introducing algebraic concepts. Students receive extensive practice representing numbers in different forms. Students are introduced to the concept of a variable and learn how to solve basic equations. Real life applications are modeled with equations.

Honors Algebra 1A - 1 Credit

The student develops an algebraic structure so as to build a foundation of principles related to the real number system. Sets, the number line, operations with polynomials, linear equations, and exponents are all covered.

MUSIC

Seventh Grade Music - 1/2 credit elective—Mandatory Course

Students will learn the fundamentals of music theory including note values, clefs, time signatures, and the notation of melodic and rhythmic patterns. An introduction to the history of western culture music will also be presented. Initial introduction to the instruments of the orchestra, exploration of timbre and sound production, as well as a presentation on the families of instruments are an integral part of this course. Students will learn to identify by sight and by sound all instruments of the modern symphonic orchestra. Broadway Theater is examined through the observation of productions, discussing plot, and identifying musical importance. Pennsylvania State Standards will be presented and upheld throughout this course of study. Students will be assessed through alternative assessment techniques such as self-critiques and group ensemble evaluations. Written exams, quizzes, and other more formal evaluations will also take place. Homework is to be expected.

**7th Grade Chorus - 1 Credit

This ensemble meets daily and is an elective for any student in 7th grade. Previous choral experience is not necessary, but all students must enjoy singing and performing. The Chorus performs a repertoire of unison and two part music as chosen from the guidelines set by the Pennsylvania State Standards.

- This ensemble will perform publicly at least 3 times each academic year.
- Participation in each performance is mandatory and will be recorded as an exam grade.
- Failure to participate in a public performance will require a make up exam. Exam requirements will be outlined in the course syllabus.
- Each student will be required to purchase a polo shirt to be worn for performances, field trips and other special events.
- Grades are based on daily participation in class, monthly vocal exams, all public performances, in class assessments, and occasional theory tests.
- The music rehearsed and performed will be of the highest level, be from all periods of music history and will require the student to commit to musical excellence. Practicing at home maybe required.
- Students will be required to attend concerts by other Lackawanna Trail ensembles, either at the high school or at the elementary center.

**Junior High Band - 1 Credit

This is an elective course open to interested students with a background in the performance and study of instrumental music of the band genre. Students without said background may request entrance in the course and will be considered by Director of Bands on a case by case basis. Junior High Band is designed to help students prepare for Concert Band and other Senior High Ensembles during their high school career and the progression into these ensembles is anticipated. This course will prepare the students to engage in and successfully execute a musically mature concert band program; the students will be trained in the art of small ensemble music and will be guided towards successful performance on their individual instrument as well as unified performance as an ensemble. This guidance will include individual playing tests, memorization, and - of course – daily individual practice. Numerous attendance commitments outside of the posted school hours are to be expected and will be integrated as a mandatory element of this course; this will include 5 performances per year and daily practice, in accordance with the Pennsylvania State Standards. In the event of extreme scheduling hardships or situations, alternate assignments may be presented to the student. These assignments will be designed to provide a similar educational experience and will be comprehensive and involved in nature. Pennsylvania State Standards will be presented and upheld throughout this course of study. Students will be assessed through alternative assessment techniques such as self-critiques and group ensemble evaluations. Scale tests, playing tests, and other more formal evaluations will also take place. Daily practice is to be considered homework.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education - 1/2 of Credit—Mandatory Course

This course is designed to help students improve their skills and their knowledge of various athletic and lifetime sports activities. Knowledge of rules and physical techniques will be explored. Class activities will directly involve students in experiences related to various sports and personal fitness techniques.

PRACTICAL ARTS

7th Grade Technology Education - 1/4 Credit Elective

This course is designed to enable students to understand the influence of modern technology and technological systems on their lifestyles in the home, school and work environments. Instruction will be provided through hands-on laboratory based activities using modern hand tools and a limited amount of machinery to help build skills and confidence. Class activities will develop basic hand tool and problem solving skills. Course topics include: mechanical drawing, project design, woodworking, tower, boat hull and aviation design.

Career Awareness 7 - 1/4 Credit

This course is part of the seventh grade rotation. The course is designed to provide students with general career cluster awareness. The course encourages students to think about and become informed concerning career and educational choices. Topics covered include: Self-Assessment, Occupational Stereotyping, and careers available. Students are also made aware of the technical core of courses which are available to them at Lackawanna Trail.

Seventh Grade Job Shadowing

This summer program spans one to three days to give students a practical look at a career interest area, one in which they have investigated and shown interest in during the Career Awareness class in 7th grade

READING

Reading and Study Skills in the Content Areas - 1 Credit

This course is designed to better prepare students for the variety of reading tasks that will be required of them through their secondary school years. A major goal of this course is to help students develop both the study skills and the reading strategies that will allow them to read more effectively, to know what to look for as they are reading textual materials in other classes and to develop the skills necessary to do research and write papers and reports for their academic classes.

Reading 7 - 1 Credit

This course provides students with developmental reading skills. Emphasis is placed on reading comprehension as well as written and verbal communication, study and research skills, listening skills, and theme related projects and assignments. Improving PSSA test scores will also be addressed. Students will be identified for the Seventh and Eighth Grade Reading Program based upon Standardized Test Scores and/or teacher recommendation. This is a mandatory program for those students who are identified. Students whose test scores are at or above grade level will not be required to be enrolled.

SCIENCE

Seventh Grade Life Science - 1 Credit

Life science students will be introduced to the study of biology. The major topics that will be covered are cellular biology, zoology, botany and ecology. Students will apply their knowledge by doing laboratory activities using microscopes, dissecting animals and preparing botanical collections. Cooperative learning will be a major part of seventh grade science.

Seventh Grade Honors Life Science - 1 Credit

Life science students are introduced to the study biology. The major topics that will be covered are cellular biology, zoology, botany and ecology. Students will apply their knowledge by doing laboratory activities using microscopes, dissecting animals and preparing botanical collections. Cooperative learning will be a major part of seventh grade science. Students are required to do

supplemental reading and activities. A higher level of questioning is used and students are required to answer higher level thinking questions for class discussions, homework and on tests.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Civics and Government - 1 Credit

This course has been developed to give Junior High School students a basic understanding of the functions and responsibilities of citizens in a democratic society. Students will be introduced to the basic structure of government and how they function in that system.

Honors Civics and Government - 1 Credit

This course has been developed to give Junior High School students a basic understanding of the functions and responsibilities of citizens in a democratic society. Students will be introduced to the basic structure of government and how they function in that system. An accelerated pace and more in-depth study will be used during this course.

EIGHTH GRADE COURSE SELECTIONS

Some elective courses require mandatory attendance after the school day. These elective courses should be discussed with the guidance counselors and teachers to best determine if you can fulfill the obligations of the elective course.

ART

Eighth Grade Art - 1/2 Credit Elective

This art class is the sequel to seventh grade art. Lessons complement the fundamentals that were established in seventh grade in order to reinforce and amplify student awareness of the nature and scope of the discipline of art. Studio units in drawing, painting, sculpture and printmaking are integrated with lessons in art history and aesthetics.

CONSUMER SCIENCE

8TH Grade Consumer Science-1/2 Credit

Students continue their introduction to concepts that enhance everyday living skills. Topics covered include child development and basic money management, hand sewing, and basic cooking. A comprehensive sewing project of the student's choice is completed by the end of the course for credit. Cooking skills are interspersed throughout the year in conjunction with seasonal or holiday events.

COMPUTER LITERACY

Computer Literacy 8 - 1/4 Credit

This is a 9 week course designed to introduce students to a variety of computer applications. Students will learn the basics of proper keyboarding technique using Microtype software, will complete projects using Microsoft Visual Basic for computer programming, use HTML for Web page design, and Microsoft Word for word processing. Students will also become familiar with computer terminology, Internet safety, and be made aware of technological advancements occurring in our society.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Exploratory French/Spanish - 1/4 of Credit—Mandatory Course

This course is designed to introduce students to each foreign language, French and Spanish. Students will learn basic conversational skills and vocabulary with an emphasis on listening and speaking in the target language.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Eighth Grade Health - 1/4 Credit—Mandatory Course

This course teaches the care and maintenance of the body systems. A wellness approach is utilized throughout to allow students to set positive goals for their personal health. Decisions that must be made regarding life-style habits will be explored. Proper nutrition, drugs, alcohol and tobacco abuse, and sexually transmitted diseases are also taught with emphasis on positive decision-making in these areas.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Eighth Grade Language Arts - 1 Credit

This course focuses on concepts and skills of written and spoken communication. Emphasis is placed on reading and writing. Students read various genres and write in various styles and forms. Students will learn about various authors and writing styles. They will also learn literary devices and apply this knowledge to their own writing. A reading and writing portfolio will be a course culminating activity.

Honors Eighth Grade Language Arts - 1 Credit

This course is offered to students who would like an accelerated study of Language Arts. This course focuses on concepts and skills of written and spoken communication. Emphasis is placed on reading and writing. Students read various genres and write in various styles and forms. Students will learn about various authors and writing styles. They will also learn literary devices

and apply this knowledge to their own writing. Various projects involving research and creativity will be completed throughout. A reading and writing portfolio will be a course culminating activity.

MATHEMATICS

Math 8 – 1 Credit

This course is the second half of the Math 7-8 sequence and concludes a student's preparation for a senior high mathematics education.

Pre-Algebra B - 1 Credit

This course is the second half of the Pre-Algebra A-B sequence and concludes a student's preparation for Algebra I.

Honors Algebra 1 B - 1 Credit

The student develops an algebraic structure so as to build a foundation of principles related to the real number system. Linear and quadratic equations, factors, exponents, and roots are all covered.

MUSIC

Eighth Grade Music - 1/4 credit elective

This course will allow the student to explore and understand the fundamental principles of basic music theory and the study of the history of western culture's music. This will include an intermediate study of music theory. Major scales, key signatures, and intervallic relationships will be presented. This is a continuation of the theory unit covered in General Music. Also presented as a continuation of the seventh grade course is the study of the history of music, with the stated goal of reaching the 20th century and modern era. Pennsylvania State Standards will be presented and upheld throughout this course of study. Students will be assessed through alternative assessment techniques such as self-critiques and group ensemble evaluations. Written exams, quizzes, and other more formal evaluation will also take place. Homework is to be expected.

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will include 5 performances per year and daily practice, in accordance with the Pennsylvania State Standards. In the event of extreme scheduling hardships or situations, alternate assignments may be presented to the student. These assignments will be designed to provide a similar educational experience and will be comprehensive and involved in nature. Pennsylvania State Standards will be presented and upheld throughout this course of study. Students will be assessed through alternative assessment techniques such as self-critiques and group ensemble evaluations. Scale tests, playing tests, and other more formal evaluations will also take place. Daily practice is to be considered homework.

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PRACTICAL ARTS

8th Grade Technology Education - 1/2 Credit Elective

This course builds on the foundation set in seventh grade technology education. Students will further expand their understanding of the influence of modern technology and technological systems on their lifestyles at home, school, and in work environments. Instruction will be provided through hands-on laboratory based activities using modern hand tools and a limited amount of machinery to help build skills and confidence. Class activities will develop and focus on more advanced problem solving skills in the following areas: architectural/mechanical design, propulsion, woodworking, transportation and structures.

READING

Reading 8 - 1 Credit

This course is designed to familiarize students with the concepts and skills associated with reading. Emphasis will be placed on written and verbal communication and comprehension. Students will learn study methods, techniques of developing report-writing skills and to read to follow directions via special projects. Students will develop good listening habits and read a variety of novels to practice good reading habits. Students identified for the Seventh and Eighth Grade Reading Program will be included based upon Standardized Test Scores and/or teacher recommendation. This is a mandatory program for those students who are identified. Students may test out of the program. Students whose test scores are at or above grade level will not be required to be enrolled.

SCIENCE

Eighth Grade Earth and Space Science - 1 Credit

This course is designed to familiarize students with the concepts and skills associate with Earth and Space Science. The activities and projects will enable students to investigate the far reaches of space, the depths of the ocean, the exterior and interior of the earth and in general, better understand the planet on which they live.

Eighth Grade Honors Earth and Space Science - 1 Credit

This course is designed to familiarize students with the concepts and skills associate with Earth and Space Science. During the course of study students will be required to investigate topics and present formal reports using charts, posters and other materials. The activities and projects will enable students to investigate the far reaches of space, the depths of the ocean, the exterior and interior of the earth and in general, better understand the plant on which they live.

SOCIAL STUDIES

World Cultures - 1 Credit

This course examines our world today from geographical, political, historical and cultural standpoints with emphasis on non-western civilizations. The geography component examines the important physical features on each of the nations and how these physical features have impacted

on the cultures of each region. Special emphasis is placed on the economic and social development that have impacted on the development of the world civilizations.

Honors World Cultures - 1 Credit

This course is similar to World Cultures. Differences include a faster pace, the opportunity to study certain vital topics in greater depth, and the requirement that students research and write a research paper on a cultural aspect of one of the areas studied.

World Geography/Pennsylvania History - 1 Credit

In World Geography the students will learn the geographic perspective of the world. This will show them the way of looking at the world that blends an understanding of location, of resource use, of landscape change and of human use of the world into a way of thinking: a way of seeing how Earth is, and how it has been shaped, and why it matters to people. It also provides ideas about how future landscapes should be modified and maintained.

In Pennsylvania History the students will study the contributions of individuals and groups who are essential to the history of Pennsylvania. Historical documents and artifacts will be examined to emphasize their importance in the geographical, economic, and political growth of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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In Pennsylvania History the students will study the contributions of individuals and groups who are essential to the history of Pennsylvania. Historical documents and artifacts will be examined to emphasize their importance in the geographical, economic, and political growth of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. An accelerated pace and more in-depth study will be focused on in this course.