

**PAXON HOLLOW MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM GUIDE**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Introduction ..... 2  
Administration..... 2  
Counselors..... 2  
Promotion ..... 2

**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

6<sup>TH</sup> Grade Courses ..... 3  
    Reading ..... 3  
    English ..... 3  
    Social Studies ..... 4  
    Mathematics..... 5  
    Science ..... 6  
    Foreign Language ..... 7  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade Courses ..... 8  
    English ..... 8  
    Communications ..... 9  
    Social Studies ..... 10  
    Mathematics. .... 10  
    Science ..... 12  
    Foreign Language ..... 12  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Courses ..... 13  
    English ..... 13  
    Social Studies ..... 14  
    Mathematics ..... 15  
    Science ..... 16  
    Foreign Language ..... 17  
Learning Support – 6,7,8 ..... 18  
Life Skills – 6,7,8 ..... 18

**CYCLE COURSES:**

Physical Education ..... 18  
Wellness ..... 19  
Art ..... 20  
Music ..... 21  
Family and Consumer Sciences ..... 21  
Technology Education ..... 22  
Introduction to Foreign Language ..... 26

## **INTRODUCTION**

Dear Parents and Students:

This guide provides an overview of the Paxon Hollow Middle School 6-8 curriculum. The curriculum is a plan for action and for the delivery of instruction and learning. It is a blueprint for learning - which incorporates - the state's educational standards into a meaningful format and is extended to meet Marple Newtown School District's high expectations for each student.

In this guide you will find sections on language arts, mathematics, social studies, science and foreign language. You will also find information on our cycle courses and wellness/physical education. The compilation of the Paxon Hollow Middle School Curriculum Guide has involved the united efforts of many people. A sincere expression of appreciation is extended to our guidance counselors, Mrs. Cipollone, Mrs. Wigo and Mr. Riley and to the entire faculty for their input.

Sincerely,

*Stephen Subers, Ed.D.*

Principal

### **ADMINISTRATION**

**359-4320**

Dr. Stephen Subers .....	Principal	4320
Mr. Rodd Luckenbill .....	Assistant Principal	4338
Mr. Matthew Flood.....	Dean of Students	4337

### **COUNSELORS**

**359-4236**

Mr. Craig Riley .....	Grade 6	4327
Mrs. Jen Cipollone .....	Grade 7	4324
Mrs. Linda Wigo .....	Grade 8	4328

### **PSYCHOLOGIST**

Mrs. Maria Toglia.....	325-6428
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### **SPEECH & LANGUAGE PATHOLIST**

Mrs. Cathy Green.....	3558
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**PROMOTION**

**(MIDDLE SCHOOL)**

To be admitted to the Marple Newtown Senior High School a student must pass Math, English, Social Studies, and Science in the eighth grade.

Failed subjects in any of the above areas must be made up in one of the following ways:

- Summer School.
- Pre-approved alternative program.

**PAXON HOLLOW MIDDLE SCHOOL - COURSE CURRICULUM**

**6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE COURSES:**

**ENGLISH - 6  
1121/1122**

**Year**

Through English instruction in all content areas students will be able to apply writing to real-life issues and situations as they learn to:

1. Plan, draft, revise, edit and publish writing pieces
2. Distinguish between informative, descriptive, persuasive and narrative writing
3. Be aware of elements necessary for effective writing
4. Study parts of speech and punctuation
5. Cooperate with others to achieve common goals

Homework: approx. 15 min.

**READING - 6  
0121/0122**

**Year**

**\*This course is taken in conjunction with the English course 1121/1122 listed above.**

Sixth grade reading program is designed to provide students with a spectrum of strategies for reading fiction and non-fiction. Students interact with short stories, trade books, and texts in both genres. By utilizing appropriate strategies, students develop vocabulary, comprehension, and critical thinking skills. The course is intended to promote success in school and encourage self-selected reading.

Homework: approx. 10 minutes & 20 minutes of independent reading.

**ENGLISH ENRICHED - 6  
1110**

**Year**

**\*This course is taken in conjunction with a first year language course (Spanish, French or German). If this course is dropped the language course is replaced with the Reading course 0121/0122 listed above.**

**\*Students in this class will have an Advanced Reading course for one cycle. The description of this course is listed with the cycle classes.**

The sixth grade Enriched English program integrates study skills, vocabulary development, writing skills, grammar, and reading literature. The basic units of study include organizational and study skills for success in the middle school, using literature to understand and appreciate past cultures, and literary elements.

Instructional materials include the following:

The Enriched English class moves at a faster pace, offers less repetition, and utilizes higher level thinking skills. Students in Enriched English should be able to transition quickly between activities, must be highly organized, and should be in the top of the class for work ethic and study skills.

Homework: approx. 1 hour

**REMEDIAL ENGLISH - 6  
1130**

**Year**

Remedial English covers the same skills and strategies as regular English class. The goal of this course is to teach students how to apply writing to real life situations. Due to smaller class sizes, students receive more individualized instruction. Writing skills, parts of speech, punctuation, and time management will all be covered. **Standardized tests and curriculum-based assessments are used for consideration for this course.**

Homework: approx. 15 min.

**REMEDIAL READING - 6  
0130**

**Year**

**\*This course is taken in conjunction with the English course 1130 listed above.**

Remedial reading covers the same skills and strategies as the regular reading course. Smaller class sizes provide more individualized instruction. Alternative methods of instruction are used to increase reading fluency and comprehension. The program is designed to provide students with a spectrum of strategies for reading fiction and non-fiction. Students interact with short stories and texts in both genres. By utilizing appropriate strategies, students develop vocabulary, comprehension, and critical thinking skills. This is intended to promote success in school and encourage self-selected reading. **Standardized tests and curriculum-based assessments are used for consideration for this course.**

Homework: approx. 10 minutes & 20 minutes of independent reading.

**SOCIAL STUDIES - 6  
2121/2122**

**Year**

Sixth grade Social Studies offers an in-depth opportunity for students to expand their knowledge of our world through the study of geography. A regional approach to the study of the earth will involve students in identifying places and locations, understanding cultures, and making comparisons between regions. They will focus on the five themes of geography: location, place, movement, human/environment interaction and region. The curriculum is aligned to the PA Standards.

Homework: approx. 15 min.

**ENRICHED SOCIAL STUDIES – 6**  
**2110** **Year**

The enriched curriculum focuses on the same topics as in the regular social studies class listed above, but does so in greater depth. The Enriched Social Studies class moves at a faster pace, offers less repetition, and utilizes higher level thinking skills. Students in Social Studies should be able to transition quickly between activities, must be highly organized, and should be in the top of the class for work ethic and study skills.

Homework: approx. 30 min.

**MATHEMATICS - 6**  
**3121/3122** **Year**

All students are expected to master four operations in whole numbers, decimals and fractions. Great emphasis is on word problems. Students are expected to master concepts of expansion of fractions and decimals, more in depth work in measuring, basic geometry, plus knowledge of percentage and use of graphs, plus an introduction to Algebra.

Homework: approx. 30 min.

**ADVANCED MATHEMATICS - 7**  
**3221/3222** **Year**

**\*Admission into this course is contingent upon a combination of standardized test scores, grades and teacher recommendation.**

The purpose of this course is to promote a general perspective of the field of mathematics. Major units include: number theory, systems of numeration, operations (with whole numbers, fractions, decimals, percent), units of metric measure, introduction to algebra and informal geometry. Emphasis is placed on problem solving.

Homework: approx. 30 min.

**ADVANCED MATHEMATICS - 8**  
**3320** **Year**

**\*Admission into this course is contingent upon a combination of standardized test scores, grades and teacher recommendation.**

Prepare students for success in Algebra I and Geometry by introducing a variety of new concepts not found in traditional math curricula and integrating them with applications and connections to other curricula. The NCTM Standards are a primary goal of this course. Emphasis is on problem solving, technology, integration with science, and social studies. Discussion and writing in mathematics is developed. Students will develop skills and learn concepts in Algebra, Geometry, Statistics and Data Analysis, Graphing, Probability, using integers, rational numbers and real numbers.

Homework: approx. 30 min.

## **ALGEBRA I**

**3420**

**Year**

**\*Admission into this course is contingent upon a combination of standardized test scores, grades and teacher recommendation.**

**Prerequisite: Math 8**

Algebra has the goal of helping students become more independent learners in mathematics. In the Algebra I course at the middle school, the course is built around six strands, which are interwoven throughout:

1. Equations and inequalities
2. Graphing
3. Informal geometry
4. Probability
5. Data Analysis
6. Problem solving using Algebraic Concepts

The key to a student's success in Algebra I will be his/her willingness to work independently within the framework of the teacher's direction. Topics will be encountered again and again throughout the course at increasingly sophisticated and difficult levels. Each student must form good work habits in order to be successful in the year's work. (9<sup>th</sup> grade course, McDougal Littell)

Homework: 30 min.

## **REMEDIAL MATHEMATICS – 6**

**3130**

**Year**

This course includes work on operations with whole numbers, decimals, and fractions. Students also work on measurement, basic geometry, percents, graphs, and problem solving. Remedial math classes will follow the same scope and sequence as the regular sixth grade program; however, they will move at a slower pace and concentrate on fundamental skills as needed, using the worksheets from the book. Class sizes are smaller than regular sixth grade classes, up to 15 students using Passport Book 1.

**Standardized tests and curriculum-based assessments are used for consideration for this course.**

Homework: 30 min.

**SCIENCE - 6****4121/4122****Year**

The sixth grade Science curriculum includes the core content areas of Earth and Biological sciences as outlined by both the state and national Science standards. The units covered are The Nature of Science and Technology, The Changing Earth, and The Earth's Atmosphere. Students engage in hands on explorations, analyze their observations/data, and develop explanations for what they observed. Through these courses, students will build an understanding of important scientific concepts, learn skills, and develop positive attitudes toward science and technology. Homework: approx. 15-30 min.

**ADVANCED SCIENCE - 6****4120****Year**

**\*Admission into this course is contingent upon a combination of standardized test scores, teacher recommendation and grades. The advanced science curriculum MUST begin in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. A student may not enter the advanced science track in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade.**

The Advanced Science curriculum is a rigorously paced course integrating Science content and processes. The course revolves around core content in Earth, Biological and Physical Science as outlined by both state and national Science standards. As students learn they are engaged in various levels of inquiry which requires learners to ask questions, collect detailed qualitative and quantitative observations, analyze data, synthesize information and apply the learning to new problems. Participation in the local Science Fair is required and shows students to use their skills. The advanced science curriculum includes all of the academic 6<sup>th</sup> grade units and half of the academic 7<sup>th</sup> grade units.

Homework: approx. 30 min.

**FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROGRAM**

Selected sixth grade students begin foreign language by studying French I, Spanish I or German I. During succeeding years he or she will continue learning the language of choice in a carefully developed, enriched program from grade six through grade twelve.

**FRENCH I/SPANISH I/GERMAN I****5321/5320/5322****Year**

**\*This course is taken in conjunction with the Enriched English course. If the language course is dropped it is replaced with a Reading course 0121/0122.**

Voulez-vous parler francais? Te gustaria hablar espanol? French I or Spanish I will start you well on your way to speak and understand a language that is spoken in many interesting parts of

the world. During this enriched first year foreign language program, you will take part in many dialogs, short dramatizations, and creative activities as you develop a conversational vocabulary and an understanding of basic grammar. You will enjoy making “French” or “Spanish” friends as you talk about sports, hobbies, school, going out, parties, and many other interesting topics. Historical and cultural aspects of everyday French or Spanish life are included as an integral part of this program.

Homework: approx. 10-20 min.

Learn to speak the language of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. German students act out humorous stories as a way to learn vocabulary and sentence structures. The innovative TPR Storytelling technique helps students develop fluency in German while using their creativity!

Homework: approx. 0-20 min.

## 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE COURSES

### **ENGLISH - 7**

**1223/1224**

**Year**

The English curriculum is structured to incorporate five critical experiences: transacting with the text, oral and written composing, independent reading and writing, investigating language, and learning to learn. The seventh grade student explores the theme of Intolerance throughout the entire year. Grammar, vocabulary and literature are on-going units. The writing process incorporates prewriting techniques, editing, formulating a topic sentence, supporting thoughts with detail and developing a conclusion.

- Formal English Usage - PSSA - Writing to Prompts
- Conventions - PSSA- Domain Scoring

The literature component includes:

- 1) The Old Man and the Sea - Hemingway
- 2) The Light in the Forest - Richter
- 3) They Cage the Animals at Night – Burch
- 4) The Cay - Taylor
- 5) Racing the Past - Deans
- 6) The Invisible Thread – Uchida
- 7) Farewell to Manzanar – Houston
- 8) The Devil’s Arithmetic – Yolen
- 9) The Watsons Go to Birmingham – Curtis
- 10) Jump Ship to Freedom – Collier
- 11) The Lottery Rose – Hunt
- 12) My Brother Sam is Dead – Collier
- 13) Excerpts from Anne Frank: A Diary of a Young Girl – Frank
- 14) Parallel Journeys – H. Waterford and A. Heck
- 15) The Suitcases – Anne Hall Whitt
- 16) Everything is on a Waffle – Horvath

- 17) Rosa Parks: My Story – Parks
- 18) Bud, Not Buddy – Curtis
- 19) Chinese Cinderella – Frank
- 20) The Boy in the Striped Pajamas – Boyne
- 21) The Art of Keeping Cool – Lige
- 22) Pictures of Hollis Woods – Giff
- 23) Ruby Holler – Creech

Through the exposure to classic literature, the student will develop a more sophisticated reading level and writing style. Exposure to classic literature will enable the student to see himself/herself as a part of a larger whole and will realize that life's situations are not unique to himself/herself. Also through this exposure to the classics, the student will be able to think more critically, draw inferences and conclusions and make character sketches. The student will master core vocabulary, the principles of grammar, usage and punctuation. The student will also study elements of poetry, creation of poetry and finding multiple meaning in poetry.

Homework: approx. 30 min.

**ENRICHED ENGLISH - 7**

**1210**

**Year**

The study of English in the Enriched program includes knowledge of the language itself, development of its use as a basic means of communication, and appreciation of its artistry as expressed in literature. The program in English involves skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening and observing. The Enriched English class moves at a faster pace, offers less repetition, and utilizes higher level thinking skills. Students in Enriched English should be able to transition quickly between activities, must be highly organized, and should be in the top of the class for work ethic and study skills.

Homework: approx. 30 min.

**REMEDIAL READING – 7**

**0230**

**Year**

The Remedial Reading course is offered to students who read below basic level. Students receive extra support with reading, decoding and organization skills with an emphasis on comprehension, literature and vocabulary. Individualized reading instruction on the students' level is offered twice weekly through the Academy of Reading. Laptops are available to each student. This allows them to work independently and at their own pace. Students can work on the skills they need to be successful readers. **Standardized tests and curriculum-based assessments are used for consideration for this course.**

Homework: approx. 15 min.

**COMMUNICATIONS - 7**

**0223/0224**

**Year**

Communications is an innovative, interdisciplinary approach to successful learning. Students receive instruction focusing on **non-fiction** reading and writing strategies. Computer technology is used to individualize the reading instruction through teenbiz3000.com Building upon note taking, reading comprehension, and cooperative learning skills and strategies, students integrate interviewing, speaking, and research techniques to complete and I-Search paper. The culminating activity, the I-Search, incorporates the study skills, life skills, content vocabulary and listening skills acquired during the year.  
Homework: approx. 20 min.

**SOCIAL STUDIES - 7**

**2223/2224**

**Year**

(United States History from 1607 to 1812) The creation and building of a new nation is the focus of seventh grade social studies. Seventh grade students study US history beginning with a review of the Colonial Period and the French and Indian War followed by the reasons for and the events leading to the American Revolution and the Revolutionary War. Study then moves on to the problems and challenges of nation building, which include the development of a workable plan of government and the War of 1812. The role of geography, economics, and politics in history are emphasized. A strand of Pennsylvania history is woven throughout the course.  
Homework: approx. 20 min.

**ENRICHED SOCIAL STUDIES –7**

**2210**

**Year**

Enriched programming follows the same curriculum with additional primary source readings and written assignments.  
Homework: approx. 30 min.

**MATHEMATICS – 7**

**3223/3224**

**Year**

The purpose of this course is to promote a general perspective of the field of mathematics. Major units include: number theory, systems of numeration, operations (with whole numbers, fractions, decimals, percent), units of metric measure, introduction to algebra and informal geometry. Emphasis is placed on problem solving.  
Homework: approx. 30 min.

**MATHEMATICS – 8**

**3323/3324**

**Year**

Prepares students for success in Algebra I and Geometry by introducing a variety of new concepts not found in traditional math curricula and by integrating them with applications and connections to other curricula. The NCTM Standards are a primary goal of this course. Emphasis is on problem solving, technology, integration with science, and social studies.

Discussion and writing in mathematics is developed. Students will develop skills and learn concepts in Algebra, Geometry, Statistics and Data Analysis, Graphing, Probability, using integers, rational numbers and real numbers. The text book used is Passport to Mathematics written by McDougal Little.

Homework: approx. 30 min.

## **ALGEBRA I**

**3420**

**Year**

### **Prerequisite: Math 8**

Algebra I has the goal of helping students become more independent learners in mathematics. In the Algebra I course at the middle school, the course is built around six strands which are interwoven throughout:

1. equations and inequalities
2. graphing
3. informal geometry
4. probability
5. data analysis
6. problem solving using Algebraic Concepts

The key to a student's success in Algebra I will be his/her willingness to work independently within the framework of the teacher's direction. Topics will be encountered again and again throughout the course at increasingly sophisticated and difficult levels. Each student must form good work habits in order to be successful in the year's work. (9<sup>th</sup> grade course, McDougal Littell)

Homework: 30 min.

## **GEOMETRY**

**3520**

**Year**

### **Prerequisite: Algebra I**

Combines plane, solid and analytical geometry, mathematical proof and proof is emphasized using deductive logic. Topics are: real numbers, lines, triangles, quadrilaterals, circles, spheres, planes, congruence, similarity, parallelism, proportions, analytical geometry, constructions, transformations, and right angle trigonometry.

(10<sup>th</sup> grade course)

Homework: approx 30 min.

## **REMEDIAL MATHEMATICS - 7**

**3230**

**Year**

This course includes work on operations with whole numbers, fractions, decimals and integers. Students also work on percent, proportion, measurement (customary and metric), pre-algebra, informal geometry, problem solving, number theory, and systems of numeration. Remedial math classes will follow the same scope and sequence as the regular seventh grade program; however, they will move at a slower pace and concentrate on fundamental skills as needed. Class sizes are

smaller than regular seventh grade classes. **Standardized tests and curriculum-based assessments are used for consideration for this course.**

Homework: approx. 15 min.

**SCIENCE - 7**  
**4223/4224**

**Year**

Seventh grade science consists of two major units. There are 3 marking periods that include the study of Life Science. Students begin the year working with microscopes. A major part of classroom work and study will be on cell theory, structure and function and cell division. Students will learn characteristics of living things, needs of living things, history of classification, six kingdoms. Close examination of microorganisms (protists and monerans), fungi, flowering plants, animals and genetics will occur by the end of the second marking period. At the start of the fourth quarter the students shift to the study of earth and space. Classroom time and study is now focused on the sun, earth and moon systems as well as the study of the seasons, lunar phases and solar energy. The solar system, earth's history as a planet, asteroids, comets, meteors, fossils and space technology are studied for the conclusion of the seventh grade science class.

Homework: approx. 20-25 min.

**ADVANCED SCIENCE - 7**  
**4310**

**Year**

**\*Prerequisite: Advanced Science 6<sup>th</sup> grade.**

Seventh grade advanced science students biology and investigate cells and the growth and development of a diverse set of organisms representative of the six kingdoms. The foundations of genetics are also explored. Through lab investigations, students will compare and contrast the developmental stages and life cycles of representative organisms. During the second half of the school year, students are challenged by many hands-on-activities also. Matter and energy and basic chemical interactions are studied. The characteristics and properties of Earth's water are also investigated during this part of the school year.

Homework: approx. 30 min.

**SPANISH II**  
**5420**

**Year**

**\*Prerequisite: Spanish I**

In Spanish II, students will continue to develop their communicative proficiency through use of paired practice, role-play and student-teacher interaction. Cultural enrichment is provided by means of film, textbook-related web sites and realia. Writing skills are stressed through extensive practice. Both grammar and vocabulary are expanded and practiced in various contexts such as shopping, sports, international travel, pastimes, and ordering food in a restaurant.

Homework: approx. 20 min.

**FRENCH II  
5421**

**Year**

**\*Prerequisite: French I**

In French II the student continues to develop his or her language skills and to learn about life in France and the francophone world. The course uses CD's and a video program that are coordinated with the textbook to build listening comprehension and teach culture.

Students learn to communicate in French in writing and speaking and they read short selections. During the year students enjoy creating and performing dialogues and preparing creative written performance assessments.

Homework: approx. 20 min.

**GERMAN II  
5422**

**Year**

**\*Prerequisite: German I**

The second level of TPR Storytelling expands vocabulary through the use of comical stories. There is greater emphasis on sentence structure and new verb tenses are introduced. Stories revolve around travel situation, including transportation, shopping, and restaurants.

**8<sup>th</sup> GRADE COURSES**

**ENGLISH - 8  
1325/1326**

**Year**

Emphasis is on Mythology during the first marking period. Historical fiction is explored as a means of hearing the voices of history. Language Arts/Social Studies Project-Linked Curricula provide students the opportunities to experience the natural linkage between history/social studies and the literature/culture, which reflects it. Teachers work together to offer joint materials, assignments, projects, and assessments whenever meaningful and possible. The literary theme "Immigration" is referenced throughout literary and historical readings. Literary experience is developed through Contemporary Literature Circles and is student- directed and social, developing how and why to have meaningful discussion and reflection. The writing reflects the literary focus to include the writing of creative pieces, personal narrative and historical dialogue, and also analytical writing such as comparison/contrast and literary analysis. Vocabulary is developed through standardized exercises as well as through literature. Language skills emphasize complete sentence structure, basic usage, parts of speech, and punctuation. Homework is a natural extension of the educational program and is assigned on every weekday evening, approximately twenty-five minutes for reading, coinciding with or without a written activity and may also be assigned over the weekend; included is vocabulary, reading, creative writing and long term projects.

Homework: approx. 30 min.

**ENRICHED ENGLISH - 8****1310****Year**

Students in Enriched programming pursues the course requirement of the basic eighth grade; however, it is enriched by additional readings on the themes. The curriculum stresses increased skills in specific areas of grammar and usage, vocabulary building and composition. The Enriched English class moves at a faster pace, offers less repetition, and utilizes higher level thinking skills. Students in Enriched English should be able to transition quickly between activities, must be highly organized, and should be in the top of the class for work ethic and study skills.

Homework: approx. 30 min.

**REMEDIAL READING – 8****0330****Year**

The eighth grade reading course is essentially a review and reinforcement of reading strategies and study skills designed for students who do not take a foreign language. Students may be below grade level on standardized reading tests and may need to benefit from alternative instructional methods. An emphasis will be placed on basic vocabulary building using words essential to middle grade readers. High interest novels will be read to motivate reluctant readers and to increase reading fluency. Students will review ways to handle both narrative and informational material, which they encounter in their content area classes. Library location and research skills will be integrated into assignments for review. Writing will be incorporated to enhance reading comprehension.

**Standardized tests and curriculum-based assessments are used for consideration for this course.**

Homework: approx. 15 min.

**SOCIAL STUDIES - 8****2325/2324****Year**

The course is an inquiry-based course, covering the historical period 1820-1910. The units include topics dealing with the Jacksonian Democracy, Westward Expansion, Antebellum South, Civil War, Reconstruction, The Gilded Age, and the Immigrant Experience and an introduction to Economics. The computer is an integral part of the year's study, particularly for the various research projects.

Homework: approx. 20 min.

**ENRICHED SOCIAL STUDIES - 8****2310****Year**

Students in Enriched Programming are given additional primary source readings and written assignments as listed above. The Enriched Social Studies class moves at a faster pace, offers less repetition, and utilizes higher level thinking skills. Students in Enriched Social Studies should be able to transition quickly between activities, must be highly organized, and should be in the top of the class for work ethic and study skills.

Homework: approx. 30 min.

## **MATHEMATICS – 8**

**3325/3326**

**Year**

Prepares students for success in Algebra I and Geometry by introducing a variety of new concepts not found in traditional math curricula and by integrating them with applications and connections to other curricula. The NCTM Standards are a primary goal of this course. Emphasis is on problem solving, technology, integration with science, social studies. Discussion and writing in mathematics is developed. Students will develop skills and learn concepts in Algebra, Geometry, Statistics and Data Analysis, Graphing, Probability, using integers, rational numbers and real numbers. The textbook that is used is Passport to Mathematics written by McDougal Little.

Homework: approx. 30 min.

## **REMEDIAL MATHEMATICS - 8**

**3330**

**Year**

This course continues to reinforce operations with whole numbers, fractions, decimals and integers. Students should master their skills in percent, proportion, measurement (customary and metric), informal geometry, pre-algebra, simple statistics, and problem solving. Remedial math classes will follow the same scope and sequence as the regular eighth grade program, however, they will move at a slower pace and build up fundamental skills as needed. Class sizes are smaller than regular eighth grade classes. **Standardized tests and curriculum-based assessments are used for consideration for this course.**

Homework: approx. 15 min.

## **ALGEBRA I**

**3420**

**Year**

### **Prerequisite: Math 8**

Algebra I has the goal of helping students become more independent learners in mathematics. In the Algebra I course at the middle school, the course is built around six strands, which are interwoven throughout:

1. equations and inequalities
2. graphing
3. informal geometry
4. probability
5. data analysis
6. problem solving using Algebraic Concepts

The key to a student's success in Algebra I will be his/her willingness to work independently within the framework of the teacher's direction. Topics will be encountered again and again throughout the course at increasingly sophisticated and difficult levels. Each student must form good work habits in order to be successful in the year's work. (9<sup>th</sup> grade course, McDougal Littell)

Homework: approx. 30 min.

## **GEOMETRY**

**3520**

**Year**

### **Prerequisite: Algebra I**

Combines plane, solid and analytical geometry, mathematical proof and proof is emphasized using deductive logic. Topics are: real numbers, lines, triangles, quadrilaterals, circles, spheres, planes, congruence, similarity, parallelism, proportions, analytical geometry, constructions, transformations, and right angle trigonometry.

(10<sup>th</sup> grade course)

Homework: approx 30 min.

## **ALGEBRA II - TRIG**

**3620**

**Year**

### **Prerequisite: Geometry**

All of the material of Algebra II will be covered in addition to the following topics in Trigonometry: Trigonometric functions, complex numbers, trigonometric identities and equations, formulae involving triangles, and circular and inverse functions.

Homework: approx. 30 min.

## **SCIENCE - 8**

**4410**

**Year**

The units introduced in 8<sup>th</sup> grade are inquiry based and develop students' scientific reasoning skills, the ability to make predictions, discover patterns and generate explanations based on their observations. In the unit "Matter and Energy," the focus is on characteristic properties of matter, such as mass, volume, and density. "Matter and Energy" also emphasizes the components of mixtures and solutions as well as compounds, elements and chemical reactions. The Earth Science Unit is the study of the earth and the cycles of which it is a part. This includes the study of the earth's surface and earth's waters.

Homework: approx. 15 min.

## **ADVANCED SCIENCE – 8**

**4410**

**Year**

Earth Science is the study of the earth and the universe of which it is a part. This includes the study of the earth's surface and interior (geology), the earth's atmosphere (meteorology), environment and ecology, the study of the universe (astronomy) and the integration of physics

for each field of study. (This course is currently being reviewed in light of Pennsylvania's recently –adopted new Science Standards. As a result, its content might be appropriately modified in the spring, upon approval of the Board of School Directors.)

Homework: approx. 30 min.

### **SPANISH I**

**5320**

**Year**

Habla español? In Spanish I, students will broaden their horizons as they learn to speak the language spoken in many parts of the world. Development of basic vocabulary and grammatical proficiency is achieved through varied and relevant classroom learning activities. Song, video, mini-dialogues, small-group practice, teacher-student interaction, and online tutorial and review provide opportunity for growth toward oral proficiency. Students will become aware, informed, and sensitive to the culture and customs of their Hispanic neighbors and those in our country, as they begin to build a foundation toward the mastery of the four language skills. (9<sup>th</sup> grade course)

Homework: approx. 10-20 min.

### **FRENCH I**

**5321**

**Year**

Parlez-vous français? This course will start you well on the way to speak and understand the language that is spoken in many parts of the world. A conversational vocabulary and an understanding of basic grammar are presented through dialogues, role-playing, and the creation of real-life situations. Historical and cultural aspects of everyday French life are included as an integral part of this program. The textbook program offers CD's and videos to build listening and speaking skills. (9<sup>th</sup> grade course)

Homework: approx. 10-20 min.

### **GERMAN I**

**5322**

**Year**

Sprechen Sie Deutsch? Learn to speak the language of Austria, Germany and Switzerland. German students act out humorous stories as a way to learn vocabulary and sentence structure. The innovative TPR Storytelling technique helps students develop fluency in German while using their creativity. (9<sup>th</sup> grade course)

Homework: approx. 10-20 min.

### **SPANISH III**

**5520**

**Year**

#### **\*Prerequisite: Spanish II**

During Spanish III the student continues the development of foreign language skills through a variety of interesting activities. Vocabulary and grammatical concepts are presented and practiced in true-to-life situations, i.e., exploring outdoor leisure-time activities including sports, camping, and picnicking. Also included are the essentials of travel and a unit devoted to safe

driving and getting a driver's license. The reading program includes a variety of materials adapted to interests of the students, thereby making both historical and contemporary aspects of Spanish culture meaningful and relevant. (11<sup>th</sup> grade course)  
Homework: approx. 20-30 min.

**FRENCH III  
5521**

**Year**

**\*Prerequisite: French II**

If you plan to travel to a French-speaking country, this is the course for you! During French III the student continues the development of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills through a variety of interesting activities that reflect travel situations. Vocabulary and grammatical concepts are presented and practiced in true-to-life situations, i.e., going to a restaurant, shopping in Paris, going on vacation, and public transportation. (11<sup>th</sup> grade course)  
Homework: approx. 20-30 min.

**REMEDIAL/LEARNING SUPPORT – 6,7,8**

**LEARNING SUPPORT - 6,7,8  
ENGLISH, READING, COMMUNICATIONS, MATH**

The curriculum in Learning Support classes is determined by each student's individual academic goals and learning needs. These classes are recommended by the teacher and are considered when there are specific learning needs for the student. These courses cover material that is consistent with the regular education curriculum, however could be modified for individual needs.

**LIFE SKILLS – 6,7,8**

**LIFE SKILLS – 6,7,8  
ENGLISH, READING, MATH, LIFE SKILLS**

The life skills program encompasses many self-contained classes. These classes are geared toward individual student need and preparation for independent living and employment in today's society.

**CYCLE COURSES**

**ADVANCED READING – 6  
0209**

**6 weeks**

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade Advanced Reading program uses the shared inquiry approach to develop students' reading comprehension in the context of thinking about genuine problems of meaning raised by a selection. The students learn to cite evidence, respect divergent thinking, and develop well-

reasoned interpretations of thought-provoking readings. As students experience the rewards of reading and discussing great works of the intellect and imagination, they lay the groundwork for a lifetime of independent and enthusiastic learning.

The Advanced Reading class moves at a faster pace, and utilizes high level thinking skills. Students in Advanced Reading should be able to transition quickly between activities, must be highly organized, and should be in the top of the class for work ethic and study skills.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION - 6**

**6101/6102/3103/6104**

**37 Weeks**

The physical education curriculum provides each student with a variety of activities designed to develop a social awareness and self understanding as well as physical skills and knowledge of many lifetime activities and team sports. Emphasis is also placed on strength, flexibility, agility and endurance activities presented in the form of fitness training and testing, rope jumping and rhythm activities. Students are required to be appropriately dressed for activity in each class period. The physical education department will post printed materials on teacher websites explaining class requirements, uniforms, grading, medical excuses and other pertinent information at the beginning of each school year.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION - 7**

**6201/6202/6203/6204**

**37 Weeks**

The physical education curriculum is designed to help the student develop and maintain physical fitness as well as to understand the importance of fitness for healthful living. Fitness testing is administered during the fall and spring units each year. A variety of individual and group activities provide opportunities for the students to develop physical skills, social awareness and self-appreciation and acceptance. There are two primary focuses during the fall and spring, which include Physical Fitness and Adventure based education. During the winter activities include: basketball, juggling, volleyball, badminton, square dance, ping-pong, bowling and indoor soccer. Most of these activities are taught on a rotating schedule (every other year). Students are required to be appropriately dressed for activity in each class period. Class requirements, uniforms, grading, medical excuses and other pertinent information can be found on the internet via the Paxon Hollow web page.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION - 8**

**6301/6302/6303/6304**

**37 Weeks**

The physical education curriculum is designed to help the student develop and maintain physical fitness as well as to understand the importance of fitness for healthful living. Fitness testing is administered during the fall and spring units each year. A variety of individual and group activities provide opportunities for the students to develop physical skills, social awareness and

self - appreciation and acceptance. During the fall units we offer: tennis, biking, rock climbing, lawn games, and circuit training 1. In the winter session 1 we offer volleyball, circuit training 2, rock climbing, badminton, and jump rope, (activities rotated every other year). During the winter 2 session, we offer basketball, rock climbing, and circuit training 3. During the spring session we offer rock climbing, softball, lawn games, biking, and golf. Students are required to be appropriately dressed for activity in each class period. Class requirements, uniforms, grading, medical excuses and other pertinent information can be found on the internet via the Paxon Hollow web page.

**WELLNESS - 6/7/8**

**6105/6106/6107/6205/6206/6207/6305/6306/6307**

**37 Weeks**

The Wellness Program at Paxon Hollow Middle School is designed to enhance the students' awareness of the physical, social and mental/emotional components of health as related to the well being of each child. Wellness classes at this level focus on the specific need of the adolescent with particular emphasis on self-esteem, effective social relationships, drug-alcohol prevention, physiological growth and development, community health and personal safety. The providing of relevant wellness information helps adolescent students develop the skills, attitudes and practices necessary for a lifetime of healthful living in a continuously changing environment.

**ART - 6**

**7124**

**6 Weeks**

Six grade students will be expected to recognize and use the elements of art. They will learn to employ techniques properly and respectfully through an exposure to a variety of tools, materials and concepts. Students will develop a working vocabulary related to the elements of art, art history and the Pennsylvania academic standards for arts and humanities. Students will be introduced to historically significant artists and be able to identify their work by style, technique, theme or genre. Subsequently, students will produce works of art that are a reflection of this knowledge.

**ART - 7**

**7224**

**6 Weeks**

Seventh grade students will be expected to recognize and use the elements and principles of art. Students will continue to build on an already existing familiarity of proper use of tools and materials and a working knowledge of techniques. Students will continue to be exposed to new tools, materials, techniques, themes and historical genres through additional experiences. These experiences will be a direct reflection of the Pennsylvania academic standards for the arts and humanities. There will be a greater emphasis on neatness, accuracy, and quality workmanship. Students will be expected to explore more deeply their work and the work of others. Students in the seventh grade will also be expected to use technology as a means to bring greater quality, breadth and reflection to their artistic endeavors.

**ART - 8  
7324**

**6 Weeks**

Students in the eighth grade, having had two years of intensive art instruction, will be expected to understand and employ the elements and principles of art in every aspect of their efforts. This will be in accordance with the Pennsylvania state academic standards for the arts and humanities. This should include the ability to write about, explain or critically analyze their work or the work of others intelligently and coherently. Students will be expected to make use of a working art vocabulary in discussions and explanations, or to articulate ideas or concepts. Students will also be expected to create well-thought, expressive, technically-sound, neat, highly evolved and unique works of art from a variety of materials. Consequently, students will be expected to incorporate technology as a means to bring great quality, depth of thought, breadth and reflection to their artistic endeavors.

**MUSIC - 6  
7125**

**6 Weeks**

**Piano Lab**

The sixth grade curriculum focuses on playing folk songs on electronic keyboards. Students review the meaning of the staff and note values, and then are guided to learn to play six folk songs with two hands. Materials used are Yamaha electronic keyboards. Students perform solo, in pairs and in groups.

**MUSIC - 7  
7225**

**6 Weeks**

The seventh grade curriculum includes an emphasis on the Instruments of the Orchestra, the study of Operas and Musicals, and the comparison of the two. Finally, a brief history of Rock and Roll is presented. The curriculum is taught using a multi-sensory approach. Group projects are assigned to the students to encourage cooperative learning.

**MUSIC - 8  
7325**

**6 Weeks**

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade music curriculum focuses on the history of American music, beginning with Jazz and ending with Rock. The Jazz unit begins with slave work chants and follows through to today's contemporary jazz styles. Then students discuss the beginnings of Rock and Roll and its development through the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Materials used are Jazz and Rock video documentaries as well as audio clips of great performances. The students also are assigned a written project on their own favorite music.

**FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES - 6  
7127**

**6 Weeks**

Sixth grade Family and Consumer Sciences focuses on nutrition, culinary arts and financial literacy. Emphasis is on the importance of fruits and vegetables, getting enough calcium, and high quality protein when making food choices. Students also learn about food safety, proper food preparation techniques and organizing their work space and tasks. Students explore becoming more problem solving, critical thinking, time management, working collaboratively and communicating effectively. Computer based activities are used to reinforce information learned in the FCS classroom. The cycle concludes with an overview of the new food guide pyramid and the dietary guidelines for Americans. Students are encouraged to join Family, Career, Community, Leaders of America. [www.pafcccla.org](http://www.pafcccla.org). Stay tuned for more information.

During the sewing portion of the cycle the sixth grade students are introduced to both hand and machine sewing. Students learn the basic skills required to make repairs on clothing and textile items. Each student designs and sews an original pillow while learning general safety procedures, sewing tools, and how to use an iron. Class time is also spent learning friendship skills and the importance of being responsible member of a family and community.

**FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES - 7**  
**7227** **6 Weeks**

Seventh grade Family and Consumer Sciences focuses on nutrition, culinary arts and financial literacy. Emphasis is on preparing and evaluating healthy snacks, demonstrating proper measuring techniques, learning to read food labels, kitchen and food safety, as well as, an introduction to “hands on baking.” The curriculum is interwoven with independent life skills that can be transitioned from school, to home and eventually work. Computer based activities are used to reinforce information learned in the FCS classroom. Students are encouraged to join Family, Career, Community, Leaders of America. [www.pafcccla.org](http://www.pafcccla.org). Stay tuned for more information.

During the sewing portion of the cycle the seventh grade students focus on child development and machine sewing. In child development, the students become aware of a young child’s needs in relationship to their physical, intellectual, social, and emotional growth. Students also learn safety requirements as well as how to be fun loving and responsible when babysitting young children. Finally, the students develop a greater understanding of fabric types while designing and machine sewing an original backpack.

**FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES - 8**  
**7327** **6 Weeks**

Eighth grade Family and Consumer Sciences focuses on nutrition, culinary arts and financial literacy. The curriculum centers on various types of baking techniques. Students prepare leavened and unleavened breads and explore food science. Students study the origin of pizza,



Engineering and Construction is a one-half cycle class (15 class periods) that challenges students to use ‘Engineering and Construction’ concepts to solve a specific problem.

This course introduces the student to the proper use of basic woodworking hand tools, small portable power tools and select woodworking machines. Demonstrations on the scroll saw, band saw, router, sanders, and drill press are presented, explaining the use of these tools with a strong emphasis on safety. The student’s learning experience will be accomplished through the creation of a woodworking project.

The Engineering and Construction course addresses the Physical Systems of the Pennsylvania Standards for Science and Technology. The course predominantly focuses on the Engineering and Design systems, as well as the Manufacturing Technological systems.

#### **PRODUCTION LAB – 8 – Energy, Power and Transportation Technology**

Energy, Power and Transportation is a one-half cycle class (18 class periods) that challenges students to use ‘Energy, Power, and Transportation’ concepts to solve a specific problem.

This course is designed to introduce students to the methods of designing and manufacturing a product. Our product in this course is a Hovercraft. A notebook is required of all students as a means of keeping their thoughts and work organized. Students progress through the various design phases that lead to the final production of a Hovercraft prototype. Demonstrations on the scroll saw, band saw, router, sanders, and drill press are presented, explaining the use of these tools with a strong emphasis on safety. Students use these woodworking tools and machines in the final production of their prototype. The project is required to be decoratively painted to complete the final project. The culmination of the student’s learning experience takes place when they have the opportunity to “power up” their Hovercraft and “fly” them down the hallway.

The Energy, Power and Transportation course addresses the Physical Systems of the Pennsylvania Standards for Science and Technology. The course predominantly focuses on the Engineering and Design systems, Transportation systems and the Research and Development Technological systems.

#### **COMPUTER CYCLE I – 6**

**6108**

**4 WEEKS**

Fall Semester

Sixth grade students in the first cycle will delve into safe procedures for using tools and materials by examining and following the regulations set forth by the Marple Newtown School

District's Acceptable Use Policy. Students will investigate appropriate moral and ethical procedures for using computers and the World Wide Web as a technical resource.

Students will explain and demonstrate basic computer operations and concepts in working with the district's network. Students will suitably access school related files such as project information and stored work. Students will describe the functions of both long-standing computing mechanisms, as well as advanced input and output devices by researching the history of computers and how they work, starting the ENIAC machine. Within this semester, students will demonstrate advanced computer operations and concepts by applying knowledge of hardware setup and identifying basic solutions to hardware problems. For example, students will replace/update RAM, ethernet cards, modems and the power supply for the motherboard.

#### Spring Semester

Students will explain basic computer communications systems by describing the organization and functions that make up the World Wide Web through a unit on Internet safety. During this unit of study, students will apply on-line research skills including, locating credible web-sites/on-line articles.

Students will use software designed to meet specific needs in society. Specifically, they will create a project entitled "All About Me" using Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint. Through this cumulative project, students will discover how to create a presentation using outline form and deliver the presentation.

### **COMPUTER CYCLE II – 7**

**6208**

**4 Weeks**

This class provides students with an introduction to entrepreneurship and exploring various successful entrepreneurs. In addition, students will have hands on experience in running a desktop business in creating various documents. Students will learn the concepts and applications of a publishing program where they will learn to plan, create and arrange text, graphics, tables, newsletters, business cards, and flyers. Students will further enhance their keyboarding skills.

### **CAREER AWARENESS - 8**

**6308**

**4 weeks, 2 marking periods**

Eighth grade students will have the opportunity to self-discover and understand how to make realistic and informed choices in their lives as well as the importance of career planning. As a result, students will be prepared to make better career decisions. In addition, they will explore and gain knowledge of the real working world. Topics covered are: Importance of Career Planning, Preparing for Your Journey, Career Assessments-Self direct Search (Holland Code), Occupational Research Project, Job Application and Goal Setting. Students will also demonstrate their knowledge and understanding by developing a career portfolio.

**KEYBOARDING - 6**  
**7123**

**6 Weeks**

As the keyboard will continue to be the most widely used input device in communicating with a computer, it is essential that all sixth grade students be exposed to a formal keyboarding class in order to become efficient and effective users at the computer.

Students will learn the “touch method” of keyboarding. Proper keyboarding techniques with the application of effective and healthful ergonomic standards for keyboarding are stressed. Attitude, aptitude, and effort in the classroom are assessed. Students will develop their proofreading skills, and practice language arts and composing exercises. As a result, students learn basic word processing features such as saving a file, spell checking, centering, formatting and printing documents. Time management and organizational skills are encouraged to help students develop positive work habits and produce acceptable work.

**WORD PROCESSING - 7**  
**7223**

**6 Weeks**

Seventh grade students will learn word processing features and tools to create, edit, revise and present visually attractive documents. In addition, students will learn how to format one- page reports, research papers (MLA style), and business letters. Besides learning word processing features and formatting documents, students will review and reinforce their keyboarding skills. Throughout the course, proofreading skills will also be focused and applied to all assignments. After completing this course, students will have two samples of a formatted research paper, one-page report and business letter to be placed in their school binder. These samples will be used as a reference to complete other subject assignments, especially I-Search Project. Students will be given an opportunity to key-in and format the I- search Project in the computer lab.

**DATA BASE - 8**  
**7323**

**6 Weeks**

This class is the final of three courses over a three year period. In this class, students will be provided with the opportunities to understand the strengths and limitations of technology as they enter, create, modify, and sort information in a database. As students explore spreadsheets, they will learn to understand, create, correct, and convert information to charts and graphs. Students will have independent “hands-on” experience using application software. As a result of exposure to an integrated software program and presentation software, it will enable them to enhance keyboarding skills as well as to participate in cross-curricular activities. The student will also learn more advanced ways to use the Internet for educational purposes such as evaluating sites for research.

**INTRODUCTION TO FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

**7120 Spanish**  
**7121 French**

**6 week course for 6<sup>th</sup> graders**

## **7122 German**

This course is a continuation of the 4<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish FLES program and the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Speaking of Languages, with a choice of French, German or Spanish. The Course introduces vocabulary and provides insight into the cultures in which the language is spoken. Short conversations, TPR, and hands-on activities form the basis for the program. Following this course, students are encouraged to continue with the selected language for a full year during the seventh and eighth grade year.

7220 Spanish

7221 French

7222 German

These courses are, in fact, the first few weeks of the regular level I language program. Using the regular text for Level I, students will build upon their introductory vocabulary. Students will learn about cultural differences and will do creative projects on various topics. Students will be expected to continue with the same language in the Level I course in Eighth grade.

**REV. 1-09**