

Mahanoy Area Middle School Planned Courses

5th Grade---Mrs. Dudash, Mrs. Leshko, Mr. Lichtenwalner, and Mr. Zack

Language Arts

Our goal is the development and encouragement of fluent readers, articulate writers and speakers, and discerning listeners and viewers. Our students will be exposed to the following area of Language Arts: syntax, semantics, reading fluency, phonemic awareness, phonics, spelling and grammar. We encourage students to develop their ability to communicate both orally and in writing. Students formulate questions to communicate answers or ideas, research to find answers or support for their ideas, and present their ideas in an effective organization with a strong yet appealing manner.

Formal assessments include: selection tests, skills tests and benchmark tests. Informal assessments include: listening and speaking, word identification and word knowledge, variety of text and genre, reader response, writing, and research and study skills.

Students at the 5th grade level are developing a basis in the area of language arts and its concepts so that they may meet or exceed the PA Academic Standards and its anchors and benchmarks in that discipline by the end of their fifth grade year. Students are expected to score proficient (4 or 5) on all rubrics, to perform on a passing level as defined by the school district's grading system, and to complete numerous writings throughout the course.

Math

The regular education as well as the learning support Mathematics lessons includes the following: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of whole numbers, fractions, decimals and mixed numbers. Estimation of whole numbers and decimals are also a focus throughout the year. Metric and customary units of measurements are given equal emphasis so that students can function well in both systems. A focus is also placed on geometry concepts, which include, but are not limited to: parallel lines, parallelograms, polygons, angles, circles (radius, diameter, circumference), area and perimeter. Students will also learn how to read, interpret and create several variations of graphs. The concept of place value will range from the billions place through the thousandths.

Tests used throughout this class will include both those manufactured by the book and teacher made tests. Homework will be given nightly or on a frequent basis and collected the following day. A comprehensive study of homework completion will be kept and counted toward the final average of each marking period.

Students at the 5th grade level are developing a basis in the area of Mathematics and its concepts so that they may meet or exceed the PA Academic Standards and its anchors and benchmarks in that discipline by the end of their fifth grade year. Students are expected to score proficient (4 or 5) on all rubrics, to perform on a passing level as defined by the school district's grading system, and to complete numerous writings throughout the course.

Science

The 5th grade Science course provides many opportunities for students to develop and maintain the essential skills that form the basis for lifelong learning. Process skills are embedded throughout the course. The course also integrates science content and experiences with other areas of the curriculum and provides students with many opportunities to develop reading, writing, and math skills through meaningful activities and strategies. The following disciplines are addressed at the 5th grade level:

*Life Science: Living Systems and Systems and Their Interaction in Nature

*Earth Science: Processes that Change the Earth and the Solar System

*Physical Science: Building Blocks of Matter and Energy and Motion

In addition to tests, quizzes, homework, workbook pages, teacher-generated handouts and teacher observations, students are required to complete a performance task and an experiment for each unit. Hands-on activities allow the student to show how they think and what they know in solving a situational problem. Self-assessment is also another way students can monitor and reflect on changes in their science knowledge, skills and attitudes. In addition, students will be required to participate in a science fair.

Students at the 5th grade level are developing a basis in Life, Earth, and Physical Science so that they may meet or exceed the PA Academic Standards and its anchors and benchmarks in that discipline by the end of their fifth grade year. Students are expected to score proficient (4 or 5) on all rubrics, to perform on a passing level as defined by the school district's grading system, and to complete numerous writings throughout the course.

History

5th grade begins with the study of the United States history from the beginnings to 1815, including references to present day events. It provides authentic Social Studies content and the skills and strategies necessary for all students to participate in our democracy. It includes in-depth content and hands-on experiences that build a solid understanding of Social Studies. Children learn Geography by working with maps, not just looking at them. History lessons link the past and present in ways that make sense to all students. Time lines place events in context, showing students how the past is connected to the present and future.

Assessments include: tests, quizzes, homework, workbook pages, teacher-generated handouts and teacher observations. Hands-on activities allow the students to show how they think and what they know in solving a situational problem. Self-assessment is also another way students can monitor and reflect on changes in their social studies knowledge, skills and attitudes.

Students at the 5th grade level are developing a basis in the History of the United States and its People so that they may meet or exceed the PA Academic Standards and its anchors and benchmarks in that discipline by the end of their fifth grade year. Students are expected to score proficient (4 or 5) on all rubrics, perform on a passing level as defined by the school district's grading system, and to complete numerous writings throughout the course.

5th Grade---Learning Support—Ms. Behler

Language Arts

The learning support Language Arts class includes Reading, English and Spelling. In Reading an emphasis is placed on reading comprehension, oral reading, reading fluency, identifying main ideas, characters, settings, and predicting outcomes. The reading books are broken into 3 separate themes, which include stories covering a variety of topics both fictional and non-fictional. The English portion of Language Arts includes the parts of speech. An emphasis is placed on the identification and use for these parts of speech. The writing process is also addressed through journal writing and writings covering set topics. The Spelling portion includes 36 lessons including anywhere from 16 to 20 new sight vocabulary words for each lesson. Students will become familiar with these words by identifying definitions, writing sentences and completing textbook pages.

The Reading portion includes tests measuring both comprehension and vocabulary skills given at the end of each story. At the end of each story, the teacher gives open book tests. These are open-ended questions, which require students to respond with a complete sentence. Assessments are also given upon the conclusion of each theme. The English portion includes tests which are given at the end of each subject's unit. Skill reviews are also utilized, which group more than one skill (ex. nouns/verbs/adverbs) on a test. Weekly Spelling tests are given for each lesson. Spelling homework is given nightly and counted towards the end of the marking period averages. Oral reading is encouraged nightly. Workbook and textbook pages are used as homework for English.

Students at the 5th grade level are developing a basis in the area of Language Arts and its concepts so that they may meet or exceed the PA Academic Standards and its anchors and benchmarks in that discipline by the end of their fifth grade year. Students

are expected to achieve a passing grade while making progress toward the annual goals in their IEP's under the Language Arts portion. If progress is not made the IEP team will reconvene to discuss changes in the Language Arts goal.

Math

The learning support Mathematics lessons include the following: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of whole numbers, fractions, decimals and mixed numbers. Estimation of whole numbers and decimals are also a focus throughout the year. Metric and customary units of measurements are given equal emphasis so that students can function well in both systems. An emphasis is also placed on geometry concepts, which include, but are not limited to: parallel lines, parallelograms, polygons, angles, circles (radius, diameter, circumference), area and perimeter. Students will learn how to read, interpret and create several variations of graphs. The concept of place value will range from the billions place through the thousandths.

Tests used throughout this class will include those created by the manufacturer and teacher made tests. Homework will be given nightly or on a frequent basis and collected the following day. A comprehensive study of homework completion will be kept and counted toward the final average of each marking period.

Students at the 5th grade level are developing a basis in the area of Mathematics and its concepts so that they may meet or exceed the PA Academic Standards and its anchors and benchmarks in that discipline by the end of their fifth grade year. Students are expected to achieve a passing grade while making progress toward the annual goals in their IEP's under the Math portion. If progress is not made, the IEP team will reconvene to discuss changes in the math goals.

Special Area Classes

5th Grade Boys Physical Education---Mr. Kline

Students will participate in a variety of units used to increase physical activity. Students will participate in all the core sports units (basketball, hockey, football, soccer, baseball and volleyball). There are also units to incorporate “lifelong activities” (bowling, golf, racquet sports, etc). The goal is to supply the students with many different activities so each student will find a form of activity that he likes and will continue to do out of school. Each unit will incorporate ways to improve each student’s teamwork, fitness level, eye/foot/hand coordination and overall physical ability.

Students perform a fitness test at the beginning of the program; results are stored in the grade book. After completing each of the units the students will perform the same fitness test. This is to establish the improvement of the student’s physical ability from the start of the program to the end. At the end of each unit, students will complete a skills test and a written test on each of the sports. The skills tests are not measured by the student’s ability, but by how much the student’s skills in that sport have improved throughout the unit.

Each unit and lesson is developed based on the PA Academic Standards. Each student should meet the standards for fifth grade. Grades are based on the student’s improvement and written tests. If students are always active in the unit, skills will improve.

5th Grade Girls Physical Education---Mrs. Burkhardt

Students cover physical fitness, swimming and multiple team sports. Team sports included are: softball, volleyball, basketball, football, soccer and handball. In 5th grade, the emphasis falls on skill development, game organization and team problem solving. Grade 5 fitness is reinforced each day to make students aware of fitness, health and weight concepts.

Assessment for Physical Education includes the following criteria: Daily grade including preparation, participation, conduct, effort, skill assessment, class assignments, and written tests.

Students are graded by 4 points daily, which include: preparation for gym, behavior, participation and effort by ability level. Students may/will have skills tests on sports drills and points will be awarded as follows: A=4 pts., B=3 pts., C=2 pts., D=1 pt. and F=0 pts.

5th Grade Art---Mrs. Titus

Grade 5 Art includes lessons on the following: Elements of Art, Principles of Art and Art History. These concepts show design achieved through drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture and crafts by utilizing various media. Students are required to keep a daily calendar-based journal.

Assessments include quizzes on vocabulary and a final project.

Students will master the standard defined by the PA Academic Standards. Students are also expected to perform on a passing level defined by the school district's grading system.

5th Grade Health---Mrs. Burkhardt, Mr. Kline

Grade 5 Health classes include the following: fire prevention (presenter and class discussion), drug and alcohol prevention/education, all substance abuse prevention, incest, personal and oral hygiene, nutrition, fitness, cardiovascular, bully prevention, conflict resolution and consumer education. All substance abuse and health topics are taught on an age appropriate level.

Assessments are based on open-ended questions, classroom discussions, projects, situational assessments and written tests.

Health is graded on a pass/fail. All units are taught in accordance with PA Academic Standards. Students are expected to participate in classroom and project activities as a requirement to pass. Pass/fail is defined by the school district's grading system. Students are also required to score proficient on all tests, projects and situational assessments.

5th Grade Computer Education---Ms. Renn

Computer Education in grade 5 concentrates on keyboarding. Students review proper posture, finger reaches and techniques. The computer records the strokes keyed and determines gross words a minute (GWAM). Students are introduced to Microsoft Word, setting margins, keying text, inserting pictures, and changing font size and style.

Assessments include reviews of technique in the classroom, review of results on the computer, questions to the students, and observation of keying during class.

Students are expected to perform on grade level and to continue to progress to mastery level by grade 7 per the PA Academic Standards.

5th Grade General Music---Mrs. Bixler

Grade 5 Music includes lessons on the following: treble clef notes, intervals, musical symbols, Bach, Beethoven and Brahms. The theory part of the class, which includes treble clef, intervals and symbols, will use musical score to reinforce the concepts. The music history part of the class includes movies, worksheets, and listening skills.

Assessments include major tests, quizzes, and daily worksheets.

Students should master the standards of music defined by the PA Academic Standards. They should also perform on a passing level defined by the school district's grading system.

5th Grade Study Skills Across the Curriculum---Mr. Peca

Study Skills Across the Curriculum is an interdisciplinary study skills program designed to improve student's study skills, thereby enabling them to be active, organized learners and to be more successful in their content subjects. Topics to be covered will be the following: textbook format, time management, SQ3R(including highlighting), note taking, preparing for and taking tests, listening and library and reference skills.

Assessments include class participation, written activities, projects, worksheets and homework. The course will be graded as pass/fail.

Students are expected to increase their study skill strategies while maintaining a positive effect on homework completion. This course will teach students organizational ability, motivation, and how to utilize good strategies on the state mandated PSSA tests.

6th Grade---Ms. Dudash, Mrs. Hornberger, Mrs. Lindner, Mr. Sterner

Reading/Language Arts

Grade 6 Reading includes lessons on the following: developing comprehension by identifying the main idea and supporting details, characters, sequence of events and setting and plot of the story. Skills such as drawing conclusions, cause and effect, fact and opinion, author's purpose, context clues, theme, comparing and contrasting, inference, summarizing and paraphrasing are studied and tested. In addition to grammar and spelling, writing is included in the curriculum.

Assessments include: written tests, satisfactory completion of homework, weekly spelling tests, book reports, student self-corrections on writing assignments and reading Accelerated readers.

In preparation for the state mandated PSSA tests, each standard is emphasized throughout the year. Students are expected to master standards, anchor assessments and benchmarks defined by PA Academic Standards. Students are expected to score (3 or 4) proficient on rubrics and perform on a passing level as defined by the school district's grading system.

Math

Grade 6 Math includes lessons on the following: data, statistics, graphs, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division of whole numbers, decimals, fractions, and mixed numbers, prime and composite numbers, prime factorization. Major geometry concepts covered are: classification of 2-dimensional shapes, angles, lines, triangles, quadrilaterals, circles, constructions, translations, rotations, reflections, and tessellations. Algebra, ratio and proportion, percentages and probability are also introduced.

Assessments include text and teacher-generated quizzes and tests, satisfactory completion of homework, projects, and knowledge of mathematical terms. Assessments also include requiring students to provide written explanation when solving open-ended problems.

In preparing for the PSSA tests, each standard is emphasized throughout the year through the implementation of several PSSA math coach books. Mastery of standards, anchor assessments, and benchmarks defined by PA Academic Standards is expected. Students are expected to perform on a passing level defined by the school district's grading system.

Science

Grade 6 Science includes lessons on the following: fossils, evolving life, dinosaurs, understanding our past, use of the scientific method and plant and animal adaptations (ocean and rainforest) as it relates to light. Science and technology in shoe-sneaker industry, plus the study of water and electricity, and how it gets to the home and industry, rounds out the curriculum.

Assessments include written tests, plus satisfactory completion of assignments, projects, and activities. Each unit has assessment problems for which the students need to write a satisfactory explanation when solving an open-ended problem (scored on a 4 point rubric with a feedback to the student).

Students are expected to master standards, anchor assessments and benchmarks defined by PSSA. Passing levels need to be met defined by the district's grading system. Rubric scores 4 and 5 are the expectancy levels.

Civics

Grade 6 Civics includes lessons about government. It includes lessons on the basic ideas about government. The United States government is the main concept taught. This includes lessons on: the organization of the U.S. government, the three branches of government (Legislative, Executive and Judicial), and the U.S. Constitution. Citizenship is another idea that is taught within the Civics units. This includes lessons on: laws, rights, and responsibilities of citizens and the government.

Assessments include: homework assignments, teacher-created end-of-lesson quizzes, and teacher-created end-of-unit tests. Tests and quizzes are multiple choice and short answer. Most of this class involves both large and small group discussions.

Students are expected to be proficient in all PA Academic Standards that follow each lesson, perform on a passing level defined by the school district's grading system, and to score proficient on rubrics (4 or 5).

6th Grade Learning Support---Ms. Kayes

Language Arts(Reading, English, Spelling, Writing)

Reading instruction includes lessons on fluency, comprehension, critical thinking skills, vocabulary development, word recognition strategies, contextual clues and phonics for all. Oral reading is also done in class. English instruction involves writing correct sentences using proper grammar, punctuation, subject/verb agreement, and learning the prepositions, conjunctions, interjections and pronouns. For Spelling, words are used from reading stories and/or for those in the spelling workbook. Correct spelling of words and dictionary use is taught in this class as well as using the words correctly in sentences either in writing or orally in class.

A variety of assessments are used to measure progress in Language Arts. Curriculum based assessments, as well as teacher-made tests are used. Creation of a project that somehow relates to the subject is also used at various times. Homework, class work and class discussions also play a role in measuring progress. At the end of each unit of instruction, a curriculum based holistic test is given to measure reading, writing and vocabulary skills taught during that unit.

Proficiency would include a 3 or 4 on a rubric for a writing assignment, 70% or better of mastery on tests, and homework completion at 80% or better. Writing instruction includes using the standards developed by PSSA and using the writing process. Students are also required to complete different forms of writing including narrative, informative, persuasive and demonstrative. The students must earn an overall score of a 3 or better on a rubric.

Math

Lessons in math at this level include: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of whole numbers, and decimals (may include regrouping or not) fractions, interpreting and/or making different kinds of graphs, place value, comparing numbers up to billions, and writing numbers in standard, written and/or expanded form. Pre-algebra skills, and geometry concepts are also addressed. These include: finding variables, writing expressions, solving equations, differentiating between different kinds of lines, triangles and angles, measuring the degrees of angles and triangles, finding perimeter and area and understanding, prime numbers and composite numbers.

Assessments used to measure progress includes: Curriculum based tests and/or teacher-made tests, homework, class work, participation, notebooks for math vocabulary and explanations, and problem solving math problems with explanations.

Students are expected to master content, complete homework assignments, maintain math journals and score 4 or 5 (on Math rubric) on open-ended questions.

Special Area Classes

6th Grade Boys Physical Education---Mr. Kline

Students will participate in a variety of units used to increase physical activity. Students will participate in all the core sports units (basketball, hockey, football, soccer, baseball and volleyball). There will also be units to incorporate “lifelong activities” (bowling, golf, racquet sports, etc). The goal is to supply the students with many different activities so each student will find a form of activity that he likes and will continue to do out of school. Each unit will incorporate ways to improve each student’s teamwork, fitness level, eye/foot-hand coordination and overall physical ability.

Students perform a fitness test at the beginning of the program; results are stored in the grade book. After completing each of the units the students will perform the same fitness test. This is to establish the improvement of the student’s physical ability from the start of the program to the end. At the end of each unit, students will complete a skills test and a written test on each of the sports. The skills tests are not measured by the student’s ability, but by how much the student’s skills in that sport have improved throughout the unit.

Each unit and lesson is developed based on the PA Academic Standards. Each student should meet the standards for sixth grade. Grades are based on the student’s improvement and written tests. If students are always active in the unit, skills will improve.

6th Grade Girls Physical Education---Mrs. Burkhardt

Students cover physical fitness, swimming and multiple team sports. Team sports included are: softball, volleyball, basketball, football, soccer and handball. In 6th grade the emphasis falls on skill development, game organization and team problem solving. Grade 6 fitness is reinforced each day to make students aware of fitness, health and weight concepts.

Assessment for physical education includes the following criteria: Daily grade including preparation, participation, conduct, effort, skill assessment, class assignments, and written tests.

Students are graded by 4 points daily, which include preparation for gym, behavior, participation and effort by ability level. Students may/will have skills tests on sports drills and points will be awarded as follows: A=4 pts., B=3 pts., C=2 pts., D=1 pt. and F=0 pts.

6th Grade Art---Mrs. Titus

Grade 6 art includes lesson on the following: review of the elements of art and the principles of designs along with new artists/art history. By using a variety of media, these concepts are achieved through drawing, painting, collage, sculpture and crafts. Students are required to keep a daily calendar-based journal.

Assessments include quizzes on vocabulary and a final project.

Students will master the standards defined by the PA Academic Standards. Students are also expected to perform on a passing level defined by the school district's grading system.

6th Grade Health---Mrs. Burkhardt, Mr. Kline

Grade 6 health classes include the following: Individual presenters on fire prevention, drug & alcohol prevention, tobacco usage, smoking prevention, incest, HIV/AIDS, nutrition, bullying prevention, fitness, cardiovascular and consumer education. Incorporated into each unit is the long term, lifetime health effects.

Assessments are based on open-ended questions, classroom discussions, projects, and situational assessments and written tests.

Health is graded on a pass/fail. All units are taught in accordance with PA Academic Standards. Students are expected to participate in classroom and project activities as a requirement to pass. Pass/fail is defined by the school district's grading system. Students are also required to score proficient on all tests, projects and situational assessments.

6th Grade Computer Education---Ms. Renn

Computer Education in grade 6 will continue with keyboarding skills and teach basic Word concepts. Students will learn to set documents such as letters, research papers, book reports, tables and memos in Word.

Assessments include review of technique in the classroom, review of documents produced, and a graded document for each type of project.

Students are expected to perform on grade level and to continue to progress to mastery level by grade 10 per the PA Academic Standards.

6th Grade General Music---Mrs. Bixler

Grade 6 music includes lessons on the following: bass clef notes, rhythm, and jazz, Handel, Strauss and Mozart. The theory part of the class, which includes bass clef and rhythm, will use musical scores to reinforce the concepts. The music history part of the class includes movies, worksheets and listening skills.

Assessments include major tests, quizzes, and daily worksheets.

Students should master the standards of music defined by PA Academic Standards. They should also perform on a passing level defined by the school district's grading system.

6th Grade Life Skills Training---Mr. Peca

The Life Skills Training program consists of 12 units, which are designed to be taught in sequence. There are 3 violence prevention units, which are optional. Each unit contains a major goal, measurable student objectives, content and classroom activities. Major units of the Life Skills Training program include: self-image and self-improvement, making decisions, smoking: myths and realities, smoking and biofeedback, alcohol: myths and realities, marijuana: myths and realities, advertising, violence and the media, coping with anxiety, coping with anger, communication skills, social skills(a), social skills(b), assertiveness and resolving conflicts.

Assessments include class participation, written activities, projects, worksheets and homework. The course will be graded as pass/fail.

Studies testing the efficiency of these approaches have shown that students are capable of reducing drug use for up to six years. Prevention effects have been produced for weekly gateway polydrug use as well as for the use of illicit drugs other than marijuana.

7th Grade Reading/Language Arts---Ms. Krause

Grade 7 Reading/Language Arts includes all aspects of the writing process. Students will write logical paragraphs with effective grammar and purpose. All words should be spelled correctly and proper use of vocabulary will be used in all sentences. Students will define and translate all works of literature and analyze literacy elements of the author. They will identify fiction and non-fiction literature and respond to all poetic forms. Students will complete a weekly journal in which open-ended questions are used.

Seventh grade language arts also includes the completion of weekly vocabulary lists. Students need to memorize the spelling of the words and their definitions as well. Students will need to use the words correctly in sentences.

All seventh graders will also be required to participate in PSSA preparation courses. Students will read and complete all of the activities included in the workbook to better prepare them for the PSSA tests.

Assessments include worksheets and examples from PSSA writing and reading workbooks. Completion of homework, vocabulary and spelling tests and composition of poems will be assessed. Tests of comprehension of literature and grammar will be administered. A rubric will be used to assess essays. Completion of weekly open-ended questions will be assessed, as well.

Students are expected to master all standards, anchor assessments and benchmarks defined by the PA Academic Standards. They will perform on a passing level as defined by the school district.

7th Grade Pre-Algebra---Mr. Berta

Pre-Algebra includes positive & negative numbers, rational numbers, solving equations, geometric figures, ratio, proportion & percent, problem solving, equations & inequalities, the coordinate plane, areas and volume, applying algebra to right triangles and statistics & probability.

Assessments include tests and quizzes. Self-created tests and homework is scored on correctness. Students are also assessed with board work and cooperative learning. Problem solving skills are assessed through open-ended questions.

We expect mastery of all PA Academic Standards as defined for 7th grade math. Students are expected to achieve a passing score as defined by the district.

7th Grade Math---Mr. Berta

7th grade math includes: interpreting data & statistics, applications of decimals, fractions, whole numbers, integers, introductory algebra and basic geometry topics. Introductory algebra skills include: solving one & two-step equations, substitution of variables and the use of algebra to solve proportions & percentages. Basic geometry topics include: polygons, angles, congruent triangles, parallel lines & circles and angles involved with parallel lines.

Assessments include tests and quizzes. Self-created tests and homework are scored on completion and/or correctness. Students are also assessed with board work and cooperative learning. Problem solving skills are assessed through open-ended questions.

We expect mastery of all PA Academic Standards defined for 7th grade math. Students are expected to achieve a passing score as defined by the district.

7th Grade Earth Science---Mrs. Dietrich

7th grade earth science includes units on the following topics: scientific methods, maps and models of earth, earth's resources, plate tectonics, weathering and erosion, oceanography, weather, climate and astronomy. Major earth science concepts are embedded within these units. Some of these concepts include: rock and mineral formation and composition, natural resources, the fossil record, seafloor spreading, continental drift, earthquakes and volcanoes. In addition, the following topics are introduced: soil conservation, fresh water resources, life in the oceans, currents, tides and waves, atmosphere, severe weather, forecasting, stars, galaxies, the universe, planets of our solar system and space exploration. In addition to lecture, students are involved in an inquiry-based laboratory where topics are further examined. Additionally, students are exposed to standardized test questions and test taking-tips.

Assessments used in 7th grade earth science include successful completion of homework assignments, individual and group projects, lab reports (scored using a rubric) and written tests. Written tests include several possible formats including: multiple choice, matching, short answer questions, and labeling. In addition to traditional assessment measures, performance assessment is used in the laboratory setting.

In preparation for the future PSSA science exam, students are exposed to each standard throughout the year with frequent review and reinforcement. Mastery of power standards and benchmarks, as addressed in the PA Academic Standards for science and technology, is expected. When rubrics are provided, student scores are expected to be at 4 or 5, for each category addressed in the rubric. In addition, students must meet district-defined grade for successful completion of grade level work.

7th Grade World Geography---Mrs. Karnish

The 7th grade social studies curriculum is intended to provide students with an introduction into the five themes of geography: location, place, region, movement and human-environment interaction. Location involves the location of nations, states, cities, etc., and how relative distances have become smaller as human technology has progressed. Place and region are used by geographers to explore and analyze smaller area of continents. Movement involves the interactions of humans presently and throughout history as they encounter other cultures. Finally, human-environment interaction examines how humans have used and abused various ecosystems on Earth. Students will examine all these facets of modern geography with emphasis on place, location, critical thinking skills and analysis.

A variety of assessment techniques are utilized in this geography course: traditional teacher-made tests and quizzes, lab assignments, homework completion, projects (research projects), geography binder (assessment of content, organization, and neatness) and student responsibilities (cooperation/participation grade which is based on a point system explained to the students the first day of class).

Students are expected to perform on a passing level defined by the school district's grading system. Emphasis is placed on mastery of several maps, including the map of the United States (states, major cities, and landform identification).

7th Grade---Learning Support---Ms. Streit

Language Arts

Language arts in the learning support class include reading, English and spelling. Emphasis is put on reading comprehension, word attack skills, sight vocabulary, oral reading fluency, written language skills, spelling skills, parts of speech, capitalization, punctuation, literature responses in writing and critical thinking skills. Students will be encouraged, guided and prompted to become fluent and articulate readers, writers and listeners.

Assessments will include all of the following: formal and informal tests, class work, homework assignments (daily in spelling), teacher observation, student participation, oral reading probe and written work samples/journal writing.

Students will maintain a passing grade on their academic instructional level, as per the school district policy and will be reported every 45 days. Appropriate progress towards all IEP goals and objectives is the expected proficiency.

Math

The learning support mathematics lessons include the following: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of whole numbers, decimals, fractions and mixed numbers. Place value, estimation, ratios, word problems, perimeter, area, volume, averages, both standard and metric systems of measurement, and graphing will also be covered. Students will learn to identify basic geometric figures.

Assessments include written tests from the math series, teacher made tests, satisfactory completion of homework and class work, independent corrections of unsatisfactory work and class participation. Homework is given on a regular basis and will count toward the final grade of each marking period.

Students are expected to maintain a passing grade on his/her academic instructional level. Students are also expected to make appropriate progress in meeting IEP goals and objectives.

Special Area Classes

7th Grade Boys Physical Education---Mr. Kline

Students will participate in a variety of units used to increase physical activity. Students will participate in all the core sports units (basketball, hockey, football, soccer, baseball and volleyball). There will also be units to incorporate “lifelong activities” (bowling, golf, racquet sports, etc). The goal is to supply the students with many different activities so each student will find a form of activity that he likes and will continue to do out of school. Each unit will incorporate ways to improve each student’s teamwork, fitness level, eye/foot-hand coordination and overall physical ability.

Students perform a fitness test at the beginning of the program; results are stored in the grade book. After completing each of the units the students will perform the same fitness test. This is to establish the improvement of the student’s physical ability from the start of the program to the end. At the end of each unit, students will complete a skills test and a written test on each of the sports. The skills tests are not measured by the student’s ability, but by how much the student’s skills in that sport have improved throughout the unit.

Each unit and lesson is developed based on the PA Academic Standards. Each student should meet the standards for seventh grade. Grades are based on the student’s improvement and written tests. If students are always active in the unit, skills will improve.

7th Grade Girls Physical Education---Mrs. Burkhardt

Students cover physical fitness, swimming and multiple team sports. Team sports included are: softball, volleyball, basketball, football, soccer and handball. In 7th grade the emphasis falls on skill development, game organization and team problem solving. Grade 7 fitness is reinforced each day to make students aware of fitness, health and weight concepts.

Assessment for physical education includes the following criteria: Daily grade including preparation, participation, conduct, effort, skill assessment, class assignments, and written tests.

Students are graded by 4 points daily, which include preparation for gym, behavior, participation and effort by ability level. Students may/will have skills tests on sports drills and points will be awarded as follows: A=4 pts., B=3 pts., C=2 pts., D=1 pt. and F=0 pts.

7th Grade Art---Mrs. Titus

Grade 7 art includes lessons on the following: advanced review of the elements of art and the principles of design along with new artist/art history. These concepts are achieved through a variety of projects done in drawing, painting, clay, printmaking, 2D/3D plus multi cultural projects. Styles of art are also explored. Each student keeps a daily journal.

Assessments include quizzes on vocabulary and definitions along with successful final projects.

Students will master the standards defined by the PA Academic Standards. Students are also expected to perform on a passing level defined by the school district's grading system.

7th Grade Health---Mrs. Burkhardt, Mr. Kline

Grade 7 health classes include the following: fire prevention (presenter and class discussion), drug and alcohol prevention/education, all substance abuse prevention, incest, personal and oral hygiene, nutrition, fitness, cardiovascular, bully prevention, conflict resolution and consumer education. All substance abuse and health topics are taught on an age appropriate level.

Assessments are based on open-ended questions, classroom discussions, projects, situational assessments and written tests.

Health is graded on a pass/fail. All units are taught in accordance with PA Academic Standards. Students are expected to participate in classroom and project activities as a requirement to pass. Pass/fail is defined by the school district's grading system. Students are also required to score proficient on all tests, projects and situational assessments.

7th Grade Computer Education---Ms. Renn

Computer education in grade 7 concentrates on Power Point and Excel basics. Students learn to: place textboxes, graphics, resizing graphics, moving graphics, text, inserting sound files, transitions, animate text, order, rotate, flip objects, prepare presentations and search the Internet for information. In Excel, students learn to create workbooks and worksheets, add and remove worksheets, create formulas, charts, graphs, manage data, protect worksheets, adjust columns and rows, navigate a worksheet, place cell comments and insert graphics.

Assessments include observation of work done in class, open-ended questions and projects completed by the students.

As defined by PA Academic Standards, students will demonstrate a basic knowledge of Excel, PowerPoint and the Internet.

7th Grade General Music---Mrs. Bixler

Grade 7 music includes lessons on the following: alto clef notes, acoustics with instrumental families, Liszt, Rossini, and Tchaikovsky. The theory part of the class, which includes the alto clef, will also review the treble and bass clefs and use musical scores. The music history part of the class includes movies, worksheets and listening skills.

Assessments include major tests, quizzes and daily worksheets.

Students should master the standards of music defined by the PA Academic Standards. They should also perform on a passing level defined by the school district's grading system.

7th Grade Adolescent Topics---Mr. Peca

Adolescent topics will allow students to acquire social and personal competencies that people need throughout their lives to deal with everyday events and situations. These skills will help them with interpersonal competencies. The areas addressed such as self-concept, dealing with stress, peer relations, dealing with emotions and others will help them to get along better with others and deal more effectively with life events.

Assessments include class participation, written activities, projects, worksheets and homework. The course will be graded pass/fail.

The purpose of this program is to help adolescents to show significant improvement in their performance of basic life skills taught by this curriculum. Students will respond to encouragement and positive statements about their hopes, their opportunities, and their future.

8th Grade Language Arts---Mrs. Yankus

Grade 8 Language Arts includes all aspects of the writing process. Students will write logical paragraphs with effective grammar and purpose. They will brainstorm, make a web, pre-write before drafting their composition, revise sentences and edit their errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Writing rubrics will be used to grade students on one to four points in five areas. This is then totaled and multiplied by twenty to give them a score out of 100. Students should attain Proficient with a three or above average with a score of four in each category.

In reading, students will use independent reading to define and translate all works of literature and analyze literacy elements of the author. They will identify classic books, fiction, non-fiction and respond to all poetic forms. Students are assessed in reading after answering vocabulary and comprehension questions on their given book. Writing rubrics are incorporated into these lessons to grade compositions. The five topic areas are: main/topic sentence, supporting detail sentences, elaborating details, legibility and mechanics/grammar.

Students will carry out steps to complete a research project. The project will consist of a book summary, writer's opinion, and a biography of the author. A citation page will be assembled using the MLA method. A ten-point rubric will be used to assess the project.

Students are expected to master all standards, anchor assessments and benchmarks defined by the PA Academic Standards. They will perform on a passing level as defined by the school district.

8th Grade Algebra I---Ms. Petritsch

This course covers the following topics: sets of numbers, variables, solving all level linear equations, writing and simplifying expressions, solving inequalities, graphing solutions to equations and inequalities, graphing linear equations in two variables, finding solutions to word problems, and simple factoring on monomials and polynomials. Many of the topics, especially word problems, are designed to build the skills of problem solving, reasoning, logical thinking, and considering all possible solutions.

Students will be assessed by the following methods: Tests, quizzes, projects, in class observation, participation and homework.

Students are expected to have mastery of PA Academic Standards. They are also expected to perform on a passing level as defined by the school district.

8th Grade Math---Ms. Petritsch

Grade 8 Math includes lessons on the following topics: the four basic operations with real numbers, basic algebra concepts such as: solving 1 & 2 step equations and the substitution principal; displaying and interpreting data and basic geometry concepts.

Students are assessed by the following methods: tests, quizzes, projects, in class observation, participation and homework.

Students are expected to have mastery of PA Academic Standards. They are also expected to perform on a passing level as defined by the school district.

8th Grade Life Science---Mr. Kane

8th Grade Life Science curriculum has been designed in accordance with PA Academic Standards. The goals of this course are to introduce the student to a variety of Life Science related topics, provide a solid foundation for further studies in the Biological Sciences and to prepare students for future success in PSSA testing. The class has been planned in a progressive fashion starting with the smallest units of science, atoms and elements, and building throughout the year until the course concludes with the large-scale study of biomes and ecosystems in the culminating units. The coursework consists of eight units: Atomic Structure and Biochemistry, Cell Biology, Reproductive Science, Genetics, Comparative Anatomy, Botany, Ecology and Environmental Science.

Each student enrolled in 8th grade Life Science is expected to attain a grade above 65% on each assignment. Any student scoring below this level will be required to attend the remediation period. The remediation period must be completed within one week of the unsatisfactory assessment and students can regain up to ½ of the total points lost per each remediated assessment.

It is the goal of the science faculty to have each student display proficiency in all applicable assessments and benchmarks defined by the PA Academic Standards.

8th Grade Science Investigations---Mr. Kane

8th Grade Science Investigation curriculum has been designed in accordance with the PA Academic Standards. The goals of the course are to introduce the students to a variety of laboratory techniques and processes, to research and investigate various science related issues, to provide a solid foundation for further studies in all fields of science, and prepare students for future success in the PSSA testing.

Each student will attend a science investigation lab once every six-day cycle for a total of 30 sessions per academic year. The class topics have been chosen based not only on tested standards, but on student interest as well. The coursework will consist of 3 units or lab series, with 10 lab sessions per series.

Each student is expected to attain a grade above 65% on each assignment. Any student scoring below this level will be required to attend remediation. Also, it is the goal of the science faculty to have each student display proficiency in all applicable assessments and benchmarks defined by the PA Academic Standards.

Each lab session will be graded on 100-point scale. Student assessment will occur based on the following rubric: 30 points pre-lab research assignment; 30 points post-lab conclusion/review assignment; 40 points lab practice and procedures (cooperation, behavior participation and lab packet assignment).

If a student scores below a 65% on any given assessment that student will be required to attend the remediation period for extra work. Students can regain up to ½ of the total points lost per each remediated assessment. The remediation period must be completed within one week of the unsatisfactory assessment.

8th Grade American History---Mr. Wiscount

8th Grade American History consists of the following: Students take an in depth look at the American experience by beginning with the first Americans and their accomplishments and ability to build complex civilization. Students also learn about Christopher Columbus and other early explorers' attempts to build an empire in North America; how the French, Dutch, Spanish and especially the English have attempted to build empires where we live today; how their attempts at the empire affected the other nations, Native Americans, and those of us that live here today; the English form of Government; the American Revolution; our nation's birth of freedom from England; the war; its affects on the people and the struggles of the early patriots in forming a new, bold government. Students will study such important American figures such as: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton. This course also offers the following: the nation's early struggles with democracy, (which include the opening of new lands when Thomas Jefferson purchased Louisiana from France, and the war of 1812 against Britain); the transition into the Presidency and influence of our seventh President Andrew Jackson; the same problems he encountered, namely the decision by Texas and California to declare independence from Mexico, and his fight against the Bank of the United States. The course involves the sectionalism of America and the horrific affects of the division known as the Civil War; how the nation became so divided by such events as slavery, taxation, and industrialization; the horrors of the bloodiest war in American history; the difficulty the nation faced in coming back together as one nation and the life and times of Abraham Lincoln.

Assessments include: Tests/quizzes, projects (research), computer lab assignments, homework, rubrics, oral presentation and portfolios.

Students are expected to master grade level work and maintain a 4/5 on rubrics.

8th Grade Learning Support---Mr. Maksimik

Language Arts

Students will be introduced to the following components of Language Arts: literature, oral language, word identification, writing, vocabulary and comprehension. Literature will focus on reading a wide variety of classic and contemporary works, genres, opportunities to respond to literature, setting purposes, monitoring comprehension and reading strategies. Oral languages teach development of vocabulary, fluency, word recognition, speaking with expression and listening responsively. Word identification will concentrate on decoding instruction, applying decoding skills, and building accuracy and fluency. The writing component centers on writing forms, purposes and process as well as improving organization elaboration. Test preparation is a major component of the writing. Vocabulary's concentration is on meanings, usage, syntax, context, references, resources, cross-curricular words, prefixes and suffixes. Comprehension is an organized instructional plane that includes pre-teaching, applying reinforcing and practicing.

Formal assessments include: skills assessment, reading and writing performance assessment, comprehension tests and holistic reading assessments. Informal assessments include: individual reading inventories, anecdotal records, self-selected or independent reading, performance assessments, homework, oral reading and timed reading.

Students at the 8th grade level are developing a basis in the area of language arts and its components so that they meet the PA Academic Standard, its anchors and benchmarks in that discipline by the end of their eighth grade year. Students are expected to score in the 75 to 80 percentile on their instructional level on achievement tests as well as to perform on a passing level, as defined by the school district's grading system.

Math

This course is taught through the following strategies: practice, explicit instruction, questioning strategies, use of visuals, reading and vocabulary development strategies, use of manipulatives and interventions. The concepts covered include: whole number applications, operation sense, decimal concepts and operations, collecting and organizing data, graphing data, number theory, fraction concepts, fraction operations, expressions, equations, patterns, geometry, units of measure, solid figures, ratios, proportion, percent, probability, integers and graphing.

Formal assessments include: chapter review/tests, Standardized test preparation, chapter tests Forms A and B, unit tests and performance assessment. Informal assessments include: student self-assessments, chapter pretests, teacher observations, homework, classroom performance, math journals and progress monitoring.

Students at the 8th grade level are developing a basis in the area of math and its components so that they meet PA Academic Standards, its anchors and benchmarks in that discipline by the end of their eighth grade year. Students are expected to score in the 70th percentile on their instructional level on achievement tests as well as to perform on a passing level, as defined by the school district's grading system.

Special Area Classes

8th Grade Boys Physical Education---Mr. Kline

Students will participate in a variety of units used to increase physical activity. Students will participate in all the core sports units (basketball, hockey, football, soccer, baseball and volleyball). There will also be units to incorporate “lifelong activities” (bowling, golf, racquet sports, etc). The goal is to supply the students with many different activities so each student will find a form of activity that he likes and will continue to do out of school. Each unit will incorporate ways to improve each student’s teamwork, fitness level, eye/foot-hand coordination and overall physical ability.

Students perform a fitness test at the beginning of the program; results are stored in the grade book. After completing each of the units the students will perform the same fitness test. This is to establish the improvement of the student’s physical ability from the start of the program to the end. At the end of each unit, students will complete a skills test and a written test on each of the sports. The skills tests are not measured by the student’s ability, but by how much the student’s skills in that sport have improved throughout the unit.

Each unit and lesson is developed based on the PA Academic Standards. Each student should meet the standards for eighth grade. Grades are based on the student’s improvement and written tests. If students are always active in the unit, skills will improve.

8th Grade Girls Physical Education---Mrs. Burkhardt

Students cover physical fitness, swimming and multiple team sports. Team sports included are: softball, volleyball, basketball, football, soccer and handball. In 8th grade the emphasis falls on skill development, game organization and team problem solving. Grade 8 fitness is reinforced each day to make students aware of fitness, health and weight concepts.

Assessment for physical education includes the following criteria: Daily grade including preparation, participation, conduct, effort, skill assessment, class assignments, and written tests.

Students are graded by 4 points daily, which includes preparation for gym, behavior, participation and effort by ability level. Students may/will have skills tests on sports drills and points will be awarded as follows: A=4 pts., B=3 pts., C=2 pts., D=1 pt. and F=0 pts.

8th Grade Art---Mrs. Titus

Grade 8 Art includes lessons on the following: advanced elements of art/principles of design, current-practicing artists along with the masters of Art History. These concepts are achieved through projects done in drawing, painting, wood printmaking in both 2D and 3D. Multimedia is used in all projects. More styles of art are discussed along with cross curriculum tessellations (math)/(history). Students will make their own drawing journal.

Assessments include final, successful projects and journals.

Students will master the standards defined by the PA Academic Standards.

Students are also expected to perform on a passing level defined by the school district's grading system.

8th Grade Health---Mrs. Burkhardt, Mr. Kline

Grade 8 health classes include the following: fire prevention, drug and alcohol prevention, tobacco usage, smoking prevention, HIV/AIDS prevention, nutrition, STD's, date rape, bullying, fitness and cardiovascular, consumer education, healthy decision making for all above topics. Incorporated into each unit is the long term, lifetime health effects.

Assessments are based on open-ended questions, classroom discussions, projects, situational assessments and written tests.

Health is graded on a pass/fail. All units are taught in accordance with PA Academic Standards. Students are expected to participate in classroom and project activities as a requirement to pass. Pass/fail is defined by the school district's grading system. Students are also required to score proficient on all tests, projects and situational assessments.

8th Grade Computer Education---Ms. Renn

Computer Education in grade 8 concentrates on Power Point, Excel and Access basics and some of the more advanced features. Students learn to create a database in Access using the wizard, place textboxes, graphics, sound files, transitions, animations, prepare presentations and search for information on the Internet. In Excel, students learn to create workbooks and worksheets, add and remove worksheets, create formulas, charts, graphs, manage data, protect worksheets, adjust columns and rows, navigate a worksheet, place cell comments and insert graphics.

Assessments include observation of work done in class, open-ended questions and projects completed by the students.

As defined by PA Academic Standards, students will demonstrate a basic knowledge of Excel, Power Point, Word and the Internet.

8th Grade General Music---Mrs. Bixler

Grade 8 music includes lessons on the following: tenor and moveable clef notes, time signatures with dotted rhythms, and the history of rock n' roll. The theory part of the class, which includes the tenor, alto, bass, and treble clef, will also encompass the rhythms using dots and various time signatures. The music history part of the class will include the musicians and style of music of rock n' roll which eventually led to the music of today.

Assessments include major tests, quizzes and daily worksheets.

Students should master the standards of music defined by the PA Academic Standards. They should also perform on a passing level defined by the school district's grading system.

8th Grade Career Awareness---Mr. Peca

Career Awareness includes the employment of strategies to achieve future career success and job satisfaction as well as fostering understanding of the relationship between personal qualities, education and training, and the world of work. Career development standards and competencies ensure that students develop career goals as a result of participation in a comprehensive plan of career awareness, exploration, and preparation activities.

Assessments include written tests, class participation, written activities, projects, worksheets and homework. The course will be graded pass/fail.

The program standards for personal/social development guide the school-counseling program to provide the foundation for personal and social growth as students progress through school and into adulthood.

Grade 5-8 Full time Learning Support---Ms. Grochowski

Language Arts

All students participate in both Prescriptive English and Expressive Writing. Both programs are designed as corrective programs for struggling students. The English skills are divided into six units: grammar, usage, mechanics, vocabulary, reference skills and writing structure. The expressive writing teaches students to do six key concepts:

- Write a paragraph that describes a sequence of related actions using simple declarative sentences
- Punctuate students correctly
- Begin sentences with a capital letter and end them with a period
- Write consistently in the past tense
- Include sufficient detail
- Stay on topic

English assessments include: diagnostic and final tests, inventories, cumulative reviews, and unit test. Expressive writing assessments include: placement test, daily lessons/writing samples and five mastery tests (in a 55 lesson span).

All students are expected to maintain an 80% or better and pass all master tests in order to progress through the curriculum. All grade levels and mastery are individually noted in the students' IEP.

Math

All students participate in daily math lessons on their instructional level. Main concepts taught from 5th –8th grade are: addition, subtraction, numbers and place value, measurement, multiplication, geometry, division, decimals, fractions and graphing. Students also participate in SRA corrective multiplication 2 or 3 times per week. This program teaches facts, reading and writing numbers, multiplication operations and story problems.

Assessments in math include: unit/chapter tests, independent work, daily homework and mastery tests.

All students must maintain a passing average of 60% as defined by the district. Individual proficiency is stated in the students' IEP.

Corrective Reading

The students who are in the full time learning support setting all receive SRA Corrective Reading. This program is designed for students with disabilities. The program uses a direct instruction method to help students master the essential decoding and comprehension skills they need not only to read well, but also to learn. The students are given a placement test and then placed in one of the following four levels: Level A, Work Attack Basics; Level B1, Decoding Strategies; Level B2, Decoding Strategies; or Level C, Skills Applications. All of the series have word attack, decoding, rate building, fluency and comprehension exercises.

Assessments in corrective reading include: daily lesson (word attack, rate and accuracy charting), workbook lessons, mastery tests and homework (blacklines of skills in the Reading Series).

All students are expected to maintain an 80% or better on Reading lessons and must master the cumulative tests with a 98% accuracy. If they fail to do so, they review lessons with the specific skill not mastered. All grade levels and mastery are individually noted in the students' IEP.

5th-8th Grade Resource Teachers---Ms. Jarrard Ms. Hampton, and Mr. Killian

Students from grades 5-8 are provided with a Math and Reading/Language Arts teacher during the school year. During that year, the regular classroom teacher will teach a particular lesson. If the student does not understand that lesson, the resource teacher will provide assistance for the student. The resource teacher will also provide assistance for each student that does not complete homework, or one that is absent. Anytime a student is having difficulty or needs practice it will be provided during homeroom, class time, or the remediation period from 2:30-3:00. The resource teacher will also teach a compass class. This class will provide student preparation for future tests.

The regular classroom teacher makes assessments. (Tests, quizzes, homework). Each classroom teacher will provide his or her own grade level, rubrics, etc. The resource teacher must follow and respect all regular teachers' rules.

5th-8th Grade Compass Lab and Study Island

For Compass Computer Lab activities are programmed by the teacher in Language Arts mechanics, Reading, and Mathematics for each student. Students first complete a Diagnostic Test to see where their needs for improvement are located. The computer then gives them lessons on students' individual skills. The students practice activities; then take another test.

The computer grades the students' tests, practices and assignments. Students may also check on the student data report how they are performing.

The computer gives the students a Diagnostic Test. If students do not receive 100% they are given practice lessons and another test. The students must achieve 80% or higher to move on to the next assignment.

Grades 5-8 Alternative Education---Mr. McGee

Pace Learning Systems---Language Arts

The Language lessons include the following: identifying grammatically correct sentences, identifying structurally correct sentences, arranging information in logical order, identifying the proper formats of letters, completion of forms accurately and completely, identifying proper uses of punctuation marks, capitalizing correctly, correct errors in written material and demonstrate dictionary skills.

Assessments include a pretest booklet to determine what skills have been learned/mastered, and which skills need to be taught. Other assessments include satisfactory completion of self-paced skills booklets and written tests from the Pace Learning Systems Language Series with the opportunity to retest until the skill is mastered.

Students are expected to perform on a passing level as defined by the school district's grading system. Students must achieve a score of 70% or better on the booklet practice test in order to advance to the mastery tests A & B. A score of 70% or better must be attained on both A & B before moving on to the next skill. Students may retest.

Pace Learning Systems---Science Literacy

The Science lessons include the following: science thinking, the science process, chemistry, physics, life science and Earth and space science.

Assessments include satisfactory completion of self-paced booklet that include worksheets and experiments that align with each skill taught, written test from the Pace Learning Systems and Science Literacy Series with the opportunity to retest until the skill is mastered.

Pace Learning Systems Science Literacy Series doesn't include a pretest booklet or a post booklet practice test. Students are still expected to perform on a passing level as determined in the school districts grading system. Students must score at least 70% or better on Mastery Tests A & B before moving to the next skill. Students can retest a maximum of two times before repeating the booklet.

Pace Learning Systems---Basic Math

The Math lessons include the following: whole numbers and decimals, fractions, equivalency, probability and statistics, consumer applications and measurement.

Assessments include a pretest booklet to determine what skills have been learned/mastered, and which skills need to be taught. Other assessments include written tests from the Pace Learning Systems Math series, satisfactory completion of self-paced booklets, student self-corrections of booklet practice tests, and opportunity to retest until skill is mastered. Posttest booklets are completed at the end of the year.

Students are expected to perform on a passing level as defined by the school district's grading system. Students must achieve a score of 70% or better on the booklet practice test, in order to advance to the Mastery Tests A & B. A score of 70% or better must be attained on both Test A & B before moving on to the next skill. Student may retest no more than twice. If a student does not master 70%, he/she must repeat the entire self-paced booklet.

Pace Learning Systems---Social Studies

The Social Studies lessons include the following: world geography, United States geography, world history, United States history, civics and government and economics.

Assessments include a pretest booklet to determine what skills have been learned/mastered, and which skills need to be taught. Other assessments include self-paced booklets with appropriate worksheets, student self-corrections of booklet practice tests and written mastery tests from the Pace Learning Systems Social Studies Series, with the opportunity to retest until skill is mastered. Posttest booklets are given at the end of the year.

Students are expected to perform on a passing level as defined in the school districts grading system. Students must achieve a 70% or better on the booklet practice test, in order to advance to Mastery Tests A & B. A score of 70% or better must be attained on both A & B to move on the next skill. A student may retest twice, before repeating the booklet.

Grades 5-8 Bullying Prevention Program---All Teachers

The Bullying Prevention Program is a school-wide action against bullying and bullying behaviors. Students complete a survey consisting of bully/victim questions. The Core Team (a select group of teachers who have been trained in this program) and the Principal will create a lesson plan schedule for the teachers to follow. This schedule incorporates the topics of bullying which the students are most affected by, according to the survey results. The four-basic Anti-Bullying Rules will be taught and implemented through classroom-level activity, individual interventions, and community involvement. These are the Anti-Bullying Rules:

- We do not bully others.
- We help students who are bullied.
- We include students who are left out.
- We tell an adult at school and an adult at home when somebody is being bullied.

Assessments used to measure progress will include: regular class meeting for Group discussions/pro-social training/empathy development, consistent intervention by the teacher, individual talks with the bully and the victim; these talks will be done separately, of course; student surveys, teacher/staff daily observations and record keeping.

All students and school personnel will be expected to know and follow the four-basic Anti-Bullying Rules. This expectation will be expressed at the individual level, school-wide level and in the community settings where appropriate. Students' progress will be evaluated for those who have been identified as exhibiting bullying-type behaviors. These students will be expected to show progress through school counseling, classroom behavior, individual talks and class discussions.

5th-8th Grade Current Events---Mr. Lichtenwalner, Mrs. Hornberger, Mrs. Karnish, and Mr. Wiscount

Due to our everyday changing world, all students in the Middle School are required to complete a current events class. Various topics will be discussed concerning the current event taking place during the time of the students' class period.

Classroom discussions will be the primary focus of this course. However, projects and homework may be assigned at the teacher's discretion.

Students are expected to participate in all classroom discussions, as well as, complete all required projects and homework.

Current Events will be a percentage of the History, Civics, and/or Geography grade, depending on the student's year of study.

5th-8th Grade Library Science---Mrs. Peca

Library Science includes instruction in the following areas:

- Library tour—location of materials (Introduction for 5th grade; Review for grades 6-8)
- Library policies---circulation procedures, overdue policies, Access PA ILL's
- Library citizenship---book care and library behavior (Review for grades 6-8)
- Parts of a book---preliminary, middle and reference (Expand/review for grades 6-8)
- Fiction and nonfiction arrangement---call numbers (Review for grades 6-8)
- Introduction to the Athena Computerized Card Catalog (Review for grades 6-8)
- Introduction to the Big6 Information-Research Model (Grade 5); (Review Grade 6); Focus on the Big6 Information-Research Model (Grade 7); Focus on topics to be researched are the history of libraries and the type of libraries—school, college/university, public/community, special and government libraries. The location, purpose and function of these libraries will be researched with print and non-print materials (Grade 8)
- Reference Materials (both text and web)---Dictionary (abridged, unabridged, and special/grade 6), Thesaurus, Encyclopedia (General and Special/grade 6), Almanac, World Atlas (Special Atlases/grade 6), and periodicals including newspapers; Focus on biographical materials such as Current Biography Yearbook, Biography Today and The Lincoln Library of Sports Champions (Grade 7);
- Introduction of POWER Library---Children's list (Grade 5); Subject list (Facts for Learning, Middle Search Plus, EBSCO Animals, SIRS Discoverer, Novelist K-8, and encyclopedia)-(Grade 6); Focus on the Biography Block which includes: Biography Reference Bank, Contemporary Authors and AP Multimedia Archive. Also concentrate on the areas not covered previously in the Reference Block such as: EBSCO Host, SIRS Discoverer, and History Reference Center. Review Novelist K-8 (Grade 7); DartClix, LitFinder, Novelist, Newspaper Source, Book Index with Reviews, Grove Art Online and Grove Music Online will be introduced (Grade 8)
- Introduce Access PA---Database searching and Interlibrary Loan (ILL); (Reintroduce to grade 6; Review grades 7-8)
- Genres---Humorous fiction, historical fiction, science fiction, fantasy, animal fiction, realistic fiction, mystery, poetry and biography (Review for grades 6-8)
- Award winning books in children's literature---Introduce the Caldecott, Newbery and Children's Literature Awards websites. (American Library Association recommended) to view the current award winning books (Reintroduced to grades 6-8)
- Browsing---Selection of books for recreational reading or research purposes.

Assessments for the grade assigned, which is pass/fail, will depend upon the successful completion of the assignment of the day, student participation, student attendance, student behavior and teacher observation.

Mastery of library knowledge, in accordance with the library standards, as defined by the PA Academic Standards is expected.