

2009-2010

Pennsylvania Leadership Charter School
COURSE DESCRIPTION MANUAL



GRADE 7 – GRADE 8

Updated May 1, 2009

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Home Facilitator Involvement Levels

Each student at PALCS is required to have a Home Facilitator to serve as the agent of the school to make certain that the student is functioning at a level sufficient to maintain attendance and to ensure that assignments are completed on time.

The Home Facilitator is an integral part of their student's success. It involves a commitment that goes beyond a traditional public school. Without the full commitment of the HF, at all grade levels, a student's academic success will suffer.

The requirements for the Home Facilitator vary with the age and motivation of the student. Younger students require more direct involvement. Each course at PALCS has been assigned a level of involvement for the Home Facilitator from one to five, with five requiring the most involvement.

Level 5

- Level 5 courses require full time participation for the HF.
- Home Facilitators are expected to assist the child 90-100% of the time that the child is working on material.
- This commitment involves making sure students are completing all parts of lessons and assignments, monitoring student understanding of readings and checking HF PALCSMail daily.

Level 4

- This course involves a major commitment of time from the HF.
- The HF will need to assist the child 70-90% of the time the child is working on course material.
- This commitment involves making sure students are completing all parts of lessons and assignments, monitoring student understanding of readings and checking HF PALCSMail daily.

Level 3

- This course requires a time commitment of anywhere from 30-70% of the time the child is working on course work.
- Teachers recommend working with students 50% of the time, adjusting involvement as necessary.
- This commitment involves making sure students are completing all parts of lessons and assignments, occasionally monitoring student understanding of readings and checking HF PALCSMail daily.

Level 2

- This course requires student monitoring by the HF 10-30% of the time and minimal intervention in the class.
- Students will be expected to display the appropriate maturity level to attempt the material without the HF.
- Students advocate for themselves as well as request help directly from their teachers most of the time.

Level 1

- This course only requires monitoring by the HF, about 1-10% of the time.
- Students are expected to complete assignments independently with occasional help from their teachers above and beyond the instructional time.
- HFs should continue to check on student progress regularly but should not need to be involved instructionally.

GRADE 7

Language Arts

Language Arts 7

In this course, students will:

- Read and analyze a variety of works, both fiction and nonfiction, including drama, poetry, essay and short story
- Explore and create various forms of writing, including responses to literature, personal narrative, persuasive essay, cause-and-effect essay and poetry utilizing the Writing Process and, when appropriate, Modern Language Association (MLA) style and research skills.
- Develop vocabulary through systematic study using the Vocabulary Workshop series and through the study of literature Improve grammar usage and skills

Materials:

McDougal Littell: *The Language of Literature: Grade 7 Language Network*
 Sadlier-Oxford: *Vocabulary Workshop: Level B*
 Additional Novel Selections

Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 3 ([level description on page iii](#)) Assistance is required for 30-70% of schoolwork.

Difficulty: On-Level

Prerequisite: Language Arts 6

Advanced Language Arts 7

In this course, students will:

- Read and analyze a variety of works, both fiction and nonfiction, including drama, poetry, essay and short story
- Explore and create various forms of writing, including responses to literature, personal narrative, persuasive essay, cause-and-effect essay and poetry utilizing the Writing Process and, when appropriate, Modern Language Association (MLA) style and research skills.
- Develop vocabulary through systematic study using the Vocabulary Workshop series and through the study of literature Improve grammar usage and skills

Students will be expected to complete all class assignments and to have a solid understanding of the course material. Students will also be expected to read additional outside resources, to engage in writing assignments utilizing higher order thinking skills and to conduct developmentally appropriate research.

Materials:

McDougal Littell: *The Language of Literature: Grade 7 Language Network*
 Sadlier-Oxford: *Vocabulary Workshop: Level B*
 Additional Novel Selections

Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 3 ([level description on page iii](#)) Assistance is required for 30-70% of schoolwork.

Difficulty: Advanced

Prerequisite: 85% or above in Language Arts 6 or teacher recommendation



Mathematics

Middle School Mathematics Concepts and Strategies

This course is designed to bring the below level 7th grade student up to grade level by addressing those skills necessary for success in the next level of mathematics. Content includes expressing numbers in equivalent forms, comparing numbers, order of operations, percents, factors, common factors, multiples, ratio and proportion, problem solving, rates, estimation strategies, measurement conversions, estimation and problem solving, calculation of length, perimeter, area, volume, angles, two and three dimensional shapes, ordered pairs on a coordinate plane, patterns, number sense, expressions, equations and inequalities, graphs and tables, data analysis and probability. The course will be aligned to the Pennsylvania 7th Grade Assessment Anchors and eligible content. Upon completion of this course the student will be prepared for Pre-Algebra Concepts and Strategies.

Materials:

Holt: *Middle School Mathematics, Course 2*

Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 3 ([level description on page iii](#)) Assistance is required for 30-70% of schoolwork.

Difficulty: Developmental

Prerequisite: 73% or lower in Math 6

Middle School Mathematics

This course is designed to prepare the on level 7th grade student for success in the next level of mathematics. Content includes number sense and algebraic thinking, review of fractions, operations with fractions, mixed numbers and decimals, ratio and proportion, percents, integers, properties of geometric figures, area and the Pythagorean Theorem, probability and data analysis, volume and surface area and an introduction to linear functions. The course will be aligned to the Pennsylvania 7th Grade Assessment Anchors and eligible content. Upon completion of this course the student will be prepared for Pre-Algebra.

Materials:

Holt: *Middle School Mathematics, Course 3*

Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 3 ([level description on page iii](#)) Assistance is required for 30-70% of schoolwork.

Difficulty: On-Level

Prerequisite: Between 74% and 86% in Math 6

Pre-Algebra

This course is designed for the academically talented middle school student who has demonstrated an aptitude for the accelerated study of mathematics. This course will develop concepts aligned to the Pennsylvania Mathematics Anchors and eligible content for seventh and eighth grade as well as 8th grade Standards. Content includes variables, expressions, integers, equations, multi-step equations, inequalities, factors, fractions, exponents, rational numbers and equations, ratio, proportion, probability, percents, linear functions, real numbers, right triangles, measurement, area, volume, data analysis and probability, polynomials and non-linear functions, angle relationships and transformations. Students will be introduced to the graphing calculator. Upon completion of this course students will be ready for Algebra 1.

Materials:

Holt: *Pre-Algebra*

Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 3 ([level description on page iii](#)) Assistance is required for 30-70% of schoolwork.

Difficulty: Advanced

Prerequisite: 87% or better in Math 6, recommendation of teacher and strong PSSA Math score



Social Studies

World Studies



In this course, students will learn about the foundational themes of geography, the formation and documentation of the historical accounts of ancient civilization, and a cursory survey of the United States and Canada.

- During the First Marking Period students will examine the Five Themes of Geography and how these themes interact with both local and global level experiences. In addition to learning basic map skills, students will understand the geographic principles that impact their lives in relation to the earth and the weather. Students will also be able to display an understanding of how human interaction and cultural influences impact the human story and how people interact and engage with one another.
- During the Second Marking Period students will look at the history of the human story by studying the respective histories of Ancient Civilization as empires and civilizations evolved around the world.
- During the Third Marking Period students will examine the impact of change upon civilization in terms of trade, culture, religious influences, politics and military missions, as well as the impact of technology upon the world.
- During the Fourth Marking Period students will examine the geography, history and culture of the United States and Canada. In addition, the influence of the United States and Canada upon the affairs of North America as well as the global impact of these world powers will be examined.
- Students will master the Pennsylvania mandated Standards in relation to Geography, History, Civics, Government and Economics for the respective grade level of this course.

Materials:

Prentice Hall: *Foundations of Geography*
 Prentice Hall: *The Ancient World*
 Prentice Hall: *Medieval Times to Today*
 Prentice Hall: *The United States and Canada*

Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 4 ([level description on page iii](#)) Assistance is required for 70-90% of schoolwork.
Difficulty: On-Level

Advanced World Studies



In this course, students will learn about the foundational themes of geography, the formation and documentation of the historical accounts of ancient civilization, the historical impact of the medieval era up to today and a cursory survey of the United States and Canada.

- During the First Marking Period students will examine the Five Themes of Geography and how these themes interact with both local and global level experiences. In addition to learning basic map skills, students will understand the geographic principles that impact their lives in relation to the earth and the weather. Students will also be able to display an understanding of how human interaction and cultural influences impact the human story and how people interact and engage with one another.
- During the Second Marking Period students will look at the history of the human story by studying the respective histories of Ancient Civilization as empires and civilizations evolved around the world.
- During the Third Marking Period students will examine the impact of change upon civilization in terms of trade, culture, religious influences, politics, military missions, as well as the impact of technology upon the world.
- During the Fourth Marking Period students will examine the geography, history and culture of the United States and Canada. In addition, the influence of the United States and Canada upon the affairs of North America as well as the global impact of these world powers will be examined.
- Students will master the Pennsylvania mandated Standards in relation to Geography, History, Civics, Government and Economics for the respective grade level of this course.

Students will be expected to complete all class assignments and to have a solid understanding of the course material. Students will also be expected to read additional outside resources, to engage in writing assignments utilizing higher order thinking skills and to conduct developmentally appropriate research.

Materials:

Prentice Hall: *Foundations of Geography*
 Prentice Hall: *The Ancient World*
 Prentice Hall: *Medieval Times to Today*
 Prentice Hall: *The United States and Canada*

Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 4 ([level description on page iii](#)) Assistance is required for 70-90% of schoolwork.
Difficulty: Advanced
Prerequisite: 85% or higher in previous Social Studies course or teacher recommendation



Science

Life Science



In this course, students will:

- Investigate the foundations of scientific research, science inquiry and scientific experimentation. Students will incorporate math skills while analyzing the complexities of scientific experimental design.
- Examine cell process and use of energy. Students will analyze and predict genetic patterns of inheritance and present results.
- Explore ecosystems, biomes and interactions within various populations.
- Analyze living things by classifying and differentiating among characteristics.
- Identify systems within the human body, and examine the means at which homeostasis is maintained.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Be able to identify questions which can be answered through proper means of scientific research
- Be able to properly design and conduct scientific investigation
- Think critically and logically to draw relationships, and form opinions on various issues regarding science and technology in society
- Be able to identify structure and functions of various living systems and identify homeostatic connections and cycles

Materials:

Prentice Hall: *Life Science – Science Explorer*

Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 3 ([level description on page iii](#)) Assistance is required for 30-70% of schoolwork.

Difficulty: On-Level



Required Electives



Exploring Art 7



In this course, students will:

- Explore, develop and be challenged in the exploration of the fundamentals of art, critical theory and art history
- Be engaged in various studio projects that integrate history, theory and critical analysis throughout the year
- Experience an in-depth study of the elements of art and principles of design, art movements, time periods and famous artists
- Be introduced to or review charcoal drawing, water colors, collage, paper mache sculpture, color field study and clay modeling techniques
- Develop their abilities to make critical judgments about art using their appreciation and influences of various styles of art

Materials:

Art Kit
Educational Websites
Teacher Developed Material

Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 2 ([level description on page iii](#)) Assistance is required for 10-30% of schoolwork.

Difficulty: On-Level

Exploring Music 7



In this course, students will:

- Learn the basic skills and knowledge to express musical ideas and concepts
- Compare the principles of art to the principles of music in a “Related Arts” unit
- Study the music of different cultures of the world such as Australian, Indian and Native American music
- Study the different instrument families of the orchestra
- Understand the development of jazz music and its historical significance to American history

Materials:

Jazz, Ken Burns (film)
www.pbs.org/jazz
Virginia Tech Multimedia Music Dictionary
The Internet Public Library

Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 2 ([level description on page iii](#)) Assistance is required for 10-30% of schoolwork.
Difficulty: On-Level

Exploring Technology 7



In this course, students will:

- Discover and use word processing software, e-mail basics, presentation software and much more
- Explore the Internet, learn safe guidelines for Internet use, use search engines efficiently and evaluate the validity of Internet sources
- Learn to type using an interactive on-line program
- Delve into the world of communication technology, exploring past inventions and how modern technologies work, as well as their effects on our world

Materials:

Learning.com
Brainpop.com
HowSuffWorks.com
TypingMaster.com
EBSCO

Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 2 ([level description on page iii](#)) Assistance is required for 10-30% of schoolwork.
Difficulty: On-Level

Health, Safety & PE 7



After successfully completing the course students should be able to comprehend the basic principles from the following Health Units:

- Nutrition
 - Leading A Healthful Life
 - Nutrition and Health
- Self Esteem
 - Body Image
 - Self Concept
- Living A Drug Free Life
 - Using the SMART Decision Making Model
 - Realizing Short and Long Term Consequences
- Body Systems I
 - Skeletal, Muscular and Nervous Systems
 - Circulatory and Respiratory Systems
- Communicable and Non-Communicable Disease
 - Common Communicable Diseases
 - HIV/AIDS
 - Common Non-Communicable Diseases
 - Heart Disease, Cancer, and Allergies

In addition, Physical Education skills that are addressed and upon completion of the course should be understood include:

- Components of Fitness
- Social Dance
- Target Heart Rate and Fitness Zone
- Training in Sport and Physical Activity
- Movement Skills
- Physical Activities that Promote Health and Fitness

Materials:

Glencoe: *Teen Health, Course 2*
www.teenhealth.com
Other Educational Websites

Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 3 ([level description on page iii](#)) Assistance is required for 30-70% of schoolwork.
Difficulty: On-Level



Electives

Middle School Spanish A



In this course, students will:

- Be introduced to the Spanish language
- Learn vocabulary and phrases to express themselves on the subjects of friendship, school, sports, food and leisure activities
- Discover the culture of Spanish-speaking countries
- Practice beginning grammar concepts through interactive games and activities
- Develop necessary skills to listen, read, write and speak at a basic level

Students will be expected to record their voices.

Materials:

Holt: *Spanish 1A*
Interactive websites
Workbook Activities

Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 3 ([level description on page iii](#)) Assistance is required for 30-70% of schoolwork.
Difficulty: On-Level

Middle School Spanish B



In this course, students will:

- Begin to look at the mechanics of the Spanish language
- Learn vocabulary and phrases to express themselves on topics related to vacationing, family life, clothing and home
- Discover in-depth various Spanish speaking countries and places
- Acquire necessary grammar skills and concepts to be able to read, write and listen
- Appreciate the cultural complexity of the language through interactive websites

Students will be expected to record their voices.

Materials:

Holt: *Spanish 1B*
Interactive websites
Workbook Activities

Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 3 ([level description on page iii](#)) Assistance is required for 30-70% of schoolwork.
Difficulty: On-Level
Prerequisite: Middle School Spanish A

Middle School French A



This is an introductory level French class. Students can expect 2-4 lessons per week and should plan to spend roughly 2 hours a week on the course. Students will learn how to record their voice and will be expected to do frequent recordings.

In this course, students will:

- Learn basic structures and vocabulary to be able to describe themselves and others
- Learn about French culture and the country of France
- Learn about areas in the world where French is spoken

Materials:

McDougal Littell: *Discovering French 1A, Première Partie*
Zut.org
Take Home Tutor CD

Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 3 ([level description on page iii](#)) Assistance is required for 30-70% of schoolwork.
Difficulty: On-Level

Middle School French B



This is an introductory level French class. Students can expect 3-5 lessons per week. Students will make voice recordings for submission.

In this course, students will:

- Build upon structures taught in French Middle A
- Learn basic grammar concepts such as conjugating verbs
- Be able to express what they and others do
- Learn about various regions of France

Materials:

McDougal Littell: *Discovering French 1A, Première Partie*
Zut.org
Take Home Tutor CD

Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 3 ([level description on page iii](#)) Assistance is required for 30-70% of schoolwork.
Difficulty: On-Level
Prerequisite: Middle School French A

GRADE 8

Language Arts

Language Arts 8

In this course, students will:

- Meet the Pennsylvania State Standards in Reading and Writing
- Read and analyze a variety of works, both fiction and nonfiction, with a special focus on the short story
- Explore and create weekly writing assignments including short stories, poetry, essays, drama and a research report
- Write using Modern Language Association (MLA) format
- Develop vocabulary through systematic study
- Improve grammar skills through weekly instruction

Materials:

McDougall Little: *The Language Of Literature*
 Sadlier-Oxford: *Vocabulary Workshop, Level C*
 Instructional website: English Grammar 101
Call of the Wild, Jack London

Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 2 ([level description on page iii](#))

Assistance is required for 10-30% of schoolwork.

Difficulty: On-Level

Prerequisite: Language Arts 7 (or equivalent)

Advanced Language Arts 8

In this course, students will:

- Meet the Pennsylvania State Standards in Reading and Writing
- Read and analyze a variety of works, both fiction and nonfiction, with a special focus on the short story
- Explore and create weekly writing assignments including short stories, poetry, essays, drama and a research report
- Write using Modern Language Association (MLA) format
- Develop vocabulary through systematic study
- Improve grammar skills through weekly instruction

Students will be expected to complete all class assignments and to have a solid understanding of the course material. Students will also be expected to read additional outside resources, to engage in writing assignments utilizing higher order thinking skills and to conduct developmentally appropriate research.

Materials:

McDougall Little: *The Language Of Literature*
 Sadlier-Oxford: *Vocabulary Workshop, Level C*
 Instructional website: English Grammar 101
Call of the Wild, Jack London

Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 2 ([level description on page iii](#))

Assistance is required for 10-30% of schoolwork.

Difficulty: Advanced

Prerequisite: 85% or above in Language Arts 7, passing grade in Advanced LA7 or teacher recommendation



Mathematics

Middle School Pre-Algebra Concepts and Strategies

This course will prepare the 8th grade students for success in Algebra 1. Content includes algebraic expressions and integers, equations and inequalities, decimals, factors, fractions, exponents, ratio, proportion and percent, linear functions and graphing, area and volume, right triangles and data analysis. Students will be introduced to the graphing calculator. This course will be aligned to the Pennsylvania 8th grade Assessment Anchors and eligible content. Upon completion of this course students will be ready for Algebra 1 Concepts and Strategies.

Materials:Holt: *Pre-Algebra***Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 3** ([level description](#)

on page iii) Assistance is required for 30-70% of schoolwork.

Difficulty: Developmental

Pre-Algebra

This course is designed for the on level middle school student who has successfully completed our Middle School Mathematics course. This course will develop concepts aligned to the Pennsylvania Mathematics Anchors and eligible content and Standards for 8th grade. Content includes variables, expressions, integers, equations, multi-step equations, inequalities, factors, fractions, exponents, rational numbers and equations, ratio, proportion, probability, percents, linear functions, real numbers, right triangles, measurement, area, volume, data analysis and probability, polynomials and non-linear functions, angle relationships and transformations. Students will be introduced to the graphing calculator. Upon completion of this course students will be ready for Algebra 1.

Materials:Holt: *Pre-Algebra***Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 3** ([level description](#)

on page iii) Assistance is required for 30-70% of schoolwork.

Difficulty: On-Level**Prerequisite:** 75% or better in Middle School Mathematics

Algebra 1

This course is designed for the academic level student in a college preparatory program which will not necessarily lead to a major in mathematics or science. The course is aligned to the 11th Grade Assessment Anchors and eligible content as well as the 11th Grade Standards. Content will include real numbers, linear equations and inequalities, linear functions and their graphs, systems of linear equations and inequalities (limited to two variables) and an introduction to polynomials. Students will have the opportunity to explore functions with the graphing calculator. Upon completion of the course the student will be ready for Geometry.

Materials:Holt: *Algebra 1*

TI 83+/84+ Graphing Calculator

Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 2 ([level description](#)

on page iii) Assistance is required for 10-30% of schoolwork.

Difficulty: Advanced**Prerequisite:** 80% or better in Pre-Algebra, recommendation of teacher and strong PSSA Math score

Mathematics Seminar 1



This course is a rigorous preparation for the study of higher mathematics for advanced middle school students. Students will complete the eligible content from Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra 2 in a two year program and will receive three credits. This course will cover the content from Algebra 1 as well as half the content of Geometry. Content includes algebraic thinking, properties of real numbers, solving and graphing linear equations and functions, developing appropriate equations from word problems, solving and graphing linear inequalities, systems of linear equations and inequalities (limited to 2 variables), exponents and exponential functions, quadratic equations and functions, an introduction to polynomials and factoring, a look at data analysis, angle measurement, area and perimeter for two dimensional figures, concepts of congruence, verifying/establishing relationships involving two and three dimensional figures, basic definitions in circles, central and inscribed angles and properties of arcs and chords. Students will use the graphing calculator and Geometer's Sketchpad extensively. The course is aligned to the 8th and 11th grade Assessment Anchors and eligible content, as well as the 8th and 11th grade Standards. Upon completion of this course students will be ready for Mathematics Seminar 2. Students who choose to discontinue the seminar sequence after the first year will enroll in Geometry and will receive one credit.

Materials:

Holt: *Algebra 1*
 Holt: *Geometry*
 TI 83+/84+ Graphing Calculator
 Geometer's Sketchpad

Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 2 ([level description on page iii](#)) Assistance is required for 10-30% of schoolwork.

Difficulty: Advanced

Prerequisite: 90% or better in Pre-Algebra, recommendation of classroom teacher, and "Advanced" PSSA Math score.



Social Studies

American Nation



In this introductory course, students will study the history of the United States from the inception of the Thirteen English Colonies to 1914. Students will travel back in time and place themselves in the early stages of American development through various written assignments that will rely on student creativity and leadership qualities. Students will study an era at the forefront of the early development of the laws and ideologies of American society.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Critically analyze information, documents and political cartoons
- Demonstrate critical thinking skills and creativity in completing written assignments
- Identify important occurrences such as Bacon's Rebellion and Shay's Rebellion and discuss the significance of these events in American history
- Learn the meaning of American citizenship and how factors such as immigration and slavery have impacted the United States
- Distinguish and demonstrate the qualities of leadership and evaluate (through textbook and outside readings) the qualities of American leaders
- Master the Pennsylvania mandated Standards in relation to Geography, History, Civics, Government and Economics for the respective grade level of this course

Materials:

Prentice Hall: *The American Nation*

Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 4 ([level description on page iii](#)) Assistance is required for 70-90% of schoolwork.

Difficulty: On-Level

Advanced American Nation



In this introductory course, students will study the history of the United States from the inception of the Thirteen English Colonies to 1914. Students will travel back in time and place themselves in the early stages of American development through various written assignments that will rely on student creativity and leadership qualities. Students will study an era at the forefront of the early development of the laws and ideologies of American society.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Critically analyze information, documents and political cartoons
- Demonstrate critical thinking skills and creativity in completing written assignments
- Identify important occurrences such as Bacon's Rebellion and Shay's Rebellion and discuss the significance of these events in American history
- Learn the meaning of American citizenship and how factors such as immigration and slavery have impacted the United States
- Distinguish and demonstrate the qualities of leadership and evaluate (through textbook and outside readings) the qualities of American leaders
- Master the Pennsylvania mandated Standards in relation to Geography, History, Civics, Government and Economics for the respective grade level of this course

Students will be expected to complete all class assignments and to have a solid understanding of the course material. Students will also be expected to read additional outside resources, to engage in writing assignments utilizing higher order thinking skills and to conduct developmentally appropriate research.

Materials:

Prentice Hall: *The American Nation*

Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 4 ([level description on page iii](#)) Assistance is required for 70-90% of schoolwork.

Difficulty: Advanced

Prerequisite: 85% or higher in previous Social Studies course or teacher recommendation



Science

General Science



In this course, students will:

- Explain concepts about the structure and properties of matter
- Describe energy sources, transfer of energy, and conversion of energy
- Describe the effect of multiple forces on the movement, speed, or direction of an object

Materials:

McDougal Littell: *Chemical Interactions*

McDougal Littell: *Motion and Forces*

McDougal Littell: *Matter and Energy*

Online text available through www.classzone.com

Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 3 ([level description on page iii](#)) Assistance is required for 30-70% of schoolwork.

Difficulty: On-Level



Required Electives



Exploring Art 8



In this course students will:

- Expand their art knowledge, art abilities, and critical judgment by exposure to famous art works as well as student art works
- Create unique works of art that explore visual expression in the major art areas of pencil, charcoal, watercolors, acrylics, collage, oil pastel, pottery and art technology
- Enhance art making skills such as portraiture, observational drawing and painting, sculpture, pointillism and animal structure drawings
- Advance their knowledge of the elements and principles of design
- Write about art, guiding students into the process of interpreting/expressing their thoughts not just visually, but also verbally

Materials:

Art Kit
Educational Websites
Teacher Developed Material

Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 2

([level description on page iii](#)) Assistance is required for 10-30% of schoolwork.

Difficulty: On-Level

Exploring Music 8



In this course students will:

- Review basic skills and knowledge to express musical ideas and concepts
- Review concepts and compare the principles of art to the principles of music and dance in a “Related Arts” unit
- Study the various music genres as well as the musicians and writers that influenced these styles of music
- Study the music of different cultures in Asia, Africa and South America
- Study American music from the 1900’s through today as well as the musicians and writers that influenced these styles of music and dance

Materials:

www.pbs.org/arts
Virginia Tech Multimedia Music Dictionary
The Internet Public Library

Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 2

([level description on page iii](#)) Assistance is required for 10-30% of schoolwork.

Difficulty: On-Level

Exploring Technology 8



In this course, students will:

- Discover and use word processing software, e-mail, presentation software and much more
- Learn to type using an interactive on-line program
- Explore the Internet, learn safe guidelines for Internet use, use search engines efficiently and evaluate the validity of Internet sources
- Delve into the worlds of biotechnology and construction technology, evaluating the effects that such technologies have on our world
- Explore new technologies

Materials:

Learning.com
Brainpop.com
HowSuffWorks.com
TypingMaster.com
EBSCO

Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 2

([level description on page iii](#)) Assistance is required for 10-30% of schoolwork.

Difficulty: On-Level

Health, Safety & PE 8



After successfully completing the course students should be able to comprehend the basic principles from the following Health Units:

- Nutrition
 - Leading A Healthful Life
 - Nutrition and Health
- Self Esteem
 - Body Image
 - Self Concept
- Living A Drug Free Life
 - Using the SMART Decision Making Model
 - Realizing Short and Long Term Consequences
- Body Systems II
 - Digestive and Urinary Systems
 - Immune and Hormonal Systems
 - Reproductive Systems
- Safety and Environmental Health
 - Safety in the Home and Outdoors
 - First Aid for Common Emergencies
 - Pollution and Health

In addition, Physical Education skills that are addressed and upon completion of the course should be understood include:

- Components of Fitness
- Social Dance
- Target Heart Rate and Fitness Zone II
- Training in Sport and Physical Activity II
- Movement Skills II
- Physical Activities that Promote Health and Fitness

Materials:

Glencoe: *Teen Health, Course 3*
 www.teenhealth.com
 Other Educational Websites

Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 2 ([level description on page iii](#)) Assistance is required for 10-30% of schoolwork.
Difficulty: On-Level



Electives

Career Awareness

½ year – Fall or Spring



Career Awareness is the basic Career Course for students in grades 8, 9 and 10 who are beginning to think about the world of work and how they will fit into this matrix in the future. Students will begin to look at their interests and values. They will investigate the sixteen career clusters, by conducting research into those areas of interest. They will understand why planning ahead for a career is important and how to design the steps of the career plan. Also, they will understand how to organize a job search and how to apply for a job. At the end of the course students will have a beginning portfolio documenting community service, coursework and other experiences relevant to a future career.

Materials:

Teacher Developed

Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 3 ([level description on page iii](#)) Assistance is required for 30-70% of schoolwork.
Difficulty: On-Level

Middle School Spanish A



In this course, students will:

- Be introduced to the Spanish language
- Learn vocabulary and phrases to express themselves on the subjects of friendship, school, sports, food and leisure activities
- Discover the culture of Spanish-speaking countries
- Practice beginning grammar concepts through interactive games and activities
- Develop necessary skills to listen, read, write and speak at a basic level

Students will be expected to record their voices.

Materials:

Holt: *Spanish 1A*
 Interactive websites
 Workbook Activities

Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 3 ([level description on page iii](#)) Assistance is required for 30-70% of schoolwork.
Difficulty: On-Level

Middle School Spanish B



In this course, students will:

- Begin to look at the mechanics of the Spanish language
- Learn vocabulary and phrases to express themselves on topics related to vacationing, family life, clothing and home
- Discover in depth various Spanish speaking countries and places
- Acquire necessary grammar skills and concepts to be able to read, write and listen
- Appreciate the cultural complexity of the language through interactive websites

Students will be expected to record their voices.

Materials:

Holt: *Spanish 1B*
 Interactive websites
 Workbook Activities

Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 3 ([level description on page iii](#)) Assistance is required for 30-70% of schoolwork.
Difficulty: On-Level
Prerequisite: Middle School Spanish A

Middle School French A



This is an introductory level French class. Students can expect 2-4 lessons per week and should plan to spend roughly 2 hours a week on the course. Students will learn how to record their voice and will be expected to do frequent recordings.

In this course, students will:

- Learn basic structures and vocabulary to be able to describe themselves and others
- Learn about French culture and the country of France
- Learn about areas in the world where French is spoken

Materials:

McDougal Littell: *Discovering French 1A, Première Partie*
Zut.org
Take Home Tutor CD

Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 3 ([level description on page iii](#)) Assistance is required for 30-70% of schoolwork.
Difficulty: On-Level

Middle School French B



This is an introductory level French class. Students can expect 3-5 lessons per week. Students will make voice recordings for submission.

In this course, students will:

- Build upon structures taught in French Middle A
- Learn basic grammar concepts such as conjugating verbs
- Be able to express what they and others do
- Learn about various regions of France

Materials:

McDougal Littell: *Discovering French 1A, Première Partie*
Zut.org
Take Home Tutor CD

Home Facilitator Involvement Level: 3 ([level description on page iii](#)) Assistance is required for 30-70% of schoolwork.
Difficulty: On-Level
Prerequisite: Middle School French A