

Junior High School

Program of Studies



Community, Excellence, Character

2023 - 2024
Grades 7 and 8

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents	1
The Purpose of the Program of Studies	3
English Department	4
Social Studies Department	5
Mathematics Department	5
Science Department	6
Humanities Rotations	9

The Purpose of the Program of Studies

The purpose of the Program of Studies is to outline the courses offered at the junior high school. Students and their families can use the Program of Studies to plan their academic classes for their junior and senior high school experience. Each course offered is listed by department and includes a brief description of the course and corresponding credit. Students in the junior high school have several classes that they are required to take each year along with an offering of elective classes. As students explore the courses in this Program of Studies, please be aware that teacher assignments to courses change year to year and are not guaranteed.

Many of the courses offered have specific requirements which may include prerequisite courses and the achievement of a specific percentage grade. These specific requirements are listed either by course or by department. Another important aspect to consider is that some elective courses listed in the Program of Studies might not be scheduled every year. To ensure that there are options available, be sure to choose an alternate selection if a class is not available.

By working together with students, parents, teachers, counselors, and administrators, we can create an academic plan for all students to achieve excellence. Please review all of the course offerings with your parent(s)/ guardian(s) and contact the Guidance Office with any questions you have about the scheduling process. As a team, consider your own plans for the future, teacher recommendations, and ability levels to choose the right education program for you. We are here to support you in making these choices.

Scheduling will take place throughout the spring semester using PowerSchool SIS. Please check on your Student/Parent Portal for course registration and other updates.

ENGLISH

ENGLISH 7

Seventh grade English is designed to develop students' communication skills. Grammar, vocabulary, spelling, and mechanics are covered to improve students' speaking and writing skills. An emphasis is given to the development of text dependent analysis based on a variety of literary genres. Throughout the year, students will read fiction and nonfiction selections and will gain an understanding of literary elements, such as theme, conflict, and characterization.

ENGLISH 8

English 8 is a course that focuses on the continued development of reading, writing, listening and speaking skills using a variety of approaches. Through units devoted to the active reading of short stories, novels, and drama, the student will participate in activities and discussions in order to comprehend and analyze literature. Students will also learn to communicate effectively through written expression, including how to utilize textual evidence. Students are expected and encouraged to develop their skills each day with the emphasis upon mastery and success.

ACADEMIC ENGLISH 8

Academic English 8 is a course that challenges the student to explore the areas of literature, and refine grammar, writing, speaking and listening skills. Through units devoted to the active reading of short stories, novels, and drama, the student will participate in activities and discussions in order to comprehend and analyze literature. Students will also practice the skills involved in utilizing textual evidence. Students are expected and encouraged to develop their skills each and every day with the emphasis upon mastery and success.

SCHOLARS ENGLISH 8

Scholars English 8 is a course that involves the study and mastery of advanced concepts attendant to the language arts skills. Concentrated and accelerated areas of study will involve reading, writing, speaking, critical thinking, research, and listening skills. Students will also refine the skills involved in utilizing textual evidence. This course is for excellent readers who are independent, self-reliant, and highly motivated. A summer reading and writing assignment, due on the first day of class, are required of all who enroll in the Scholars course

READING 7

Reading 7 is a required course designed to enhance and improve all reading skills. This course will provide targeted, systematic instruction for comprehension strategies and skills for developing reading independence. Targeted literacy skills such as context clues, author's purpose, affixes, predictions, text structure, making inferences, character and point of view will be addressed through the use of technology, direct instruction and the use of both literature and informational text. Instruction will focus on the foundational skills for reading (phonemic awareness, phonics, decoding/encoding) in addition to comprehension, vocabulary and writing. A variety of challenging texts will provide the opportunity to apply these skills to critical analysis and response. A reading technology program (Accelerated Reader) is utilized to provide a wide choice of independent reading opportunities and measure individual student's academic growth.

READING 8

Reading 8 is a course designed to enhance and improve all reading skills. This course will provide targeted, systematic instruction for comprehension strategies and skills for developing reading independence. Targeted literacy skills such as context clues, author's purpose, affixes, predictions, text structure, making inferences, fact and opinion, sound devices, and paraphrasing will be addressed through the use of technology, direct instruction and the use of both literature and informational text. Instruction will focus on the foundational skills for reading (phonemic awareness, phonics, decoding/encoding) in addition to comprehension, vocabulary and writing. A variety of challenging texts will provide the opportunity to apply these skills to critical analysis and response. A reading technology program (Accelerated Reader) is utilized to provide a wide choice of independent reading opportunities and measure individual student's academic growth.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

WORLD HISTORY I

World History I is a required course for all seventh grade students. The course is a survey of the growth and development of civilization and society from Mesopotamia to the Middle Ages. A research project may be used to enhance the objectives of the course.

WORLD HISTORY II

World History II is a required course for students in grade 8. The course focuses on human geography across the globe. Students will compare and contrast foreign cultures to American culture. A research project may be used to enhance the objectives of the course.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

The Mathematics Department offers two levels of study to Carlynton students in the 7th and 8th grades.

The **Academic** level of study is designed for all students. The curriculum is aligned to the PA state standards.

The **Scholars** level of study is designed for the students who have demonstrated strength in mathematics. The curriculum for this level is based on the requirements of a student who is going to move through the Scholars level math classes throughout high school.

MATHEMATICS COURSE SEQUENCE

	Academic	Scholars
Grade 7	Math 7	Pre-Algebra
Grade 8	Math 8	Algebra 1-S

MATHEMATICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

MATH 7

This course prepares students for the seventh grade PSSA test. The five major topics covered include numbers and operations, measurement, geometry, algebraic concepts, and data analysis. An emphasis is placed on problem solving and test taking strategies.

Prerequisites: Placement based on math rubric as approved by the District.

Recommended placement for successive school year:

Algebra 1-S	95 – 100% ** and advanced 7 th grade PSSA Math score.
Math 8	60 - 94%
Math 7/If student is held in 7th grade	0 - 59%

** Placement into Algebra 1-S from Math 7 will require the completion of a summer assignment.

PRE-ALGEBRA

This is an accelerated math course for the seventh grade students who have fulfilled the placement requirement. See prerequisites for Pre Algebra requirements. The course will prepare students for entry into Algebra 1-S and for the seventh grade PSSA test. The topics covered include numbers and operations, measurement, geometry, algebraic concepts, and data analysis. There is also a focus on the development of algebra and reasoning skills.

Prerequisites: Placement for Pre-Algebra Scholars based on 6th grade PSSA exam scores. final grade of 85 to 100% in 6th grade math, and teacher evaluations. Students must score proficient or advanced on the 6th grade math PSSA exam.

Upon completion of Pre-Algebra, recommended placement for successive school year:

Algebra 1-S	80 - 100% and a proficient or advanced 7 th grade PSSA Math score.
Math 8	60 - 79%
Math 7	0 - 59%

MATH 8

This course is designed to prepare the student for success on the eighth grade PSSA and to provide the student with the mathematical competency to transition into high school math. Topics studied begin with real numbers. Solving, graphing, and analyzing singular and systems of linear equations is studied next. Representing, constructing, and comparing functions and data follows. Geometry topics culminate the year with the study of congruence, similarity, right triangles, area and volume. Each unit is aligned to grade 8 common core standards for mathematical content and standards for mathematical practice.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Math 7 with a grade of **60%** or higher.

Upon completion of Math 8, recommended placement for successive school year.

Algebra 1	60-100% and proficient/advanced on 8th grade PSSA
Algebra Co-Taught	60 - 100% and a basic or below basic 8 th grade PSSA Math Score.
Repeat Math 8/If student is held in 8th grade	0 - 59%

ALGEBRA I - SCHOLARS

This is a highly-accelerated course for the eighth grade scholar student and is designed to prepare the student for success on two standardized tests, the eighth grade PSSA and on the Algebra 1 Keystone exam. Content begins with the study of real numbers. Solving, graphing, and analyzing singular and systems of linear equations is studied next. Representing, constructing, and comparing functions and data follows. Geometry topics, including the study of congruence, similarity, right triangles, area and volume are also studied. The year is concluded with the study of polynomials, exponents, and radicals. Each unit is aligned to grade 8 common core standards for mathematical content and standards for mathematical practice.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Pre-Algebra with a grade of **80%** or higher and a proficient or advanced 7th grade PSSA Math score.

Upon completion of Algebra 1, recommended placement for successive school year:

Geometry-S	80 - 100%
Geometry	60 - 79%
Math 8 /If student is held in 8th grade)	0 - 59%

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

SCIENCE 7

This is a full year course that will be broken down into three parts. The first unit of study involves using the scientific method, problem solving, measuring, using SI units, graphics, and converting between units. The second unit of study involves the classification of matter, atomic structure, the periodic table, properties of elements and chemical bonding. The third unit of study involves motion, forces, energy, machines, and thermal energy. This course may contain quizzes, tests, lab reports, various activities and projects that meet the academic standards and are used for evaluation purposes.

SCIENCE 8

This is a full year course that will focus on concepts to provide a strong foundation for students as they prepare for the Biology Keystone Exam. The course will focus on areas of study that will adhere to the assessment anchors and eligible content specified by Module A & Module B on the Keystone Exams. These include: Basic Biological Principles of Life, Biochemistry, Cell Structure and Function, Cell Transport and Homeostasis, Bioenergetics, Cell Growth and Reproduction, Genetics, DNA and Protein Synthesis, Evolution, Ecology. Homework, class activities, quizzes, projects, tests and labs may be used in the grading process.

HUMANITIES

WELLNESS I

This course offers extensive information on important issues facing our youth today. Topics addressed are wellness, healthful eating and nutrition, substance abuse - tobacco, alcohol and drugs, and communicable diseases including HIV/AIDS. In addition, students learn ways to cope with peer pressure and the challenges of everyday life.

WELLNESS II

This course offers extensive information on important issues facing our youth today. Topics addressed are mental and emotional health and stress management, healthy relationships, resolving conflict and preventing violence and HIV/AIDS. In addition, students learn ways to cope with peer pressure and the challenges of everyday life.

SPANISH 1

Designed to introduce students to the fascinating world of learning Spanish. The ultimate goal of learning a language is to be able to communicate with different peoples and cultures foreign to our own and to function in an environment that speaks that language. Therefore, basic grammar and conversation is taught through accomplishing real world tasks in conjunction with learning about the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. The lessons and thematic units will revolve around the ACTFL National Foreign Language Standards. The focus of this course and the program is on proficiency in the language in all areas. Emphasis is placed on further building Spanish vocabulary, oral communication in real life situations, cultural understanding and awareness, listening comprehension, writing proficiency and the skills to succeed in a Spanish II course.

Prerequisites: 8th grade students, who have scored proficient or advanced on the 7th Grade English PSSA and have earned a 70% or higher in both reading and English, may elect to take Spanish I. Language level classes may have both junior and senior high students present in the

class.

FRENCH 1

This class provides an introduction to the French language and culture of French speaking countries. Emphasis is placed on listening, speaking, reading, and writing French. In it, students will communicate in French as often as possible and demonstrate an understanding of practices, products, and perspectives of cultures of French-speaking areas.

Prerequisites: 8th grade students, who have scored proficient or advanced on the 7th Grade English PSSA and have earned a 70% or higher in both reading and English, may elect to take French I. Language level classes may have both junior and senior high students present in the class.

JUNIOR HIGH CHORUS

This course is designed to give seventh grade students the opportunity to experience choral singing in soprano, alto, and baritone voice parts. (Occasionally, the boys will split into tenor and bass parts.) Students will develop the ability to use and understand music language and symbols as well as performance etiquette. Students will achieve the mastery of proper vocal techniques, respond emotionally to music, learn music vocabulary, and perform individually and in cooperation with others. Students will also perform a variety of styles of repertoires and explore the relevant history and related arts. Students will learn to manipulate music materials as well as make critical and aesthetic evaluations of their performance. **Participation in two scheduled performances is required.** Students must be enrolled in 6th grade chorus to enroll in 7th grade or be invited by the director to register for the course. Students must maintain an **85% or higher** in 7th grade in order to enroll in 8th grade.

JUNIOR HIGH BAND

This course will emphasize the elements of music, with a focus on scales. The students will learn to read, perform and manipulate the musical elements involved in the concert and wind ensemble repertoire.

Course Requirements

- Were Members of the Elementary School Bands
- Invited By the Director to Register for the Course
- Successfully Auditioned for Placement in the Course

JUNIOR HIGH PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

This course will emphasize the elements of music with a focus on performance. The student will learn to read, perform, and manipulate the musical elements involved in the percussion ensemble repertoire. There will be a special emphasis placed upon snare, mallet, and timpani technique, in addition to a variety of auxiliary percussion techniques.

Prerequisites: Junior High Percussion ensemble is open to students in grades 7 through 8 who were members of the Elementary School Bands, invited by the director to register for the course, or successfully auditioned for placement in the course.

The Humanities courses listed below make up the 7th and 8th grade courses for the junior high rotation schedule. The courses offered in the final rotation will vary depending on the master schedule.

Physical Education 7

The fitness components of seventh grade physical education consist of health and skill-performance factors. Through specialized activities such as swimming, team and lifetime sports. Students will be expected to perform basic and complex movement patterns effectively. Each student is expected to interact with others in game situations, while demonstrating good sportsmanship, cooperation, courtesy and knowledge of game rules.

Physical Education 8

This course is structured the same as Physical Education 7, with skills taken to a higher level and additional activities introduced.

ART 7

This course will trace the journey of art through time, from prehistoric to present day. Students will use knowledge of cultures and artistic styles to impact their own work. Projects are designed in a way which enables every student to achieve success and enjoy the art process. Students will gain an appreciation and awareness of the significance of art through time and be able to recognize artistic developments and styles and their connections to times and places. Students will also be introduced to various techniques and media, which they will apply in creating their own artwork.

ART 8

This course exposes students to the life and work of various artists from history and modern day. They will use this inspiration to express themselves in creating original artwork, using a variety of techniques and materials. Reading and writing strategies will be incorporated with hands-on projects, including drawing, painting, and collage.

7th GRADE SPANISH and FRENCH EXPLORATION

This course provides an introduction to the Spanish and French languages and cultures of the many different French-speaking and Spanish-speaking countries. Emphasis is placed upon listening, speaking, reading, and writing in the target language. In it, students will communicate in Spanish and French as often as possible and demonstrate an understanding of the practices, products, and perspectives of the cultures of different French-speaking and Spanish-speaking countries. If students are successful in this course, are proficient or advanced on their 7th grade PSSA, and earn at least a 70% in both reading and English, they may choose to study French I or Spanish I during their 8th grade year.

MUSIC 7

This course is designed to expose students to all aspects of music and to focus upon music appreciation, expression, style, form, movement and tone color. These elements are enhanced through a subscription to "Music Alive" and music current events in our local area and worldwide.

MUSIC 8

This course is a continuation and enhancement of methods and techniques developed in Music 7. Additional elements will be addressed in the curriculum. Enrichment will be addressed through the “Music Alive” and “In Tune” magazines as well as various current musical events.

COMPUTERS - Digital Citizenship 7

This introductory course is designed for students to gain knowledge and understanding of how to appropriately use technology and applications. Students will use Google iKeepSafe / Be Internet Awesome curriculum to explore Digital Citizenship concepts, such as internet safety, sharing information online, privacy, security, cyberbullying, and digital footprints. Additionally, students will develop introductory computer skills by learning applications including Google Docs and Google Slides to learn the Power Skills needed to succeed in the 21st-century global world.

COMPUTERS - Google Applied Digital Skills 8

In this course, students will complete various activities and units from the Google Applied Digital Skills Curriculum, which is aligned with the ISTE standards and focuses on developing skills for an evolving job market. This project-based course incorporates collaboration, research, and data analysis using web tools such as Google Docs, Slides, and Sheets. Upon completion, students will be able to apply their skills to relevant real-life situations by creating an interactive slide show and a family newsletter.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION 7

This course introduces students to the world of computer programming. Students will gain basic knowledge on how to code using preset variables, if then statements, and functions. Students will use Scratch Coding Software to program Bee Bot robots to perform different actions and tasks. This course will help students develop skills in collaboration, creativity, problem solving and computational thinking.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION 8

This course builds on the knowledge and skills gained in the Technology Education 7 course. Students will continue to use Scratch software to learn about programming and coding on a more complex level. Students will engage in collaboration, computational thinking, and problem solving to program more advanced robots, such as Finch and Hummingbirds, to perform in depth functions and tasks.

CAREER EXPLORATION

This course is designed to enable the student to make informed career decisions. Each student will take an interest inventory to determine individual abilities and interests. Based on the survey results, the student will conduct research in order to explore appropriate occupations in the world of work. In addition, training requirements and post-secondary training facilities will be investigated. Both classroom and computer resources will be implemented.

LIFE MANAGEMENT 8

This course is designed to introduce students to Family and Consumer Sciences. Areas included in the course are basic finances, clothing care, sewing machines, basic kitchen safety, nutrition, babysitting, and communication/working with peers. Students will explore each area by completing projects and activities.

CHASING EXCELLENCE

Students who are struggling are often told to study more, set goals, persevere, and motivate themselves. Often, they're not shown *how* to do these things. In this course, students will read about, discuss, and put into action concepts such as: growth vs fixed mindset, determining your *why*, setting and monitoring goals, monitoring your stress bank, how to get rid of negative habits, how to develop, incorporate, and maintain positive habits, how to develop intrinsic motivation, being your own biggest cheerleader and best self, positive ways to deal with negativity, getting comfortable with the uncomfortable, challenges, and failure, focusing on what you can control vs what you can't control, and letting go of the "pass/fail" mentality in order to learn and successfully chase excellence. Incorporating these concepts into their lives will help students to grow both academically and personally. Not only will this course help middle school students adjust to a new academic environment, but the skills can continue to have a positive impact for years to come.

MATH 7 EXTENSION

This course is an extension of Math 7 and Pre Algebra 7. Each week the teacher will focus on the topics being discussed in Math 7 and Pre Algebra class and relate the topics to real world problems with in-class assignments and activities. This course will prepare students for the seventh grade PSSA test. The five major topics covered include numbers and operations, measurement, geometry, algebraic concepts, and data analysis. An emphasis is placed on problem solving and test taking strategies.

MATH 8 EXTENSION

This course is a supplement to the Math 8 and Algebra I-S curriculum. The class will consist of in-class assignments and activities to help prepare students for the 8th grade PSSA test. Subjects of study will include but are not limited to: Stem and Leaf Plots, Box and Whisker Plots, Frequency and and Relative Frequency Two Way Tables, Qualitative Graphs, and Transformations.

STEAM EXPLORATION 7

In a rapidly developing technological society, today's students are charged with finding solutions to issues that require strong communication, problem solving, critical thinking, working cooperatively with diverse groups, resolving conflicts and taking responsibility for one's own learning, STEAM Exploration will provide students with introductory look into computer programming, engineering, mathematical reasoning and other resources necessary to solve these complex problems.