

Manheim Township Middle School Educational Planning Guide 2023-2024



MISSION STATEMENT

NURTURE AND CHALLENGE FOR SUCCESS

P.O. Box 5134
Lancaster, PA 17606
717-560-3111

Administration

Principal: Dr. Christine Resh
Assistant Principal: Dr. Andrew Hull
Assistant Principal: Mrs. Megan Misnik

School Counselors

Mr. Brendan Staudt
Mrs. Kara Rogers

MTSD VISION

WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF EACH INDIVIDUAL'S POTENTIAL BY PROVIDING...

... A NURTURING LEARNING COMMUNITY THAT:

- ❖ Provides safety and mutual respect
- ❖ Stimulates curiosity and creativity
- ❖ Promotes personal integrity
- ❖ Encourages good citizenship

... A CHALLENGING LEARNING COMMUNITY THAT:

- ❖ Establishes high expectations and promotes individual achievement
- ❖ Encourages critical thinking and problem solving
- ❖ Inspires lifelong learning
- ❖ Provides opportunities for extracurricular experiences
- ❖ Facilitates collaborative communication
- ❖ Embraces the richness of diversity

SHARED VALUES

WE BELIEVE THAT OUR LEARNERS:

- ❖ Thrive best in a safe and nurturing environment
- ❖ Form strong partnerships among home, school, and community
- ❖ Approach life with strong personal convictions and ethical behavior
- ❖ Invest in their own learning
- ❖ Grow when challenged with high expectations
- ❖ Contribute to and benefit from a diverse learning community
- ❖ Embrace change and innovation

The Purpose of the Educational Planning Guide:

The purpose of the Educational Planning Guide is to provide students, parents and staff with an understanding of guidelines, policies and expectations regarding the courses offered by Manheim Township Middle School and the procedures related to scheduling of courses. The middle school curriculum represented in this guide is prepared by the middle school staff in collaboration with the district's Office of Curriculum & Instruction.

Changes to the Educational Planning Guide:

The Manheim Township School District reserves the right to alter the requirements and offerings as printed when deemed to be the result of sound educational planning or when the results are based on changes in federal, state, or local regulations. Changes that are made will be conveyed to students and parents via an addendum sheet to this guide, and/or relayed by school staff via information meetings and/or announcements.

Teaming at the Middle School:

Students at the middle school are placed on teams. Teams provide teachers with an opportunity to meet and work with the same students during the school day. Teachers provide valuable help during the year in a number of ways in addition to delivering instruction and facilitating student learning. They help students to understand homework, complete special assignments, learn rules and procedures, and to resolve certain problems that students encounter. Team teachers are valuable to have as "someone just to talk to."

Student Sectioning:

At the middle school, student placement into teams and sections is done randomly, except where learning support, Algebra, World Language, or literacy needs dictate a particular team. Within teams, heterogeneous grouping is commonly used for instructional purposes, with ability grouping in some math classes.

Schedule - Grades 7 & 8:

The basic teaching period is 50 minutes. Teams are composed of four teachers and work with five teaching sections. The team courses consist of Social Studies, English Language Arts, Science, and Math. Students may participate in up to eight related arts classes throughout the school year, and three languages are offered in grades 7 and 8: German, French, and Spanish.

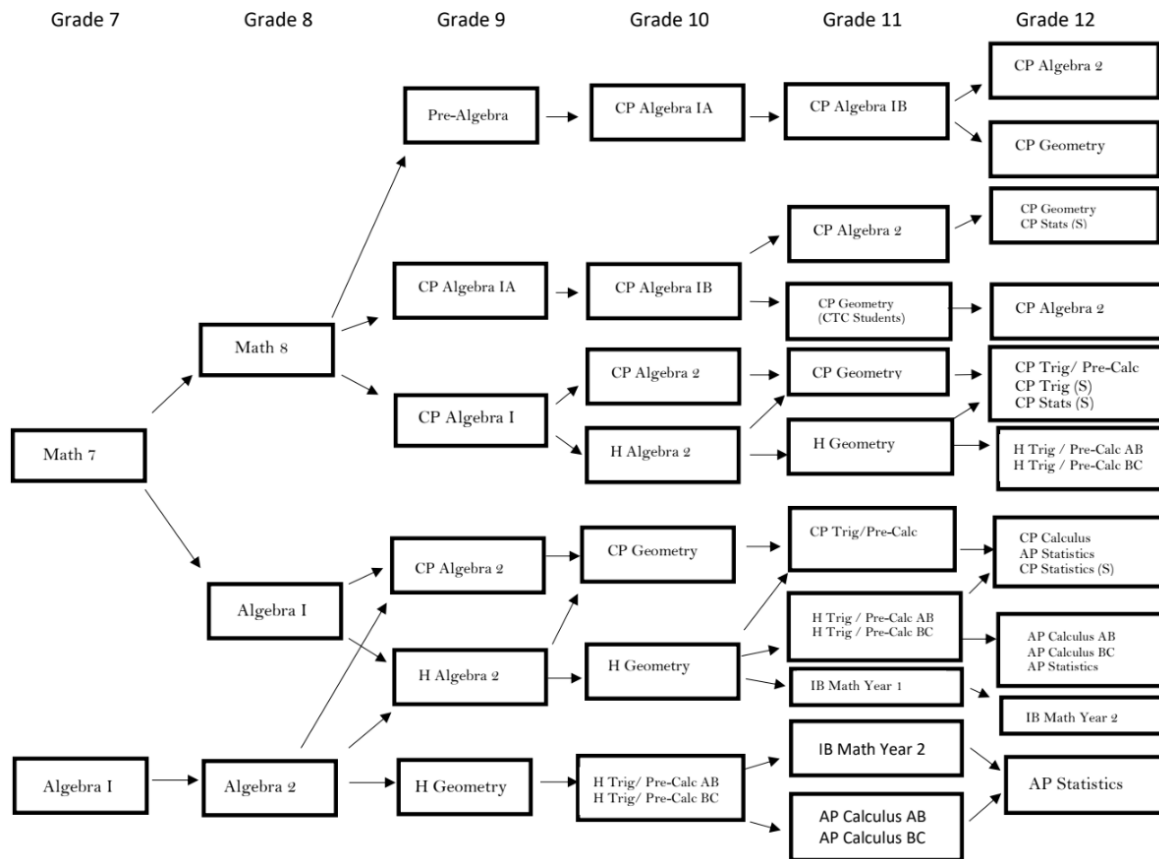
Courses of Study Grade 7:

- Art
- English Language Arts (ELA)
- Family and Consumer Science
- Math 7 or Algebra I
- Music
- Physical Education
- Literacy Extensions
- Strategic Literacy
- Science
- Social Studies
- STEM
- College and Career Readiness
- Technology Education
- Fitness and Health
- World Languages
- Math Lab

Courses of Study Grade 8:

- Art
- College and Career Readiness
- English Language Arts (ELA)
- Family and Consumer Science
- Health
- Math 8, Algebra I, or Algebra II
- Music
- Physical Education
- Science
- Social Studies
- Technology Education
- STEM
- Strategic Literacy
- Literacy Extensions
- Math Lab

Manheim Township Mathematics Flowchart Grades 7 - 12



- The choice of mathematics course for "grade 12" is fundamentally interest-based, determined on a student's future goals. Consultation with the current math teacher and school counselor is strongly recommended.
 - Students wishing to take IB Math during their junior and senior years must have completed Algebra 1, Honors Algebra 2, and Honors Geometry before entering the program.
 - Student must pass Algebra 1 or Algebra IA and Algebra IB to graduate.
 - (S) = semester course, CP = College Prep, H = Honor, AP = advanced placement, IB = International Baccalaureate
- November 2021

Grade 7 Course Descriptions

7th Grade Math

Math 7

The Pre-Algebra math course is taught to prepare students for either the Math 8 or Algebra 1 course in 8th grade. Topics in 7th grade include the real number system, ratios and proportional relationships, statistics and probability, geometry, expressions, equations, factors, angles, area, volume, surface area, fractions and exponents.

Algebra 1

Theoretical Algebra I is an advanced course combining the PA curriculums of the 7th and 8th grade PA core standards and the Keystone Algebra 1. Because it is an honors-level course, you will find that the time needed for completing homework is much greater than what you experienced in previous math courses. This is a demanding course with challenging material. It is essential that we cover the planned

curriculum for the year in order to prepare you for success in Algebra II in 8th grade. Students who earn below an 80% course average, at the time of recommendations, will be recommended to retake Honors Algebra 1 in 8th grade. Typically, recommendations occur in February.

7th Grade English Language Arts

The 7th grade English Language Arts course provides students with a rich, challenging, integrated experience in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students develop their ability to read complex texts closely and cite multiple examples of specific evidence to support their claims. They recognize the interplay between setting, plot, and characters and provide an objective summary of a text. They compare and contrast different interpretations of a topic, identifying how authors present key information and choose to highlight certain facts over others.

Seventh grade students trace the development of an argument within a text, acknowledging and responding to opposing viewpoints. They make their reasoning clear and constructively evaluate others' use of evidence while offering several sources to back up their own claims. Students continue to expand their working vocabulary, distinguishing between denotative and connotative meanings and analyzing the effect of specific word choice. As growing writers, their writing is more structured, with clear introductions and conclusions as well as useful transitions to create cohesion and clarify relationships among ideas. In this course, students will encounter both classic and contemporary texts of various genres. Additionally, students will develop their voices as writers and nurture a habit of sustained reading for pleasure.

7th Grade Science

The 7th grade Science course is designed to develop students' understanding of what science is and how science works. Students will conduct a variety of laboratory exercises and analyze an assortment of data in order to obtain an understanding of scientific processes. Students will also be introduced to a variety of science content areas in order to further enhance their scientific literacy. These content areas include but are not limited to general chemistry (properties of matter, atomic theory, the periodic table) and general biology (cellular structure, genetics, natural selection and ecology). All course content is designed to emphasize the scientific process so that students can apply their newfound knowledge to better understand the complexities of the natural world.

7th Grade Social Studies

This course introduces students to key themes and events as well as geography in the Eastern Hemisphere. Students will study and discuss the geography and culture of the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and Australia. The course begins with basic concepts of geography, culture, and community. As students examine the “non-Western world”, they will discuss important people, events, and achievements of each specific area along with a comparative analysis of religion and culture. In order to link past to present, the class will discuss the present status of these areas and cultures. Throughout the year, an emphasis will be placed on developing geography skills, critical thinking, and writing skills. The study of geography will help students to become responsible citizens of our increasingly interdependent world.

7th Grade Art

Students will experience a variety of two-dimensional mediums in the art studio, as well as, relief sculpture. Students will hone their creative thinking and problem solving skills through continuous self-reflection and reevaluation of their artwork. Students will explore principles of art to enhance their artwork, critiques, and their written response to artworks. Students will frequently discuss the artwork of various artists as the artwork relates to project themes, artistic processes, and mediums.

7th Grade Music

7th Grade General Music Class is a 9-week course designed for musicians of all levels of background and experience. Throughout the course of the marking period, students will create, perform, respond, and connect to a wide variety of music. Topics may include but are not limited to: rhythmic development, the elements of music, Western classical music history, and multicultural music.

7th Grade Family and Consumer Science

The 7th grade FCS course is designed to help students gain a better understanding of financial management, child development, and consumerism. In the Financial Resource Management unit, students will develop spending plans and participate in real-world budgeting simulations that allow them to practice making decisions between wants and needs, while building an understanding of the consequences of ineffective and effective financial management. Within our Child Development unit, students will participate in interactive and hands-on stations to learn about child growth and development, with a focus on practices that encourage physical, intellectual, emotional, and social development as well as safety. Problem-solving, communication, and teamwork will be highlighted to help students develop necessary 21st century skills, while exploring the supports available to help balance work, family, and community responsibilities.

7th Grade STEM

STEM 7 will provide students with an opportunity to integrate topics from the STEM fields as they explore and analyze real-world problems and challenges. Students will be immersed in computer science and coding and hands-on engineering challenges that allow them to investigate STEM-related careers. The content of the course will be flexible and dynamic in nature, allowing the instructor to maximize student interests, integrate with the concepts being studied in core classes, and keep the course material relevant and current due to the rapidly changing pace of technology and innovation.

7th Grade Physical Education

The Physical Education class is a seventh grade co-educational course that meets five days per week for one marking period, a total of nine weeks per school year. This course is designed to:

- Introduce a wide range of motor skills, movement patterns, knowledge, and skill-building experiences.
- Introduce movement concepts, principles, strategies and tactics.
- Promote an understanding for differences among people in physical activity settings.

- Contribute to the development of a healthy lifestyle.
- Reinforce the habit of choosing to regularly participate in physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression or social interaction.

This course meets in the gymnasium and the outside fields. The focus of the class is to teach students how to enjoy participating in various activities for the social, emotional, psychological and physical benefits provided.

7th Grade Fitness and Health

The Fitness & Health class is a seventh grade co-educational course that meets five days per week for one marking period, a total of nine weeks per school year. This course is designed to:

- Educate students on body systems and the effects exercise has on each system.
- Introduce students to different principles related to fitness.
- Provide a foundation for nutrition and the effects it has on the body.
- Introduce students to a wide range of motor skills and functional exercises.
- Teach students fundamental exercise techniques and basic workout structures.
- Apply fitness concepts learned in health class into practical use in a gym setting.

This course is divided into two different components, Fitness and Health. The Fitness aspect of the class meets in the fitness center while the Health aspect meets in a classroom.

College and Career Readiness 7

College and Career Readiness 7 is designed for every student, regardless of whether you generally find school difficult or are simply looking for ways to maximize your study time. Strategies in this course are simple and student-friendly, allowing you to achieve a great balance between being a successful student and living a fun, enriched life. This 9-week course will focus on the following topics: goal setting, prioritization, and time management, learning strategies and ways to study, note-taking and test-taking strategies, career exploration, typing and digital citizenship.

7th Grade Technology Education

This course provides students the opportunity to use problem-solving skills in order to complete two major units. Both units show students how engineers use the engineering design process to solve problems. The first unit will involve learning basic block code to control robots. The students will learn skills and then apply them to solve challenges with their robot. The second unit students will design and build, using materials and tools, a course for their robot to complete.

7th Grade Literacy Extensions

Literacy Extensions will include opportunities for students to further develop their reading, writing, speaking, and listening proficiency. Sample units may include: literature circles, podcasting, film analysis, creative writing, etc. All students will be scheduled into an ELA class where they will meet the requirements for English Language Arts in the grade level. The students in this course will further develop their proficiency through additional practice.

7th Grade Strategic Literacy

This course will provide reading intervention. Research based best practices, including the use of a research based program and materials, that will support our students in becoming proficient readers. This intervention course will give students the strategies to be successful in their grade-level classes. Using research-based practices and highly engaging texts, the interventions will address gaps in fluency, decoding, reading stamina, and comprehension, aiming to move struggling students to higher levels of proficiency at the end of one year.

This course is a supplemental course designed to provide additional practice in reading, writing, listening, and speaking as outlined in the PA Core Standards. Students will have access to:

- Units that connect to various genres including a full-length novel and a selection of poetry, short stories, and/or nonfiction;
- Reading materials that vary in genre and complexity and expose students to realistic reading demands for secondary school;
- Debate(s) related to the unit's guiding question;
- Comprehension and decoding workbooks that guide partner work; and
- Daily lesson plans that help teachers deliver effective mini-lessons and lead guided reading discussion.

Grade 8 Course Descriptions

8th Grade Math

Math 8

The 8th grade Introduction to Algebra contains topics necessary for the successful pursuit of Algebra 1 at the High School. Topics in Introduction to Algebra include rational and irrational numbers, expressions and equations, linear relationships, functions, geometry, right triangles, volume, and data.

Algebra 1

Theoretical Algebra I is an advanced course combining the PA curriculums of the 8th grade PA Core Standards and the Keystone Algebra 1. Because it is an honors-level course, you will find that the time needed for completing homework is much greater than what you experienced in Pre-Algebra. This is a demanding course with challenging material. It is essential that we cover the planned curriculum for the year in order to prepare you for success in Algebra II at the high school. Students who earn below a 70% course average, at the time of high school recommendations, will be recommended to retake Algebra 1 in 9th grade. Typically, recommendations occur in February.

Algebra 2

Theoretical Algebra 2 is an advanced course combining the PA curriculums of the 8th grade PA Core Standards and the Algebra 2 curriculum. Because it is similar to the high school level honors course, you will find that the time needed for completing homework is about the same or greater than Algebra 1. This is a demanding course with challenging material. It is essential that we cover the planned curriculum for the year in order to prepare for success at the high school. Students who earn above an 80% course average, at the time of high school recommendations, will be recommended to take Honors Geometry in 9th grade. Typically, recommendations occur in February.

8th Grade English Language Arts

In 8th grade English Language Arts, students will grapple with high-quality, complex, nonfiction texts and great works of literature. The focus of informational texts will shift from narrative to expository. Students will learn how to cite textual evidence supporting an analysis, or critique. Students will learn how to question an author's assumptions, and assess the accuracy of the author's claims. Students will read closely, and find evidence to use in their own writing; additionally, they will analyze two or more texts that provide conflicting information on the same topic, and identify whether the disagreement is over facts, or interpretation. They will analyze how point of view can be manipulated to create specific effects (such as dramatic irony), and investigate how particular passages within certain texts connect to one another to advance the plot, reveal a character, or highlight an idea. Throughout their academic career, students have developed a strong vocabulary of academic words; they will use this to speak and write with more precision. Their writing will continue to grow, focusing on organizing ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories; choosing relevant facts well; and using varied transitions to clarify or show the relationships among elements.

8th Grade Science

Throughout the course, students will learn how scientific information is acquired through participation in a variety of learning experiences. Students will deepen and build upon their existing knowledge of chemistry, physics and earth science concepts throughout the course. The emphasis for the 8th grade course is on Earth Science and includes the study of Earth's atmosphere, meteorology, astronomy, and geology.

8th Grade Social Studies

This course emphasizes the geographic, economic, political, and social foundations of the early United States of America. The study of our existence as an independent nation utilizes a chronological approach to the Revolutionary War, the development of the US Constitution, the lifestyles of the 1800s, the Civil War, and culminates with Reconstruction. Primary and secondary sources are integral to the course and are used to ensure that each student develops skills in gathering and analyzing data, artifacts, and a variety of other sources. These skills will enable students to draw conclusions based upon a wide and comprehensive range of perspectives and sources. The overarching course theme is: How do competing ideas of freedom cause conflict and compromise in US history?

8th Grade Art

8th Grade Art will grow students' knowledge about artistic practice in 7th grade, and serve as an introduction to three-dimensional design for foundation art courses taken at the high school. Students will experience a variety of three-dimensional mediums in the 8th grade art studio of ceramics and mixed-media sculpture utilizing recycled materials, found objects, paper mache, metal, wood, plaster, natural items, and more. They will develop refined craftsmanship through the implementation of the elements of art and principles of design in their projects, participate in formal and informal critiques to assess the artwork in class and by master and contemporary artists, develop their literacy skills through various writing and reading art activities, discuss and evaluate the value and aesthetics of art, and be introduced to art history throughout time across varying cultures. Careers in the arts will be explored as it relates to chosen project themes, artistic processes, techniques, and mediums. Students will utilize the "Studio Habits of Mind" throughout each stage of the art-making process to develop essential life skills such as creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, persistence, reflection, and more. All will be encouraged to take "artistic risks" in our safe and welcoming learning environment to hone a growth mindset. By the end of the course, students shall have a stronger appreciation and understanding of three-dimensional art forms and the relationships between art and life.

8th Grade Music

8th Grade General Music Class is a 9-week course designed for musicians of all levels of background and experience. Throughout the course of the marking period, students will create, perform, respond, and connect to a wide variety of music. Along with rhythmic development, multicultural music, American pop music history, and composition, class guitar instruction is included as part of the 8th grade music curriculum.

8th Grade Family and Consumer Science

The 8th grade FCS course is designed to provide students with a better understanding of nutrition and practical living skills. During the quarter, students study nutrients, energy and calories, and how changing those factors can affect the body. Understanding how to read food labels helps students to become aware not only of what is in their food, but also how serving sizes can be deceiving. Students will build upon the consumerism skills learned in FCS 7 by studying food waste and sustainability, and by practicing the independent living tasks of meal planning and preparation while grocery shopping within a budget. Students will also examine the influence of geographic, climatic, and cultural factors on food customs around the world. At the culmination of most units, students will participate in hands-on learning experiences in the kitchen to create recipes that pertain to the unit of study. This will reinforce the concepts learned throughout the unit by creating a unique and dynamic learning experience.

College and Career Readiness 8

This course is designed for students to develop essential skills and knowledge necessary to understand the importance of planning for their futures. Through learning activities, students will develop the interpersonal, social, employability skills and competencies, as well as a strong work ethic necessary to participate in an ever-changing global economy.

8th Grade Fitness and Physical Education

The Fitness & PE class is an eighth grade co-educational course that meets five days per week for one marking period, a total of nine weeks per school year. This course is designed to:

- Introduce a wide range of motor skills and functional exercises.
- Introduce students to different principles related to fitness.
- Teach fundamental exercise techniques and basic workout structures.
- Introduce movement concepts, principles, strategies and tactics.
- Contribute to the development of a healthy lifestyle.
- Reinforce the idea of participating regularly in physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression or social interaction.
- Cooperative skill development through small-sided team play.

This course is divided into two different components, Fitness and Physical Education. The Fitness aspect of the class meets in the fitness center while the PE aspect meets in a gymnasium or outside field.

8th Grade Health

Health class is an eighth grade co-educational course that meets five days per week for one marking period, a total of nine weeks per school year. This course is designed to assist students in living a healthy lifestyle by exploring teen-related health topics such as:

- Dimensions of Health
- Safety
- Body Systems
- Endocrine System & Puberty
- Reproductive Systems
- Sex Education
- Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco

8th Grade Technology Education: Graphic Design

This course explores the various elements and principles of design and how they fit together to make good compositions while using the latest technical tools available to you today. Students will be exploring Gimp. What is gimp? It is a GNU Manipulation Program. The course is about the organization of visual information. Students will learn the basics of how to control what people see when they look at your project. These basic design principles (Proximity, Alignment, Repetition and Contrast) are the foundation upon which all of the subtleties of Graphic Design are based. Basic design principles are fundamental, not simple. They are extensive, complex and surprisingly specific. It is important to learn these fundamentals before attempting more advanced design. Like anything, the stronger the foundation, the better the structure that can be built upon it.

8th Grade Literacy Extensions

Literacy Extensions will include opportunities for students to further develop their reading, writing, speaking, and listening proficiency. Sample units may include: literature circles, podcasting, film analysis, creative writing, etc. All students will be scheduled into an ELA class where they will meet the requirements for English Language Arts in the grade level. The students in this course will further develop their proficiency through additional practice.

8th Grade Strategic Literacy

This course will provide reading intervention. Research based best practices, including the use of a research based program and materials, that will support our students in becoming proficient readers. This intervention course will give students the strategies to be successful in their grade-level classes. Using research-based practices and highly engaging texts, the interventions will address gaps in fluency, decoding, reading stamina, and comprehension, aiming to move struggling students to higher levels of proficiency at the end of one year.

This course is a supplemental course designed to provide additional practice in reading, writing, listening, and speaking as outlined in the PA Core Standards. Students will have access to:

- Units that connect to various genres including a full-length novel and a selection of poetry, short stories, and/or nonfiction;
- Reading materials that vary in genre and complexity and expose students to realistic reading demands for secondary school;
- Debate(s) related to the unit's guiding question;
- Comprehension and decoding workbooks that guide partner work; and
- Daily lesson plans that help teachers deliver effective mini-lessons and lead guided reading discussion.

STEM 8

STEM will provide students with an opportunity to integrate topics from the STEM fields as they explore and analyze a real world problem to design a solution. This solution will use computational artifacts to present awareness of the problem, promote possible prototypes of solutions and gain entrepreneurial experience in responding to feedback.

The content of the course will be flexible (eg. responsible consumption and disposal of electronic waste, sustainable communities and cities, or affordable and clean energy) and dynamic in nature, allowing the instructor to maximize student interests, to integrate with the concepts being studied in core classes, and to keep the course relevant and current due to the rapidly changing pace of technology and innovation.

Math Lab 7 & 8

This year-long math course would give students the opportunity to see themselves as mathematicians and to be supported in their continued learning in this subject area. The course will support the content and standards being covered in their core math course. It will meet students where they are and work to close any gaps and offer support in areas of difficulty through a variety of instructional methods including but not limited to hands-on manipulatives, concrete-representational-abstract ([CRA math](#)), low floor-high ceiling math tasks, math fluency practices, mountain math, and math talk. These methods are supported by research to help students succeed and help to address gaps in foundational knowledge.

This will be a course offered to students in 7th grade (Math Lab 7) and 8th grade (Math Lab 8). Need will be determined through student data (PSSAs, STAR 360, local assessments) and teacher recommendation.

Grade 7-8 World Language Course Descriptions

Spanish Immersion 7 & 8

In this course, conducted entirely in Spanish, the students will continue to immerse themselves in the language and culture as they learn and practice new vocabulary and grammar. They will also read and analyze popular pieces of literature from authors throughout the Spanish-speaking world. They will continue to communicate verbally and in written form on a variety of topics. Students will review content from Manheim Township Spanish 1 and 2 curriculum as needed.

Spanish 7

In this introductory course, students will learn the 5 Cs of World Language Acquisition: Communication, Culture, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities. Students will learn to communicate, verbally and in written form, at a novice level using simple sentences with appropriate grammar and common vocabulary about topics such as greetings and good-byes, weather conditions, school and academic life, colors, numbers, foods and beverages, etc. Students will understand the Hispanic influence in the United States, will learn about the cultures of Mexico and Puerto Rico, and will learn about the current events that impact Spanish-speaking countries.

Spanish 8

In this introductory course, students will learn the 5 Cs of World Language Acquisition: Communication, Culture, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities. Students will learn to communicate, verbally and in written form, at a novice level using simple sentences with appropriate grammar and common vocabulary about topics such as family, shopping, restaurants, clothing, household items and furniture, planning a party and chores, sports, and the cultures of Puerto Rico, Spain, Ecuador and Chile.

German 7

In this introductory course in the first half of level 1 German students will learn to communicate at a novice level using simple sentences and common vocabulary about topics such as school, telling time, numbers, colors, professions, sports and leisure activities, and culture pertaining to German-speaking countries and areas.

German 8

In this introductory course in the second half of level 1 German students will learn to communicate at a novice level using simple sentences and common vocabulary about topics such as school, leisure activities, expressing wishes, languages, where things are from, music, and culture pertaining to German-speaking countries and areas.

French 7

7th grade French provides students with the necessary foundation for speaking, writing, reading, and aurally understanding the French language. Students will be exposed to Francophone countries and their cultures, including, but not limited to, France, Québec, and French-speaking Africa. Upon successful completion of 7th grade French, students will be able to express themselves through both the spoken and written word, and will be able to understand conversations pertaining to the following themes: greetings & personal introductions, school, sports, dining, and leisure activities.

French 8

8th grade French provides students with the necessary foundation for speaking, writing, reading, and aurally understanding the French language. Students will be exposed to Francophone countries and their cultures, including, but not limited to, France, Québec, and French-speaking Africa. Upon successful completion of 8th grade French, students will be able to express themselves through both the spoken and written word, and will be able to understand conversations pertaining to the following themes: family, grocery shopping & food, phone etiquette & conversations, and clothing.

Learning Support: Core Classes

The core (English Language Arts and Mathematics) academic courses for special education students are listed in the individual content areas. These courses are designed to provide services for students who require services primarily in the areas of reading, writing, and/or math.

Core Values

The purpose of Academic Support is to reinforce the regular education classroom instruction. Organizational strategies, study skills, and support for coursework.

Social Skills

This course is designed to help assist students based on their specific academic needs in developing their social and emotional skills to successfully acclimate to educational and community settings. Students will work on improving their ability to communicate with others and to establish and maintain relationships with others. They will focus on developing skills such as self-advocacy, dealing with difficult situations, time management, organization skills, and interpersonal relationships.

Gifted Education

Excel 7 & 8

Middle school students with an active Gifted Individualized Education Plan (GIEP) have the course, Excel (Gifted Support), scheduled in lieu of one block of a related class. The Excel class is designed to extend the regular education curriculum by increasing the depth and breadth of the state standards.. Excel programming provides opportunities for students to construct and use their knowledge effectively and innovatively through various hands-on and minds-on explorations while being appropriately

grouped with their intellectual peers. The program utilizes differentiated instruction to address students' strengths, interests and learning styles. Additional opportunities available to gifted students include research, contests, competitions, independent studies, and specialized activities. Excel provides support services for use in the regular education program, acceleration in appropriate areas, and extra-curricular extension activities. Students who take Excel 7 or Excel 8 will take four related arts classes a year, two required and two of the student's choosing.

Grade 7-8 Music Performing Group Course Descriptions

Chorus (Grades 7 & 8)

In this course, students will have an opportunity to perform and study a wide variety of choral literature. A strong emphasis will be placed on improving individual music reading ability and vocal production. Evaluative criteria will include: attendance at school-scheduled concerts, completion of music reading proficiencies, and rehearsal contribution, involvement, and preparation. Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, students enrolled in Chorus are required to attend small group rehearsals (sectionals) six times per marking period according to a rotating "pull-out" schedule. Students must also attend two mandatory concerts and dress rehearsals (winter and spring), which are published on the official district calendar.

Concert Band (Grades 7 & 8)

Symphonic Band provides students who study traditional band and percussion instruments the chance to discover, analyze, and perform both traditional and contemporary band music, as well as to improve their own individual skills on their chosen instrument. Students will develop critical and creative thinking skills in the following areas: aural awareness, individual playing skills, and ensemble precision and balance. Students with previous experience on traditional band instruments (flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium/baritone, tuba and percussion) are automatically admitted to the Symphonic Band. All students enrolled in Symphonic Band are required to attend small group rehearsals (sectionals) one time per week according to a rotating "pull out" schedule. Students must also attend two mandatory concerts (winter and spring), which are published on the official district calendar.

Orchestra (Grades 7 & 8)

This course provides students of orchestral string instruments (violin, viola, cello and string bass) an opportunity to study and perform varied styles of orchestra music as well as develop individual performance skills. Students with previous experience on string instruments will receive automatic entrance into the group. Students enrolled in Orchestra are required to attend small group rehearsals (sectionals) one time per week according to a rotating "pull-out" schedule. Students must also attend two mandatory concerts (winter and spring), which are published on the official district calendar.

