



DELAWARE VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dingman-Delaware Middle School 2011-2012

Grades 6,7 & 8

Course Guide

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LIST OF CURRICULA WITH COURSE DESCRIPTION FOR DINGMAN-DELAWARE MIDDLE SCHOOL

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS & READING

Grade 8

English/Language Arts 3

This course in English/Language Arts for grade eight meets the following Pennsylvania Academic Standards: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, Research, Characteristics and Function of the English Language. The skills components of the course are integrated under the general theme of Challenges; within this theme, the activities and assessments are organized into five units: Heroism, Media Literacy, Reflection and Revision, the Holocaust, and Comedy. The course employs a variety of strategies to engage students and enhance student learning opportunities in all areas of language arts, both individually and collaboratively. Content and academic vocabulary instruction is woven throughout the course, as is grammatical usage; there is also a separate grammar component used as daily bell work. There is ample provision for both remediation and enrichment, ensuring that all students are both challenged and supported as they engage with rigorous and relevant content. Students in advanced classes are provided with the additional challenges of more extensive and sophisticated activities and assignments in all areas: supplementary reading, writing, discussion and presentation, vocabulary, and research.

Reading

This course in reading for grade eight is designed to increase and develop new comprehension skills and can be organized into four units: novels, short stories, PSSA practice, and Fast Forward. The course includes comprehensive strategies to accommodate a variety of learning styles. The strategies will help students develop methods to aid in text comprehension and the ability to read and respond. The main focus of writing in this course is to aid in students' comprehension of the literature they are currently reading. Samples of writing activities include simple prediction exercises, development of short stories, and personal epilogue responses to reading selections.

Novels, short stories, and PSSA practice are literature-based units intermingled throughout the school year. They use many types of publications and writing to increase students' reading comprehension. The standards the course is based upon are the Pennsylvania Academic Reading and Writing Standards from the language arts curriculum. The content allows students to experience different forms of reading materials.

Fast Forward is a computer-based unit, which accelerates students' learning through focused practice and repeated exposure to the critical elements of language and reading. Along with developing foundational skills, the Fast Forward program improves a student's ability to follow directions and build listening skills.

This course is developed to serve eighth grade reading students. In this reading course it is sometimes necessary to promote/create a remedial situation with more intense instructional methods and more time spent developing comprehension of various content activities. Instruction should provide ample time to develop proper strategies to meet the needs of individual students, particularly those proven to have difficulty in the area of reading comprehension.

Grade 7

English/Language Arts 2

This course in English/Language Arts for grade seven meets the following Pennsylvania Academic Standards: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, Research, Characteristics and Function of the English Language. The skills components of the course are integrated under the general theme of Choices; within this theme, the activities and assessments are organized into five units: Personal Narrative, Folklore and Myth; Media Literacy; Literary Analysis; Reflection and Revision; Poetry and Performance. The course employs a variety of strategies to engage students and enhance student learning opportunities in all areas of language arts, both individually and collaboratively. Content and academic vocabulary instruction is woven throughout the course, as is grammatical usage. There is also a separate grammar component used as daily bell work. There is ample provision for both remediation and enrichment, ensuring that all students are both challenged and supported as they engage with rigorous and relevant content. Students in advanced classes are provided with the additional challenges of more extensive and sophisticated activities and assignments in all areas: supplementary reading, writing, discussion and presentation, vocabulary, and research.

Reading

This course in reading for grade seven is designed to increase and develop new comprehension skills and can be organized into four units: novels, short stories, PSSA practice, and Fast Forward. The course includes comprehensive strategies to accommodate a variety of learning styles. The strategies will help students develop methods to aid in text comprehension and the ability to read and respond. The main focus of writing in this course is to aid in students' comprehension of the literature they are currently reading. Samples of writing activities include simple prediction exercises, development of short stories, and personal epilogue responses to reading selections.

Novels, short stories, and PSSA practice are literature-based units intermingled throughout the school year. They use many types of publications and writing to increase students' reading comprehension. The standards the course is

based upon are the Pennsylvania Academic Reading and Writing Standards from the language arts curriculum. The content allows students to experience different forms of reading materials.

Fast Forward is a computer-based unit, which accelerates students' learning through focused practice and repeated exposure to the critical elements of language and reading. Along with developing foundational skills, the Fast Forward program improves a student's ability to follow directions and build listening skills.

This course is developed to serve seventh grade reading students. In this reading course it is sometimes necessary to promote/create a remedial situation with more intense instructional methods and more time spent developing comprehension of various content activities. Instruction should provide ample time to develop proper strategies to meet the needs of individual students, particularly those proven to have difficulty in the area of reading comprehension.

Grade 6

Language Arts 1

This course in English/Language Arts for grade six meets the following Pennsylvania Academic Standards: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, Research, Characteristics and Function of the English Language. The skills components of the course are integrated under the general theme of Changes; within this theme, the activities and assessments are organized into five units: Narrative and Expository Writing, Storytelling Using Various Media, Literary Analysis, Reflection and Revision, Research and Performance. The course employs a variety of strategies to engage students and enhance student learning opportunities in all areas of language arts, both individually and collaboratively. Content and academic vocabulary instruction is woven throughout the course, as is grammatical usage. There is also a separate grammar component used as daily bell work. There is ample provision for both remediation and enrichment, ensuring that all students are both challenged and supported as they engage with rigorous and relevant content. Students in advanced classes are provided with the additional challenges of more extensive and sophisticated activities and assignments in all areas: supplementary reading, writing, discussion and presentation, vocabulary, and research.

Reading

This course will develop the reading, writing, listening, speaking, critical thinking, and researching skills. Students will further develop specific critical reading strategies when analyzing and interpreting literature. Also, students will apply these learned strategies to interpret reading conducted independently; communicating their learning through reports, presentation, or journals. During this course, students will be introduced to short stories, novels, poetry, and media. Students in advanced classes are provided with the additional challenges of more extensive and sophisticated activities and assignment

MATHEMATICS

Grade 8

Algebra 1

This course is available to students in grade 8 who have demonstrated mastery in Middle School Math 2 or Middle School Math 3. The curriculum for Algebra 1 is intended to prepare students for Geometry and Algebra 2. In this course, students learn to describe patterns verbally and mathematically. Students will graph, manipulate, and write equations representing linear and quadratic functions. Students use a TI-84 graphing calculator to model functions and develop rules for exponents, radicals, and probability. Students will develop effective mathematic communication skills including statistical representations. Students in advanced classes are provided with the additional challenges of more extensive and sophisticated activities and assignments in all areas.

Math 3

This course is available to students in grade 8 who have demonstrated satisfactory performance in Math 2. The curriculum for Math 3 is intended to prepare students for Algebra 1. In this course, students learn to describe patterns verbally and mathematically. Students will graph, manipulate, and write equations representing linear functions. Students will develop rules for exponents, radicals, and probability. Students will develop effective mathematic communication skills including statistical representations.

Grade 7

Math 2

This course is available to students in grade 7 who have demonstrated mastery in Middle School Math 1. The curriculum for Middle School Math 2 is intended to prepare students for Algebra 1. In this course, students learn to understand and apply properties of real numbers both positive and negative. Students will explore one variable equations, linear relationships, geometry concepts, and data analysis. Students will develop effective mathematic communication skills including statistical representations. Students in advanced classes are provided with the additional challenges of more extensive and sophisticated activities and assignments in all areas.

Grade 6

Math 1

This course is available to students in grade 6 who have demonstrated satisfactory performance in 5th grade math. The curriculum for Middle School Math 1 is intended to prepare students for Middle School Math 2. In this course, students learn to describe patterns verbally and mathematically. Students will use number concepts to represent rational numbers in percents, fractions, improper fractions, and integers. Students will explore operations with numbers, discovering the rules for basic operations and the order of the operations. Students will develop effective mathematic communication skills including geometric relationships, data displays, and linear patterns. Students in advanced classes are provided with the additional challenges of more extensive and sophisticated activities and assignments in all areas.

SCIENCE

Grade 8

Honors Science

This course is designed to develop learning experiences, which relate principles and processes from Earth and Space Science to everyday life. Geology, Astronomy, Meteorology, Oceanography, and Environmental Science will be explored. The content will be taught at an accelerated pace with the inclusion of supplemental labs, research, and writing assignments. Concepts will be developed using class lectures, class discussion, technology, and hands-on activities.

General Science

The eighth grade science course focuses on the basics of physical science and chemistry. In this hands-on course, students develop science process skills as well as critical thinking skills. Assessment is based on tests, labs, projects, reports, demonstrations, and other applicable devices. Students utilize technology in preparing presentations, labs, reports, and other assignments.

Grade 7

General Science

This course in General Science addresses major concepts in systems, genetics, natural selection, ecology, environmental studies, water and freshwater systems.

Grade 6

General Science

The sixth grade science course focuses on basic Life Science and Earth Science. It is geared for today's middle grades students, with a content of hands-on exploration.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Grade 8

Advanced Social Studies

This course is intended to challenge students in the study of American History. It covers, chronologically, the foundation and growth of the United States from the impact of indigenous American cultures through the Reconstruction era following the Civil War. The curriculum is directly aligned with the Pennsylvania History standards and eighth grade benchmarks. Students will identify and discuss contributions of individuals and groups to United States History. The course also focuses on conflicts that arose among various groups and cultures throughout this time period. The course is broken down into the following units: Native Americans, Age of Exploration and Discovery, Colonial America, The Revolutionary War, Launching the New Government, Growth of the United States, Civil War and Reconstruction, and Pennsylvania History.

Since this is an honors-level class, students can expect an intense amount of writing and reading assignments throughout the year to enhance their knowledge of the subject matter. In addition, a heavy emphasis will be placed on the analysis of primary and secondary sources ranging from the Declaration of Independence to the Gettysburg Address. Students will also complete research-driven and public speaking projects. During the unit on Launching a New Government, students will participate in Mock Constitutional Convention, an engaging two week project that will allow students to make their own history as they re-created the actual Constitutional Convention that took place in 1787. Finally, a strong emphasis will be placed upon preparations for the Pennsylvania State Assessments. Various correctives and extensions will be applied throughout the year to improve student achievement. Both formal and informal assessments will be given on a daily basis to accommodate various learning styles.

Social Studies

This course is intended to challenge the students in the study of American History. It covers, chronologically, the foundation and growth of the United States from the impact of indigenous American cultures through the Reconstruction era

following the Civil War. The curriculum is directly aligned with the Pennsylvania History standards and eighth grade benchmarks. Students will identify and discuss contributions of individuals and groups to United States history. The course focuses not only on the contributions of certain individuals but also the conflicts that arose between various groups and cultures throughout the time period. Throughout the year, learners will analyze and interpret various primary sources such as the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution. Topics include: Native Americans, Age of Exploration and Discovery, Colonial America, the Revolutionary War, Launching the New Government, Growth of the United States, Civil War and Reconstruction, and Pennsylvania History.

The course is structured to address the needs of a variety of ability levels. Students will engage in various writing and reading assignments throughout the year to enhance their knowledge of the subject matter. Students will also complete various public speaking projects appropriate to the topics studied. Strong emphasis is placed upon preparation for the Pennsylvania State Assessment in History. Various correctives and extensions will be applied throughout the year to improve student achievement. Both formal and informal assessments will be implemented to evaluate various learning styles and ability levels.

Grade 7

Advanced Social Studies

This course is intended to challenge the students in the study of Civics and Economics. The curriculum is directly aligned with the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Civics and Government, and the Academic Standards for Economics. Students will acquire the knowledge and skills to understand principles and documents of government, the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, how government works, and how international relationships function. Students will also acquire the knowledge and skills to understand economic systems, markets and functions of government, scarcity and choice, economic interdependence, and working and earning.

The course is designed to meet the needs of all students. During the course students will be asked to engage in various writing and reading assignments, cooperative group assignments, Internet activities, and other diverse strategies to enhance their knowledge of the subject matter. Students will participate in several projects that call upon their knowledge of the course standards.

Social Studies

This course is intended to challenge the students in the study of Civics and Economics. The curriculum is directly aligned with the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Civics and Government, and the Academic Standards for Economics. Students will acquire the knowledge and skills to understand principles

and documents of government, the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, how government works, and how international relationships function. Students will also acquire the knowledge and skills to understand economic systems, markets and functions of government, scarcity and choice, economic interdependence, and working and earning.

The course is designed to meet the needs of all students. During the course students will be asked to engage in various writing and reading assignments, cooperative group assignments, Internet activities, and other diverse strategies to enhance their knowledge of the subject matter. Students will participate in several projects that call upon their knowledge of the course standards.

Grade 6

Social Studies

World History covers the history of man from early humans to the Middle Ages. Throughout the course, students will be involved in learning about the common needs of humans and their diverse development. They will learn about the problems that groups have encountered and their attempts to solve those conflicts. Students will focus on the path of development of early civilizations and the connection between groups. Stress will be placed on the recognition of how causes have effects and how these causes and effects of the past still affect the world today. This course was written in alignment with the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for History.

In the Geography section, the students will develop an awareness of the world's global community. The students will identify the relationship between their lives and their environment and the lives and environments of others throughout the regions of The United States, Canada, Latin America, South America, Europe and Russia. The course will focus on the five themes of geography and the effect of geography on the development of a region's economic, political, and social/cultural development.

WORLD LANGUAGE

Grade 8

French 1

French 1 is a beginning level course intended for those students who have expressed an interest in learning a foreign language or who are already studying a foreign language and wish to pursue another. The instruction and the content of the course will be taught in both English and French. The emphasis will be placed on several areas: 1) building vocabulary through thematic study and practice; 2) the development of elementary conversational skills; 3) exposure to various grammatical constructions; and 4) a brief overview of France and other French-

speaking countries and their customs and traditions. With the combined conversational, grammatical and cultural study of French, the student will embark on a new educational experience that will help to foster an interest in the French language and the people who speak it throughout the world. French1 is also the basis for preparation into the subsequent levels of French 2, 3, 4, 5 and AP French.

French 2

French 2 is a course intended for those students who have successfully completed French 1. The instruction and content of this course lends itself to those students who wish to continue the study of French. The emphasis on both written and oral communication will allow students to increase their levels of proficiency in each of the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. This course has the following objectives: emphasizing communication and stress interpersonal relationships in meaningful cultural contexts. Through the study of grammar, vocabulary and literature, combined with oral presentations and practice in auditory comprehension, students will be able to integrate technology, compare and contrast daily life themes, engage in self-expression, develop longer conversational exchanges and to read for meaning and pleasure, which in combination will prepare students for Level 3.

German 1

This course is designed to teach students a basic level of the German language. The course emphasizes vocabulary relating to everyday life situations, the various grammatical components needed to build correct and complete sentences, as well as an authentic study of German culture and traditions. Students will become proficient and actively use the language through various reading and writing techniques.

This course serves as an introduction to the German language. This course emphasizes the use of specific functional vocabulary as well as basic grammatical constructions. Vocabulary acquisition is emphasized as well as its use in specific functional situations. Students are also introduced to several German speaking countries as well as their diverse cultures.

German 2

This course is a continuation of German 1. The course contains more complex grammatical principles, more advanced reading and writing elements and stresses conversation in the target language. Cultural focus will include the study of specific regions of German speaking countries.

Spanish 1

This course serves as an Introduction to the Spanish Language. This course emphasizes the use of specific functional vocabulary as well as basic grammatical

constructions. Vocabulary acquisition is emphasized as well as its use in specific functional situations. Students are also introduced to several Spanish-speaking countries as well as their diverse culture.

Spanish 2

Spanish 2 is a continuation of Spanish 1. The course contains more complex grammatical principles, more advanced reading and writing elements, and a stress on conversation in the target language. Cultural focus will include the study of specific regions of Spain, South America, Mexico, the United States, and the Caribbean.

Grade 7

French 1

French 1 is a beginning level course intended for those students who have expressed an interest in learning a foreign language or who are already studying a foreign language and wish to pursue another. The instruction and the content of the course will be taught in both English and French. The emphasis will be placed on several areas: 1) building vocabulary through thematic study and practice; 2) the development of elementary conversational skills; 3) exposure to various grammatical constructions; and 4) a brief overview of France and other French-speaking countries and their customs and traditions. With the combined conversational, grammatical and cultural study of French, the student will embark on a new educational experience that will help to foster an interest in the French language and the people who speak it throughout the world. French 1 is also the basis for preparation into the subsequent levels of French 2, 3, 4, 5 and AP French.

German 1

This course is designed to teach students a basic level of the German language. The course emphasizes vocabulary relating to everyday life situations, the various grammatical components needed to build correct and complete sentences, as well as an authentic study of German culture and traditions. Students will become proficient and actively use the language through various reading and writing techniques.

This course serves as an introduction to the German language. This course emphasizes the use of specific functional vocabulary as well as basic grammatical constructions. Vocabulary acquisition is emphasized as well as its use in specific functional situations. Students are also introduced to several German speaking countries as well as their diverse cultures.

Spanish 1

This course serves as an Introduction to the Spanish Language. This course emphasizes the use of specific functional vocabulary as well as basic grammatical constructions. Vocabulary acquisition is emphasized as well as its use in specific functional situations. Students are also introduced to several Spanish-speaking countries as well as their diverse culture.

SPECIAL AREA

Grade 8

Art

This course is designed for middle school students to receive an art background that will build a strong foundation for future experiences and will enrich their everyday lives. An understanding and appreciation of artists and the cultural and historical context of their works will broaden intellect and create meaningful studio experiences for the students. The curriculum is directly aligned with the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for the Arts and Humanities. Students will acquire the knowledge and skills to apply the elements and principles of design to their art projects. Students will also grasp the functional and aesthetic roles of art and design in society and engage in activities that utilize current technologies. In addition to being informed of current trends in the art world, museum visits and community involvement are encouraged whenever possible.

This course will accommodate all levels of learning. In addition to weekly projects, reading, writing and math will be integrated as anchors in the art curriculum. Students will participate in cooperative group assignments, and a composite sketchbook will be required of all students.

Band

Band is an educational experience in which students develop musical skills through rehearsal and performance. This course is a continuation of instrumental music education at the grade six level. It will allow students to develop and demonstrate fundamental skills and knowledge at a higher level and will utilize more complex music that requires more sophisticated responses. Band will help refine general music and citizen skills. Such skills include technique, expression, and musical knowledge as well as teamwork, coordination, discipline, and responsibility. It will provide instruction in creating, performing, listening to, and analyzing music in addition to focusing on specific subject matter. Students will have the opportunity to express their skills and talents through numerous performances both in and outside of school. Students will also be exposed to and experience a varied repertoire, including past and present periods of music,

traditional to contemporary. They will develop the ability to work together as a single ensemble to create quality musical product.

Chorus

Seventh and Eighth Grade chorus is a continued survey of the elements of music as applied through the vocal art form in an ensemble setting that began in sixth grade. Students will continue their intensive choral study, preparation and performance. Students are expected to achieve a high degree of technical knowledge and accuracy, while studying music from a wide variety of genres, time periods, and cultures in several different languages.

Family and Consumer Sciences

This course is designed to provide learning experiences as an elective course for Family and Consumer Sciences. Units of study include: Laundry; Food Safety and Sanitation; Tools and Equipment and Measuring; and Let's Cook.

Health and Physical Education

Students will examine a variety of health related topics using various educational methods and activities. The students will gain lifetime knowledge to apply to various health situations to enhance one's health.

Students will participate in a variety of Physical Education activities such as team, individual, and lifetime sports, as well as physical fitness. They will learn teamwork, respect for others, rules and regulations, and care for equipment. Through Physical Education, they will gain knowledge of their body and an enhanced health level. They will recognize the importance of physical activity and fitness throughout their lives to enhance their health.

Music

This course is designed to expose students to the elements of music through a variety of aural, visual and creative experiences. A special emphasis is placed on multicultural and historical perspectives of various styles of music and music technology, which reflect a wide variety of people, styles and times.

Orchestra

Orchestra is a music education experience in which students develop their musical skills on orchestral instruments through rehearsal and performance techniques. This level of instruction is a continuation of skills and concepts begun at the Elementary level. Students will spend most of their time preparing for public performances of the entire Orchestra, with several opportunities available throughout the year for individual development and performance. Some of the many skills needed and developed in this course are coordination, responsibility,

cooperation, critical listening, discipline and individual evaluation. The students will be exposed to many kinds of orchestral repertoire including classical, popular and original works of music.

Technology Education: Automation and Robotics

Model mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation and computer control systems. The hands-on project-based program is divided into six independent units. Students will study mechanical and computer control systems, think robotics and animation.

Grade 7

Art

This course is designed for middle school students to receive an art background that will build a strong foundation for future experiences and will enrich their everyday lives. An understanding and appreciation of artists and the cultural and historical context of their works will broaden intellect and create meaningful studio experiences for the students. The curriculum is directly aligned with the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for the Arts and Humanities. Students will acquire the knowledge and skills to apply the elements and principles of design to their art projects. Students will also grasp the functional and aesthetic roles of art and design in society and engage in activities that utilize current technologies. In addition to being informed of current trends in the art world, museum visits and community involvement are encouraged whenever possible.

This course will accommodate all levels of learning. In addition to weekly projects, reading, writing and math will be integrated as anchors in the art curriculum. Students will participate in cooperative group assignments, and a composite sketchbook will be required of all students.

Band

Band is an educational experience in which students develop musical skills through rehearsal and performance. This course is a continuation of instrumental music education at the grade six level. It will allow students to develop and demonstrate fundamental skills and knowledge at a higher level and will utilize more complex music that requires more sophisticated responses. Band will help refine general music and citizen skills. Such skills include technique, expression, and musical knowledge as well as teamwork, coordination, discipline, and responsibility. It will provide instruction in creating, performing, listening to, and analyzing music in addition to focusing on specific subject matter. Students will have the opportunity to express their skills and talents through numerous performances both in and outside of school. Students will also be exposed to and experience a varied repertoire, including past and present periods of music,

traditional to contemporary. They will develop the ability to work together as a single ensemble to create quality musical product.

Chorus

Seventh and Eighth Grade chorus is a continued survey of the elements of music as applied through the vocal art form in an ensemble setting that began in sixth grade. Students will continue their intensive choral study, preparation and performance. Students are expected to achieve a high degree of technical knowledge and accuracy, while studying music from a wide variety of genres, time periods, and cultures in several different languages.

Family and Consumer Sciences

This course is designed to provide learning experiences to meet all of the State Standards for Family and Consumer Sciences. Units of study include: Child Development; Foods and Nutrition; and Consumerism.

Health and Physical Education

Students will examine a variety of health related topics using various educational methods and activities. The students will gain lifetime knowledge to apply to various health situations to enhance one's health.

Students will participate in a variety of Physical Education activities such as team, individual, and lifetime sports, as well as physical fitness. They will learn teamwork, respect for others, rules and regulations, and care for equipment. Through Physical Education, they will gain knowledge of their body and an enhanced health level. They will recognize the importance of physical activity and fitness throughout their lives to enhance their health.

Music

This course is designed to expose students to music ranging from the Middle Ages to the Classical period, including exercises in musical thought through hands on performing, creating and responding to music for each time period. A special emphasis is placed on elements of music and correct terminology.

Orchestra

Orchestra is a music education experience in which students develop their musical skills on orchestral instruments through rehearsal and performance techniques. This level of instruction is a continuation of skills and concepts begun at the Elementary level. Students will spend most of their time preparing for public performances of the entire Orchestra, with several opportunities available throughout the year for individual development and performance. Some of the many skills needed and developed in this course are coordination, responsibility,

cooperation, critical listening, discipline and individual evaluation. The students will be exposed to many kinds of orchestral repertoire including classical, popular and original works of music.

Technology Education

This is the first formal exposure that students at Delaware Valley will experience in Technology Education. With that in mind the focus at the middle school level is to introduce students to the nature of technology and its role and impact on society. The activities are intended to challenge and engage students while establishing a clear interrelationship between Technology and other disciplines including Science, Math, History, Language Arts, and Art.

Design & Modeling

Introduction to the engineering design process and tools used, including engineering notebooks and Autodesk Inventor. The hands-on project-based program is divided into six independent units. Students envision, design and test their ideas with the same advanced modeling software used by companies like Lockheed Martin, Intel and Sprint. They study mechanical and computer control systems.

Grade 6

Art

This course is designed for middle school students to receive an art background that will build a strong foundation for future experiences and will enrich their everyday lives. An understanding and appreciation of artists and the cultural and historical context of their works will broaden intellect and create meaningful studio experiences for the students. The curriculum is directly aligned with the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for the Arts and Humanities. Students will acquire the knowledge and skills to apply the elements and principles of design to their art projects. Students will also grasp the functional and aesthetic roles of art and design in society and engage in activities that utilize current technologies. In addition to being informed of current trends in the art world, museum visits and community involvement are encouraged whenever possible.

This course will accommodate all levels of learning. In addition to weekly projects, reading, writing and math will be integrated as anchors in the art curriculum. Students will participate in cooperative group assignments, and a composite sketchbook will be required of all students.

Band

Band is an educational experience in which students develop musical skills through rehearsal and performance. This course is a continuation of instrumental music education at the elementary level. It will allow students to develop and

demonstrate fundamental skills and knowledge at a higher level and will utilize more complex music that requires more sophisticated responses. Band will help refine general music and citizen skills. Such skills include technique, expression, and musical knowledge as well as teamwork, coordination, discipline, and responsibility. It will provide instruction in creating, performing, listening to, and analyzing music in addition to focusing on specific subject matter. Students will have the opportunity to express their skills and talents through numerous performances both in and outside of school. Students will also be exposed to and experience a varied repertoire, including past and present periods of music, traditional to contemporary. They will develop the ability to work together as a single ensemble to create quality musical product.

Chorus

Sixth grade chorus is a survey of the elements of music as applied through the vocal art form in an ensemble setting. Being the first year that students are graded in chorus, this course acts as an introduction to intensive choral preparation and performance. Not only are the students expected to achieve a high degree of technical knowledge and accuracy, but they will do so while studying music from a wide variety of genres, time periods, and cultures in several different languages.

Health and Physical Education

Students will examine a variety of health related topics using various educational methods and activities. The students will gain lifetime knowledge to apply to various health situations to enhance one's health.

Students will participate in a variety of Physical Education activities such as team, individual, and lifetime sports, as well as physical fitness. They will learn teamwork, respect for others, rules and regulations, and care for equipment. Through Physical Education, they will gain knowledge of their body and an enhanced health level. They will recognize the importance of physical activity and fitness throughout their lives to enhance their health.

Music

This course is designed to expose students to the elements of music through a variety of aural, visual and creative experiences. A special emphasis is placed on multicultural and historical perspectives of various styles of music and music technology, which reflect a wide variety of people, styles and times.

Orchestra

Orchestra is a music education experience in which students develop their musical skills on orchestral instruments through rehearsal and performance techniques. This level of instruction is a continuation of skills and concepts begun at the Elementary level. Students will spend most of their time preparing for public

performances of the entire Orchestra, with several opportunities available throughout the year for individual development and performance. Some of the many skills needed and developed in this course are coordination, responsibility, cooperation, critical listening, discipline and individual evaluation. The students will be exposed to many kinds of orchestral repertoire including classical, popular and original works of music.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Life Skills

This course is developed to provide assistance to students with moderate to severe disabilities in becoming functioning members of their community. Within the regular education facilities of the district, the educational program for these students has been organized into six instructional domains: personal maintenance, domestic maintenance, vocational skills, recreation and leisure, functional academics and interpersonal communication. These six domains represent the major areas of life activity in which all individuals engage. Instruction referenced to the important activities in the home, community and future work settings are integral parts of the curriculum meant to prepare the handicapped student for a normal life in their community.

Speech/Language Support

Students who meet the criteria for Speech/Language Impaired in the State Pennsylvania can receive speech/language support as part of their school-age program. Support can be defined as the instruction the student requires to achieve specific goals as stated in their individualized education program to improve their level of communication as it relates to their academic, social, and/or emotional performance. The delivery of instruction can vary depending on the individual student's needs. They are: individual, small group, large group, in-class, consultative, and monitoring.

Discrepancies in one or more of the following areas of communication development can result in the need for speech/language support.

- 1. Phonology/Articulation** – sound error patterns which repeatedly occur in a student's daily communication skills affecting their intelligibility.
- 2. Syntax** – difficulties noted in student's ability to verbally create and organize a sentence that is grammatically correct and contains complete thoughts and sentences.
- 3. Semantics** – word retrieval and vocabulary use and understanding.
- 4. Pragmatics** – social language skills, using communication effectively and appropriately in a variety of settings, and
- 5. Fluency** – uninterrupted speech allowing for fluent verbal communication.