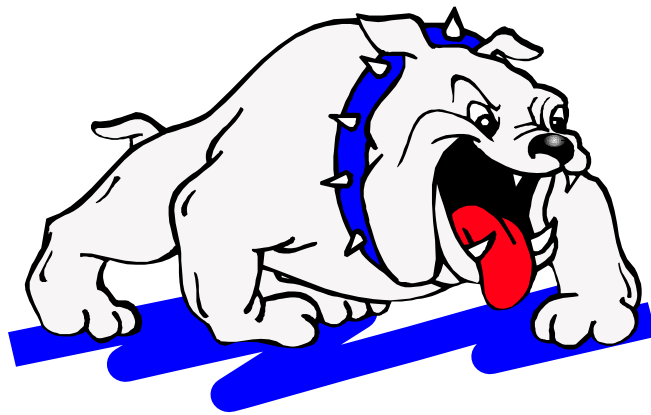


WEST YORK AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL

COURSE GUIDE

2016 - 2017



West York Area Middle School
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WEST YORK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

OPENING MINDS THROUGH EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

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CORE SUBJECTS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS: GRADES 6 - 8

These courses are designed to instill in our students a life-long love of reading and writing through constant modeling and exposure to various genres, styles and types of writing. Throughout the middle school experience, students will be making the transition from “learning to read” to “reading to learn.” Language Arts classes are an integrated reading and writing program held within a year-long (36 week), daily, extended “double period” of instruction and assessment. All courses are designed to reflect the rigor of the Pennsylvania Core Standards with an emphasis placed on reading comprehension of grade level fiction and non-fiction text, drawing inferences from a variety of text and multi-media resources, writing for a specific purpose (narrative, expository, argumentative), development and use of academic vocabulary, and presentation skills. Each grade level course will employ an increasingly complex yet systemic process for writing, research, and presentation skills that will be reflected in other content areas. Instruction will be differentiated to meet the individual needs of each student derived from achievement and growth data while seeking to meet or exceed grade level standards.

INTENSIVE READING INTERVENTION (READING COMPREHENSION): GRADES 6 - 8

Enrollment in this course is through administrative placement only. This remedial class will utilize the READ180 curriculum as well as possibly System 44. Both are a balanced reading intervention approach that combines direct instruction, small group instruction, modeled and/or independent reading to serve students who are reading below grade level. This curriculum serves a maximum of fifteen students per class.

ENGLISH ESL: GRADES 6 - 8

Enrollment in this course is through administrative placement only. This class will utilize the System 44, READ180, and/or other English language development curriculum based on the needs and English proficiency levels of the students. All curricula serve students who are in the process of acquiring the English language and are supplemented with remedial services outside of class time. System 44 (a foundational reading and phonics based intervention) and READ180 (a balanced reading intervention approach) combine direct instruction, small group instruction, and modeled and/or independent reading to develop phonics and reading skills. Other English language development curriculum may be used to help students acquire listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in the English language, including grade-level content and standards as appropriate.

MATH GRADE 6

This is a comprehensive mathematics program held within a year-long (36 week), daily, extended “double period” of instruction and assessment designed to reflect the rigor of the Pennsylvania Core Standards and emphasize collaborative learning that provides both real life and memorable application. Specifically, concepts developed in this course include: fractions, whole number and decimal arithmetic, integers, the number line, coordinate plane, absolute value, ratios, unit rates, units of measurement, percent problems, expressions, solving equations and inequalities, quantitative relationships, number sentences, area, surface area, volume, coordinate geometry, statistical analysis, graphing, and interpreting data. Instruction will be differentiated to meet the individual needs of each student derived from achievement and growth data while seeking to meet or exceed grade level standards.

MATH GRADE 7

This is a comprehensive mathematics program held within a year-long (36 week), daily, extended “double period” of instruction and assessment designed to reflect the rigor of the Pennsylvania Core Standards and emphasize collaborative learning that provides both real life and memorable application. Specifically, concepts developed in this course include: properties of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, single-step real world problems, unit rates, proportional relationships, percent problems, ratios, linear expressions, multi-step real world problems, solving equations and inequalities, scale drawings, triangles, three-dimensional figures, angles, circles, area, surface area, volume, sample analysis, central tendency, and probability. Instruction will be differentiated to meet the individual needs of each student derived from achievement and growth data while seeking to meet or exceed grade level standards.

PRE-ALGEBRA

Prerequisite: Students must qualify based on PA Value Added Assessment System projection data and Grade 6 teacher recommendation.

This is a comprehensive mathematics program held within a year-long (36 week), daily, extended “double period” of instruction and assessment designed to reflect the rigor of the Pennsylvania Core Standards and emphasize collaborative learning that provides both real life and memorable application. Specifically concepts developed in this course include: properties of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, unit rates, proportional relationships, percent problems, ratios, linear equations and inequalities, linear and nonlinear graphs, linear relationships, scale drawings, triangles, three-dimensional figures, angles, circles, area, surface area, volume, sample analysis, central tendency, probability, scientific notation, transformations, similarity and congruence, Pythagorean theorem, scatter plots, line of best fit, and two-way tables. Instruction will be differentiated to meet the individual needs of each student derived from achievement and growth data while seeking to exceed grade level standards.

MATH GRADE 8

This course is for students who are identified based upon specific learning needs.

This is a comprehensive mathematics program held within a year-long (36 week), daily, extended “double period” of instruction and assessment designed to reflect the rigor of the Pennsylvania Core Standards and emphasize collaborative learning that provides both real life and memorable application. Specifically, concepts developed in this course include: real numbers, approximations of irrational numbers, exponential expressions, square and cube roots, scientific notation, proportional relationships, linear equations, systems of linear equations, linear and nonlinear functions, linear relationships, transformations, Pythagorean theorem, volume, scatter plots, line of best fit, and two-way tables. Instruction will be differentiated to meet the individual needs of each student derived from achievement and growth data while seeking to meet grade level standards.

ALGEBRA IA GRADE 8

This is the first course of a two-course program designed to prepare students for success on the Keystone Algebra I assessment as well as the grade level PSSA assessment. Algebra IA is held within a year-long (36 week), daily, extended “double period” of instruction and assessment designed to reflect the rigor of the Pennsylvania Core Standards and emphasize collaborative learning that provides both real life and memorable application. Specifically course concepts include: real numbers, approximations of irrational numbers, exponential expressions, square and cube roots, proportional relationships, linear equations, systems of linear equations, linear and nonlinear functions, linear relationships, rate of change, Pythagorean theorem, geometric transformations, scatter plots, line of best fit, polynomials, factoring, and quadratics. Instruction will be differentiated to meet the individual needs of each student derived from achievement and growth data while seeking to meet or exceed grade level standards.

HONORS ALGEBRA I GRADE 8

Prerequisite: Students must qualify based on PA Value Added Assessment System projection data and Grade 7 teacher recommendation.

This is a comprehensive mathematics program held within a year-long (36 week), daily, extended “double period” of instruction and assessment designed to reflect the rigor of the Pennsylvania Core Standards while preparing the students for success on the Keystone Algebra I assessment as well as the grade level PSSA assessment. The course will emphasize collaborative learning that provides both real life and memorable application. Specifically, concepts include simplifying square roots, polynomials, factoring, rational expressions, linear equations and inequalities, systems of linear equations and inequalities, relations and functions, domain and range, rate of change, measures of dispersions and central tendency, data displays and analysis, and simple and compound probability. Instruction will be differentiated to meet the individual needs of each student derived from achievement and growth data while seeking to exceed grade level standards.

NOTE: To help ensure success in future math classes, students taking Honors Algebra I in middle school must earn a 92% or higher to qualify for Honors Geometry. Students earning between a 76% and a 91% in this course will qualify for Geometry. Those students scoring below a 76% may be recommended for Algebra IB .

SCIENCE GRADE 6

Science 6 is a semester long (18 week), daily, extended “double-period” course designed to reflect the rigor of the PA Core Standards through a series of three content- based modules as described below:

- Mixtures and Solutions Module – This unit attends to the basic concepts of chemistry by examining the structure of matter and the transformations that take place in it. Through a series hands-on investigations students will apply this knowledge to real world applications.
- Planetary Science Module – This unit attends to basic studies of the moon and it’s phases, celestial motion, lunar geology, cratering processes, imaging technologies, scaling, and space exploration through a series of engaging activities.
- Force and Motion Module – This unit attends to a basic understanding of linear, rotational, and cyclic motion as well as familiar forces that can be used to put objects or systems into motion through a series of investigations where students graph their observations in order to make predictions.

SCIENCE GRADE 7

Science 7 is a semester long (18 week), daily, extended “double period” course designed to reflect the rigor of the PA Core Standards through a series of three content based modules as described below:

- Diversity of Life Module – This unit attends to the exploration of organisms within their environments in order to address the question “What is life?”. Students will observe and maintain protists, plants, and animals at macroscopic and microscopic levels as well as organism subsystems and behaviors, and consider the diversity of adaptive structures and strategies.
- Populations and Ecosystems Module – This unit attends to the identification of ecosystems and their various characteristics as well as the role that various organisms play in an ecosystem to allow it to function appropriately. Students will raise populations of organisms to discover population dynamics and interactions such as feeding, reproduction, heredity, and natural selection over a range of conditions.
- Pennsylvania Ecosystems Module – This unit attends to ecosystems, energy pyramids, abiotic factors, feeding adaptations, organism relationships, population effects and human interventions that exist in Pennsylvania through a variety of hands-on field activities that demonstrate sampling techniques, observations, team work, safety procedures, data analysis, experimentation and use of technology.

SCIENCE GRADE 8

Science 8 is a semester long (18 week), daily, extended “double period” course designed to reflect the rigor of the PA Core Standards through a series of three content based modules as described below:

- Chemical Interactions Module – This unit attends to the concept of atomic theory of matter and its application to real world interactions. Students will conduct a series of experiments to observe the macroscopic transformations of matter and apply kinetic particle theory to explain these transformations at the microscopic level. Through this process students will develop a basic understanding of the periodic table of elements and atomic structure.
- Weather and Water Module – This unit attends to an understanding of the Earth’s atmosphere, weather, and water at the atomic level through a series of investigations that apply the concepts of atoms and molecules, changes of state, and heat transfer to the concepts of water cycle, air masses, fronts, winds, and severe weather.
- Geology Unit – This unit attends to the concepts of geologic formations through the intensive study of minerals and rock types. Students use this knowledge and data gained from observing minerals and rocks toward making inferences about the rock cycle and geologic events that have occurred over the Earth’s history.

CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY – GRADE 6

Cultural Geography is a semester long (18 week), daily, extended “double period” course designed to reflect the rigor of the PA Core Standards. This course consists of the study of Geography, focusing on the physical and cultural aspects of the Western Hemisphere. This course is designed to explore the five themes of geography. Students will examine the physical shape of the Earth, its different environments, natural resources, and weather systems. The student will also become familiar with the cultural similarities and differences between the Native American tribes in North America as well as the Maya, Aztec and Inca and what impact European Exploration had on them.

WORLD CIVILIZATIONS – GRADE 7

World Civilizations is a semester long (18 week) course that discusses the growth of the human experience from prehistoric times to the year 1500 A.D. Students will analyze the development of the cultures of various civilizations throughout the Eastern Hemisphere. Students will compare these civilizations to each other, as well as, draw conclusions about the impact these civilizations have on life today. An emphasis will be placed on the six major components of all civilizations (geography, religion, achievements, politics, economics, and social structure).

AMERICAN CULTURES I - GRADE 8

American Cultures I is a semester long (18 week), daily, extended “double period” course designed to reflect the rigor of the PA Core Standards. This course discusses the development of the American experience from the establishment of the United States to 1920. Students will analyze the impact that events such as the Civil War, Reconstruction, and World War I had on the politics, economy, and culture of the United States. Highlights will be placed on the role of Pennsylvania in the birth and growth of a new nation, with particular attention given to York County and surrounding areas. Students will be required to produce a number of written assignments and projects, including group projects and long-term research projects.

What I Need (W.I.N.) INTERVENTION

W.I.N. is a daily, school-wide, focused period designed to provide all students with skill reinforcement and growth in critical academic skill areas. W.I.N. is comprised of several modules including research based math intervention programs, research based reading intervention programs, extended reading, science core concepts, and vocabulary preview. Each student has an individualized, data-driven plan that dictates which modules they receive. W.I.N. is divided into four, 8 week segments with an opportunity for a student to have up to 4 different modules within a school year.

Scholastic Organization and Practice (S.O.a.P.)

S.O.a.P is a daily, school wide, focused period designed for small group remediation provided by all teachers. This is also a time where individualized tutoring is offered. Students are given the opportunity for beginning assignments with the support of their teachers. S.O.a.P. also provides a time for students to participate in band and chorus.

EXPLORATORY SUBJECTS

GERMAN I - GRADE 8

Prerequisite: 75% or higher in 7th Grade Language Arts

This is an introduction to the fundamentals of German. All basic skills will be covered: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Special emphasis is placed on pronunciation and oral skills of listening, speaking and comprehending. German culture will be discussed and compared with American Culture. This is the beginning of basic vocabulary and grammar studies, to which more will be added each successive year.

SPANISH I - GRADE 8

Prerequisite: 75% or higher in 7th Grade Language Arts

In this course students will learn about the Spanish-speaking world. In addition, students will learn the basics of the language, how to talk about food, families, friends, school, transportation, possessions, getting around in a city, how to talk about activities and places, how to make plans, tell about events and ask questions. Emphasis is placed upon grammar fundamentals, listening, reading, writing and speaking skills. Students will be able to communicate in Spanish from the early stages of the course.

ART

Art class is offered to every 6th grade student and is an elective choice for 8th grade students. Students in 7th grade are offered the Computer Design course. Art class enables children to use information taught in other classes and apply it in a kinesthetic manner. Using information in a “hands-on” manner helps them understand it, remember it, and use it in ways more meaningful to them. Through a variety of mediums art provides a productive outlet for student expression. Additionally it provides multiple opportunities for left and right brain activities, and use of higher-level thinking, problem solving and decision making through many open-ended activities.

Grade 6: Sixth grade art focuses on the elements of art and principles of design, specifically color, pattern, texture, shape and form. Students experiment with color schemes and how to incorporate them into everyday life. Tints, shades and neutrals are introduced as students expand and use their knowledge of the color wheel in various projects. A variety of media is used throughout the course to afford students the opportunity of experimentation. Three-dimensional art is introduced as students create a relief sculpture giving it shape and form. Students look at the symmetry, texture and pattern in historical works of art from other cultures and ancient civilizations. These elements and principles are incorporated into their own sculpture. Students compare and contrast abstract and realistic art while creating their own piece of abstract art. Various artists and artwork are viewed in order to gain a better understanding of the two genres. Students learn how to create a realistic landscape as they learn point of view, horizon line, foreground, middle ground and background. Using this knowledge, they create their own landscape with these properties.

Grade 7: Computer Design is a course where a fusion of artistic expression through technology offered to all 7th grade students and serves as an elective choice for 8th grade students. Computer Design will explore an introduction to Graphic Design and Computer Art through the use of the industry standard programs Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator CS3. Throughout this course, students will be introduced to the basic tools and techniques of each program while being introduced to the Elements of Art and Principles of Design.

The work that is generated throughout the course will encourage original and creative thinking with an emphasis on visual problem solving skills while developing a beginning foundation of Graphic Design and Computer Art. Projects will be designed to integrate technology, the Principles of Design, and to inspire artwork that is related to the students as individuals as well as to the world of visual culture that surrounds them. Students will be encouraged to experiment and learn independently in addition to learning skills and techniques via classroom demonstrations, step-by-step instruction, and community projects. Students will have the opportunity to work collaboratively to reflect on their artwork and the work of their peers through classroom critiques and discussions. In addition to the in-class observations, they will be exposed to a variety of artists, designers, and a brief history of Graphic Design to better inform the creative thinking process.

Grade 8: Eighth grade art explores the elements of art and principles of design in depth as students prepare for high school and a global world. Students use the knowledge gained in art from 6th and 7th grade and apply it into their 8th grade work. Projects require a greater use of higher level thinking as students work with abstract ideas and problem solve difficult and challenging activities. Students think outside- of- the- box as they create a 3D sculpture-in-the-round. Abstract thinking helps them visualize and sculpt dimension on all sides of an object. Prior to sculpting, historical works of art are viewed and discussed to aide students in the understanding of this challenging concept. Students explore a variety of media, offering them choices for creating work, in order to help prepare them for the variety of classes offered at the high school. Art is a form of communication, students use it to help communicate and express thoughts, ideas, and opinions.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE

The middle school family and consumer science course is a hands on study of topics related to the management of families and the home. Content will focus on nutrition, food safety, basic cooking skills, babysitting, clothing maintenance and mending. The content learning enhances the mastery of academic standards.

Grade 6: Students will identify factors that affect food choice such as portion size, nutrients, and food labeling. They will be introduced to food safety, kitchen safety, measuring, recipe analysis, and tool identification. Students will examine and experience basic nutrition and cooking skills through several practical lab experiences.

Grade 7: Students will study the responsibilities of babysitting infants and children. The focus will be caring for infants, recognizing characteristics of quality literature, identifying safe toys, exploring common babysitting emergencies and the ages and stages of child development. In addition to the babysitting unit, students will review cooking

concepts learned in 6th grade through applied food lab experiences.

Grade 8: Students will learn skills needed to care for clothes as well as produce, repair, and recycle textile products. In addition, students will understand the work of a family in terms of meal management skills through team preparation and planning of breakfast foods.

COMPUTER EDUCATION

Computer class provides students with an overview of computer technology and the opportunity for them to discover and develop computer technology skills that support computer literacy through lifelong learning, personal productivity, and use of computers for careers and in daily life. Students will be exposed to a variety of software through teacher demonstration, student exploration, and student relative hands-on activities.

Grade 6: Students are introduced to the function of input, output, and storage devices; basic word processing skills; and good digital citizenship as it pertains to the safe use of the Internet as a research tool. Additionally students will receive explicit instruction on strategies to guard against identity theft and cyber scams as well as strategies for safe and appropriate on-line communication. Students will demonstrate their understanding of skills in these areas through a variety of activities and projects.

Grade 7: Students are introduced to the basics of a spreadsheet program where they collect data, apply formulas to complete calculations, and create and analyze charts. Students will also explore and demonstrate skills in Power Point as a multimedia presentation tool where they will create slides with relevant backgrounds, graphics and animation; insert relevant sound; research and insert a video clip; and record a voice narration. Good digital citizenship will be reinforced throughout the process. Students will receive explicit instruction regarding the impact of “digital footprints” and how to control this phenomenon as well as the negative impact of cyber bullying and harassment.

Grade 8: Students are introduced to the purpose, uses, and basic skills of a data base through demonstration, exploration, and development of a technology careers database. Students will continue to expand on and practice good digital citizenship as they extend their presentation skills to include video production and the use of web presentation tools. Students will demonstrate their understanding of skills in these areas through a variety of activities and projects.

GENERAL MUSIC

The goal of the middle school general music program is to expose students to various types of music. The students will learn about vocal and instrumental music, musicals, operas, oratorios, musical

aesthetics, and instrument families. They will also be exposed to all styles of music throughout history, and will study basic music theory. Students will also be given the opportunity to compose and perform music in each grade level, utilizing various instruments available to them in the classroom.

Grade 6: The goal of this course is to expose students to basic music theory and piano performance by using the Yamaha MIE keyboard lab. Students will also have the opportunity to apply their knowledge by composing and performing music in the classroom.

Grade 7: The goal of this course is to expose students to various types of music. Students will learn about vocal and instrumental music, operas, oratorios, musicals, basic music theory, and music aesthetics. Students will also have the opportunity to apply their knowledge by composing and performing music in the classroom.

Grade 8 : The goal of this course is to develop and expand student knowledge of music theory and piano performance through the use of the Yamaha MIE keyboard lab. Students will also complete a music production project that focuses on the aspects of music industry such as concert production, promotions, and tour management.

BAND

The band strives to meet the needs of both experienced and inexperienced members. Membership requires the attendance at full band rehearsals, sectional rehearsals or lessons, and attendance at school performances, which are often outside the normal school hours. Scales, phrasing, fingerings, tone production, rhythms and musical notation and musical expression are stressed. Students will improve their instrumental skills through playing and sight-reading a variety of music. The band performs periodically throughout the school year. Various smaller ensembles such as the jazz band, woodwind ensembles, brass ensembles and percussion ensembles function in coordination with the full band.

Grade 6: The emphasis is placed on reinforcing and refining those skills learned in elementary school and developing technical and tonal control both individually and as an ensemble. Students are required to attend a weekly in-school small group lesson in addition to full ensemble rehearsals. This course meets in lieu of S.O.A.P. on odd cycle days.

Grades 7/8: The emphasis is placed on overall musicianship. A high level of performance is expected with attention to detail and precision. Students are required to attend a weekly sectional in addition to full ensemble rehearsals. Basic marching band skills are introduced at this level. The entire program is designed to prepare students for the high school band program. This course meets in lieu of S.O.A.P. on even cycle days.

CHORUS - GRADE 6

Chorus is open to all interested students. Membership requires attendance and participation in chorus rehearsals, small group sectionals and various performances, which are often outside the normal school hours throughout the year. Unison and two-part music is taught, as well as basic music notation and proper tone production. Self-confidence, stage presence, and responsibility for actions are goals of the choral program. This course meets in lieu of S.O.A.P. on even cycle days.

CHOIR - GRADES 7/8

Choir is open to all interested students. Membership requires the attendance and participation in choir rehearsals, small group sectionals and various performances, which are often outside normal school hours throughout the year. Two- and three-part music is taught, as well as basic music notation and proper tone production. Self-confidence, stage presence, and responsibility for actions are goals of the choral program. This course meets in lieu of S.O.A.P. on odd cycle days.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – GRADES 6 - 8

The middle school health and physical education programs are designed to promote developmentally appropriate positive health and physical growth. These goals will be incorporated in 6th, 7th and 8th grade. Students will have the opportunity to practice both team and individual sports through movement, rhythm, and dance. They will assess and measure current fitness levels and design goals to improve their levels of fitness with the use of technology and the Fitness Center. All activities will be offered by levels of intensity and skill, whereby the student will select the level at which they wish to participate.

The Middle School Physical Education curriculum provides a variety of activities that promote positive social interaction through team-building, pair-share, competitive, and non-competitive strategies. It is designed for our students to:

- Improve both gross and fine motor skills.
- Aid in cognitive development regarding learning strategies, decision making, problem solving.
- Improve cardio-respiratory endurance, muscle power, muscle strength and flexibility
- Promote a more positive attitude toward physical activity, leading to a more active lifestyle
- Enhance self-concept and self-esteem as indicated by increased self-confidence, assertiveness, emotional stability, independence and self-control
- Use BMI to calculate body composition to guide students to life-long fitness
- Help deter and alleviate stress

HEALTH – GRADE 6

The 6th grade health curriculum focuses on the following themes: wellness and healthy lifestyles, physical health, and growth/development. Within these respective themes the topics of goal setting, self-assessment, stressors, sleep, muscle development, and puberty/adolescence will be examined. A drug awareness and prevention unit regarding alcohol, tobacco, and inhalants along with peer refusal skills is also an integral part of the course.

HEALTH – GRADE 7

The 7th grade health curriculum focuses on 3 themes: the skeletal system, the muscular system, and human sexuality. Within these respective themes the topics of anatomy and physiology, building muscle, first aid, and the reproductive system will be examined. A drug awareness and prevention unit regarding marijuana, club drugs, and prescription drugs along with peer refusal skills

HEALTH - GRADE 8

The 8th grade health curriculum focuses on 3 themes: nutrition, human sexuality, and decision making. Within these respective themes the topics of anatomy and physiology, nutrients, eating disorders, healthy intimate relationships, an overview of drug and alcohol awareness, and a review of bullying/conflict resolution will be examined.

ADVISORY

Each student will be assigned to a cohort group that meets during the exploratory wheel portion of the academic day. This cohort, led by a core teacher, will serve to provide the student with guidance

in a variety of social, emotional, and executive skill areas including bullying awareness and prevention, peer conflict resolution, character development, goal setting/monitoring/reflection, and independent learning. Teachers will employ a combination of whole group and small group instruction along with individual conferencing to accomplish these tasks.