

**WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**MIDDLE LEVEL**  
**COURSE DESCRIPTION BOOKLET**

**Grades 6 - 8**

**January 2021**





# WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

6820 MARKET STREET

RUSSELL, PA 16345

AMY J. STEWART  
SUPERINTENDENT

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Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

Selecting a program of studies is one of your most important steps toward future success. Choices must be made carefully and wisely to ensure that a student is fulfilling his/her potential in addition to wisely preparing for future goals. In this book you will find important information to guide you through both sequence and course selections.

If you have questions concerning scheduling, contact the following principals or school counselors:

Beaty-Warren Middle School	723-5200
Mr. Shannon Yeager, Principal	
Mrs. Shelly Wagner, Assistant Principal	
Mr. Matt Menard, Counselor	
Mrs. Michelle Johnson, Counselor	
Mrs. Renee Getner, Counselor	
Eisenhower Middle/High School	757-8878
Mrs. Ericka Alm, Principal	
Ms. Betsy Sobkowski, Assistant Principal	
Mr. Christopher Demorest, K-6 Counselor	
Mrs. Lori Hahn 7-12 Counselor	
Sheffield Area Middle/High School	968-3720
Mr. Glenn Smith, Principal	
Ms. Carrie Warner, Counselor	
Youngsville Middle/High School	563-7573
Mrs. Amy Beers, Principal	
Ms. Kim Yourchisin, Assistant Principal	
Dr. Susan Gizzie, Counselor	
Virtual Academy	723-0574
Mrs. Misty Weber, Principal	
Mr. Joshua Vincent, Principal	
Mr. Matthew Getner, Counselor	
Mr. Neal Kent, Coordinator	

Sincerely,

Mr. Eric Mineweaser  
Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

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## LANGUAGE ARTS

- 00001 Information Literacy (Library Media) Skills** This is a special elective for 6th grade students not involved in Band, Orchestra or Chorus. It meets for 50-minutes once a day for one semester. It consists of 45 minutes of student-selected activity, plus 5 minutes of activity logging on a teacher-created online form. Students will choose from a variety of enrichment activities including a passion project (independent research on a topic of choice will some shareable end result), free reading (both independent and read-aloud), a student-led book club, knowledge games (chess, Scrabble, Word Thief, Quiddler, etc.), writing, journaling, makerspace, Legos, Little Bits and others. **Elective Course: Semester Course (PASS/FAIL COURSE)**
- 00002 Language Arts/ESL** is a course available to the English as a Second Language (ESL) student and will be the substitute for any middle level language arts course. **Full Year**
- 00023 Reading 6** – These students need additional support in the areas of decoding, comprehension, fluency, and vocabulary. In order to provide the reading teacher with necessary materials to focus instruction appropriately for these readers, various research-validated programs will be used dependent on student need. The reading curriculum utilizes a variety of reading genres. High interest, leveled reading books provide students with the in-context practice they need to gain skill mastery. Together, these materials provide the skills necessary for students to progress to grade level in reading. Students learn to recognize different texts organizational patterns and apply appropriate strategies for understanding and remembering. It provides opportunities for growth in word attack, vocabulary, critical comprehension, and learning strategies. Teachers focus on teaching students how to monitor one's own thinking when reading to learn. **Full Year**
- 00025 Reading 7** – These students need additional support in the areas of decoding, comprehension, fluency, and vocabulary. In order to provide the reading teacher with necessary materials to focus instruction appropriately for these readers, various research-validated programs will be used dependent on student need. The reading curriculum in 7th grade utilizes a variety of reading genres. High interest, leveled reading books provide students with the in-context practice they need to gain skill mastery. Together, these materials provide the skills necessary for students to progress to grade level in reading. Students learn to recognize different texts organizational patterns and apply appropriate strategies for understanding and remembering. It provides opportunities for growth in word attack, vocabulary, critical comprehension, and learning strategies. Teachers focus on teaching students how to monitor one's own thinking when reading to learn. **Full Year**
- 00027 Reading 8** – These students need additional support in the areas of decoding, comprehension, fluency, and vocabulary. In order to provide the reading teacher with necessary materials to focus instruction appropriately for these readers, various research-validated programs will be used dependent on student need. The reading curriculum in 8th grade utilizes a variety of reading genres. High interest, leveled reading books provide students with the in-context practice they need to gain skill mastery. Together, these materials provide the skills necessary for students to progress to grade level in reading. Students learn to recognize different texts organizational patterns and apply appropriate strategies for understanding and remembering. It provides opportunities for growth in word attack, vocabulary, critical comprehension, and learning strategies. Teachers focus on teaching students how to monitor one's own thinking when reading to learn. **Full Year**

- 00036 English Language Arts 6** – Grade 6 students will learn to communicate effectively and build upon skills in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. This curriculum ensures that students gain adequate exposure to a range of genres, texts, and tasks in both fiction and nonfiction. Students will demonstrate increased sophistication in all aspects of language use, from vocabulary and grammar to the development and organization of ideas in writing. Students will engage in a wide range of speaking and listening activities to effectively share their ideas and critically evaluate and interpret the assertions made by others. An emphasis is placed on rigor, higher order thinking skills, employing strategies, and integrating all communication skills. **Full Year**
- 00037 English Language Arts 7** – Grade 7 students will learn to communicate effectively and build upon skills in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. This curriculum ensures that students gain adequate exposure to a range of genres, texts, and tasks in both fiction and nonfiction. Students will demonstrate increased sophistication in all aspects of language use, from vocabulary and grammar to the development and organization of ideas in writing. Students will engage in a wide range of speaking and listening activities to effectively share their ideas and critically evaluate and interpret the assertions made by others. An emphasis is placed on rigor, higher order thinking skills, employing strategies, and integrating all communication skills. **Full Year**
- 00039 English Language Arts 8** – Grade 8 students will learn to communicate effectively and build upon skills in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. This curriculum ensures that students gain adequate exposure to a range of genres, texts, and tasks in both fiction and nonfiction. Students will demonstrate increased sophistication in all aspects of language use, from vocabulary and grammar to the development and organization of ideas in writing. Students will engage in a wide range of speaking and listening activities to effectively share their ideas and critically evaluate and interpret the assertions made by others. An emphasis is placed on rigor, higher order thinking skills, employing strategies, and integrating all communication skills. **Full Year**
- 00044 Reading and Writing Unlimited – Grade 6** - This course is designed to enrich a student’s reading and writing experiences. Through guided lessons, students will read various genres and write on multiple topics. **Elective Course: Semester Course**
- 00056 Creative Writing and Drama – Grade 7** - This course is designed to motivate the creativity of young writers and performers. It includes the reading and writing of poetry, mythology, short stories, and drama. Additionally, this course is an introduction to the elements of drama through the use of skits and/or dramatic performances. **Elective Course: Semester Course**
- 00057 Science Fiction/Fantasy and Detective/Mystery – Grade 8** - Students will read works that examine the development of the mystery/detective genre and science fiction/fantasy genres. The course will include reading and analysis through discussion and writing. **Elective Course: Semester Course**

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

- 00131 World Geography (Grade 6)** - Sixth grade World Geography is an introduction to students of our great world. Students will learn key geographic skills such as mapping, latitude and longitude and landforms. They will also explore the continents of the world. For each continent, they will discover its geographic regions, cultures, countries and important issues that affect the people living there. Emphasis will be placed upon learning the locations of the world’s countries, major cities and landforms. The course seeks to enrich students’ exploration of geography through a variety of learning activities. These include lesson presentations, case studies, text and supplemental reading, map studies, simulations, current events, and individual and small group projects. **Full Year**

- 00123 Ancient World History: Prehistory-Exploration (Grade 7)** - This course will focus on World History beginning with Archaeology and the dawn of man up through the Age of Exploration. It will cover the development of River Valley Civilizations such as Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, and China. From there, students will discover the world's first empires of Greece and Rome and how those two civilizations laid the political foundations of Europe and eventually America. It will also cover the fall of these empires and the growth of Europe through the eras of Feudalism, the Renaissance and Reformation. Finally, the year will end with the students learning how the ideas of the Renaissance led to the great Age of Exploration. **Full Year; Final Exam Required**
- 00104 Civics (Grade 8)** - This class is designed to introduce the eighth grade students to the political processes of the United States. Civics will provide the students with the evolution of those processes and the basic organization of our government. The students will understand the roles of local, state, and federal government in citizens' lives. A deeper knowledge of the Constitution as the foundation of the United States government and the Bill of Rights as our basic freedoms will be explored. There will also be exploration of topics such as the importance of laws, civil rights and our court system. This course introduces our students to the importance of being engaged in good citizenship through service projects and the political process. The course will end with an introduction to our economic system. **Full Year; Final Exam Required**
- 00100 PA History (Grade 6)** – Students will explore the history and geography of the state of Pennsylvania by learning about key historic events and issues that have shaped the Commonwealth. **Elective Course: Semester Course**
- 00101 World Investigations (Grade 7)** - Become a world investigator! How do we know what is going on around us? How do world events affect us? Through hands on research, activities, simulations and projects, students will explore current key themes and issues affecting countries around the world. **Elective Course: Semester Course**
- 00102 History's Mysteries (Grade 8)** - Become a world detective! Who built Stonehenge? What was the purpose of the Terracotta Warriors? Was Atlantis real? Who was King Arthur? History is full of unexplained events. Through exploration, cooperative activities, and simulations students will examine numerous mysteries of World and American history. **Elective Course: Semester Course**

## MATHEMATICS

- 00201 Pre-Algebra 8 - Prerequisites: Completion of Mathematics – Grade 7** - This course builds upon computational, problem solving, graphing, and algebraic concepts previously learned in mathematics. Pre-algebra provides learning experiences required for Algebra I such as linear equations, functions, graphing, geometry, systems of equations, and bivariate data. It will provide students with problem-solving, reasoning skills and mathematical concepts necessary to be successful learners in future mathematics courses. **Full Year**
- 00202 Honors Algebra I - Pre-Requisites: Completion of Advanced Mathematics – Grade 7 or Math 7 with a final average of 85%. Students who qualify will take a standardized placement. Placement test results, along with final average in the class will be used to determine placement into Honors Algebra I.** Honors Algebra I is a course designed for those students able to complete calculus prior to entering college. This course provides an intense study of algebraic theory that will be expanded in Algebra II Honors, Geometry Honors, and additional advanced math courses Honors Algebra I is intended for college-bound students who have an aptitude or interest in mathematics. It provides them with the opportunity to complete an additional year of advanced mathematics. A district-wide final exam is required. **Keystone Exams are required of all students who take any Algebra 1 course, in addition to the PSSAs, for graduation. If this state-mandated test is not passed, the student will be required to retake Algebra I the following year, as well as retake the exam.** Even though high school credit is not awarded, by passing the Keystone exam, students will be fulfilling a requirement for graduation. Students must maintain an 80% average to remain in Honors Algebra I. **Full Year**

- 00203 Mathematics 6** - In Mathematics Grade 6, instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking. **Full Year**
- 00204 Mathematics 7** –In Mathematics Grade 7, instructional time will focus on 5 critical areas; proportional relationships, understanding and applying operations to rational numbers, creating and solving expressions, equations, and inequalities, describing and implementing geometric relationships in real world applications, drawing inferences about populations, and developing, using, and evaluating probability models. A district-wide final exam is required. **Full Year; Final Exam Required**
- 00205 Advanced Mathematics 7 – Prerequisites: Completion of Mathematics Grade 6, 85% average in the class as well as results of a placement tests.** - In Advanced Mathematics grade 7, instruction will focus on the major topics; Ratio and Proportional Relationships, The Number System, Expressions and Equations, and Geometry. A district-wide final exam is required. **Full Year; Final Exam Required**
- 00276 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective** - Through online software and project based learning students will focus on the math concepts rational numbers, fractions/decimals/percents, area, coordinate plane, expressions, equations/inequalities, statistics, and ratios/rates. **Elective Course: Semester Course**
- 00278 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective** -Through online software and project based learning students will focus on the math concepts integers, proportions, geometry, probability, statistics, percents, expressions, equations, fractions, and decimals. **Elective Course: Semester Course**
- 00279 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective**- Through online software and project based learning students will focus on the math concepts of exponents, solving equations, functions, writing linear equations, angles and triangles, transformations and similarity, and data sets. **Elective Course: Semester Course**

## SCIENCE

- 00303 Science 6** – Sixth grade students will explore different types of minerals and rocks, the structure of the earth, and how plate tectonics influence earthquakes, and volcanoes. Students will learn about the geologic time scale, and how erosion and deposition affect the mineral components of the earth. Students will also explore aquatic and marine environments, as well as how the water component of planet Earth determines our temperature and weather patterns. Additionally, students will explore how climate changes could affect life on earth. **Full Year**
- 00305 Science 7** – Seventh grade science is a life science based course covering the following topics: structure and function of organisms, continuity of life, and ecological behavior and systems. Unifying themes and biotechnology are incorporated throughout the course of study. **Full Year**
- 00307 Science 8** – Eighth grade science covers physical science, chemistry and physics in the areas of matter, energy sources, force and motion. Unifying themes, inquiry and design, and technological devices are incorporated within those areas of study. **Full Year**



- 00300 Astronomy and Space Science – Grade 6** - Astronomy and Space Science is a one semester elective designed for sixth grade students. It will reinforce the middle level Earth science standards. Students will examine how the earth is part of a larger system in the universe. Students will learn how the sun and moon affect the earth as well as our solar system and the stars and galaxies that lay beyond it. Students will learn how scientists study such large and distant expanses of our universe. **Elective Course: Semester Course**
- 00301 Exploring Our Environment – Grade 7** - Exploring Our Environment is a one semester elective designed for seventh grade students. It will reinforce the Environmental and Ecology standards. Students will study populations and communities and the divisions of the earth into regions of study called Biomes. Students will be introduced to environmental and natural resource issues as they affect, and are affected by the human population. Relevant lab activities will be incorporated throughout, utilizing scientific inquiry and appropriate technology. **Elective Course: Semester Course**
- 00302 May the FORCE be with you – Grade 8** - May the FORCE be with you is a one semester elective designed for eighth grade students. Students will explore wave, light, and electrical energies along with a look at magnets. Exploration of each of these will include careers, everyday life applications and include both activities and laboratories that focus on scientific inquiry. **Elective Course: Semester Course**

## WORLD LANGUAGE

- 00402 Introductory to Spanish** –Introductory Spanish is an introductory course designed to expose students to the Spanish language and culture. Students will learn basic words and phrases in Spanish, important cultural traditions throughout the Spanish-speaking world, where Spanish is spoken, and why knowing a second language is important and beneficial. This course is designed to serve students whom intend to take Spanish at the high school level, but is not a necessary precursor to Spanish One. **Elective Course: Semester Course**

## COMPUTER

- 00500 Computer Science Discoveries 6** is a semester long introductory computer science course that empowers students to create authentic artifacts and engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun. The two coding languages that will be explored include javascript and HTML. **Elective Course: Semester Course**
- 00502 Computer 8** is a semester course designed to educate and discuss digital citizenship, internet safety, word processing skills, presentation and spreadsheet introductions, and Web 2.0 skills.  
**Semester Course**

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

- 00603 Physical Education 6** begins to further develop team, dual, individual, and recreational sport strategies, with a focus on concepts and rules of play. The student will also recognize the value and benefits of physical fitness in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. **Students will complete WCSD Fitness Testing. Semester Course**
- 00604 Physical Education 7** continues the development of team and individual sport strategies as well as game concepts and rules of play introduced in Grade 6. The student will recognize the value and benefit of physical fitness in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. **Students will complete WCSD Fitness Testing. Semester Course Combined with Health 7**

- 00605 Health 7-** will address the Pennsylvania Academic standards for Health, Safety, and Physical Education. Elements of the curriculum will include concepts of health, health and wellness, life skills, body systems, substance use, and stress management. It is hoped that each student will begin to implement and value a personal health maintenance plan. **Semester Course Combined with Phys Ed 7**
- 00607 Physical Education 8** prepares students to develop future personal fitness choices while reviewing and putting to practice the lessons developed in previous grades. The student will recognize the value and benefit of physical fitness in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. **Students will complete WCSD Fitness Testing. Semester Course**
- 00621 Middle Level Adapted Physical Education -** Grade 5-8 Adapted Physical Education begins to further develop team, dual, individual and recreational sport strategies with a focus on concepts and rules of play. Students will recognize the value and benefits of physical fitness and its importance in regards to maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Students will complete the WCSD Modified Fitness Test.

### **ART, FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE, and TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION**

- 00704 Family and Consumer Science 6** is a 9 week required course designed for sixth graders in the Warren County School District. It is an introductory course to the Family Consumer Sciences curriculum offered at the middle and high school level. The course will emphasize child care, entrepreneurial skills, basic sewing skills, beginning kitchen safety, My Plate, meal preparation, decision-making skills, and beginning personal finance. **Nine Weeks**
- 00703 Art 6** – Art 6 is designed to satisfy creative instincts and through the manipulation of tools and materials, develop skills, techniques and the appreciation of art. The course will include perspective drawing, grid enlargement, color theory, pop art, and OP art. The evaluations of the course will be done on the student's ability, as well as effort and the ability of the student to justify his/her work. **Nine Weeks**
- 00700 Art 7** – This course is designed to satisfy creative instincts and, through the manipulation of tools and materials, develop skills, techniques and appreciation of art. The course will include drawing, color theory, sculpture, graphics, crafts, design, weaving and animation. Evaluations of the course will be done on a student's ability as well as effort and the ability of the student to justify his/her work.  
**Elective Course: Semester Course**
- 00706 Family and Consumer Science 7** is a middle level elective course providing a basic foundation for Family and Consumer Sciences at a higher level. This course includes a unit on Foods and Nutrition emphasizing healthy food preparation, safety and sanitation, recipe literacy, and resource conservation. The Textiles unit emphasizes time management, budgeting, making use of available resources, decision making, basic sewing skills, and the ability to read and follow instructions to create and complete a project. Students are responsible for their individual project materials. **Elective Course: Semester Course**
- 00731 Applying Technology (Grade 7)** – This is a semester-long, activity based course that introduces students to Technology by examining the systems of communication, manufacturing, construction, transportation and bio-related technologies. Emphasis will be placed on the design process and the application of using tools and materials to complete various Technology activities. This course provides a foundation for future studies in Technology and is a pre-requisite for 8th Grade Technology Education. **Semester Course**

**00740 Creating Technology (Grade 8)** – This is a semester long activity-based course in which students will build upon skills and knowledge from 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Technology Education. This includes the use of tools, machines and materials to create their projects. Emphasis will be placed on wood-working, utilizing the design-model process and 3D printing various products. **Elective Course: Semester Course**

## MUSIC

**00828 Middle Level Band** is a course in intermediate instrumental music techniques that meets one period each day. The course is open to all students in grades 6-8 that have level appropriate performance skills on a band instrument and have a desire to improve these skills both individually and in an ensemble setting. Middle Level Band will present at least two performances per year. All performances will be scheduled and placed in the school calendar. Concerts are mandatory and will be part of the course grade. Absence from these performances will be allowed at the director's discretion. The course places emphasis on personal improvement in instrumental music skills, and a performance schedule that provides opportunities for demonstration of the level of mastery achieved by the students. **Elective Course**

**00833 Middle Level Orchestra** is a course in intermediate instrumental music techniques that meets one period each day. The course is open to all students in grades 6-8 who have level appropriate performance skills on an instrument (string, brass, woodwind, or percussion) and have a desire to improve these skills both individually and in an ensemble setting. The string instruments will meet five times a week and the brass, woodwinds, and percussion will be added two of those five days. In smaller programs, the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be combined with the senior high school orchestra. Individual or group lessons may be included as a part of this planned course and could be considered a requirement for participation in this course. The Middle Level Orchestra will present two mandatory concert performances each year. **Elective Course**

**00850 Middle Level Chorus** is an elective music course open to middle level students. No musical training or background is required, but all students must have the desire to sing and begin work in understanding the voice as an instrument and singing as an ensemble. Emphasis is placed on improving each student's individual vocal capabilities. Students will be introduced to the basic elements of song writing and theory. The chorus will sing in the holiday and spring concerts and attendance is mandatory. Music is sung from memory and consists of contemporary music in addition to the classics. **Elective Course**

**00812 Middle Level Band/Chorus Combination** is an elective music course open to middle level students. Students would take both band and chorus throughout the school year during the same period. (The student may do three days band/two days chorus and then alter the next week with three days chorus/two days band. Principal discretion pending scheduling ability.) Please view the course descriptions above **Elective Course**

## LIBRARY

**00043 Research and Study Skills (Grade 6)** – Students will learn research and study skills that will equip them to be ready for a career or college. **Nine Weeks**

**00046 Research and Study Skills (Grade 7)** – Students will learn research and study skills that will equip them to be ready for a career or college. **Nine Weeks**

## **TENTATIVE STEM COURSES**

- 00755 STEM 6 (Design and Modeling – Grade 6)** - Design and Modeling provides students opportunities to apply the design process to creatively solve problems. Students are introduced to the unit problem in the first activity and are asked to make connections to the problem throughout the lessons in the unit. Students learn and utilize methods for communicating design ideas through sketches, solid materials, and mathematical models. Students will understand how models can be simulated to represent an authentic situation and generate data for further analysis and observations. Students work in teams to identify design requirements, research the topic, and engage stakeholders. Teams design, fabricate, test, and make necessary modifications to optimize the design solution. **Nine Weeks**
- 00756 STEM 7 (App Creators – Grade 7)** – App Creators introduces students to the field of computer science and the concepts of computational thinking, through the creation of mobile apps. Students are challenged to be creative and innovative, as they collaboratively design and develop mobile solutions to engaging, authentic problems. Students experience the positive impact of the application of computer science to society as well as other disciplines, particularly biomedical science. The course provides students opportunities for self-expression. Teams identify a personal or community problem of interest to them that can be solved with mobile app solution. The problem can address issues such as health and wellness, the environment, school culture, emergency preparedness, education, community service – the options are endless! **Nine Weeks**
- 00757 STEM 8 (Medical Detectives – Grade 8)** – In the Medical Detectives unit, students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, dissect a sheep brain, investigate disease outbreaks, and explore how a breakdown within the human body can lead to dysfunction. **Elective Course: Semester Course**
- 00758 STEM 8 (Automation and Robotics – Grade 8)** – Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the ‘VEX Robotics ® platform to design, building, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms. **Elective Course: Semester Course**

*(STEM Courses will be determined on the implementation phases of these courses and professional development opportunities offered for teachers teaching these courses. Not all courses may be offered in each building.)*

- 01043 Middle Level Advisory** - Advisory is a time when students are supported in their academic and social success in the middle school arena. Students are assigned in small groups to a specific teacher who monitors their progress and leads them in school-wide projects and initiatives. All students schedule an advisory period. **Full Year**

## VIRTUAL ACADEMY ELECTIVE COURSES

- 10634 Character Education (Grades 6 - 8)** – This course teaches students practical skills for understanding and managing their emotions, setting goals and getting organized, understanding and getting along with others in our diverse world, and making good decisions. Research shows that people who practice these skills have greater academic achievement as students and experience more success and satisfaction as adults. **Elective Course: Semester Course**
- 10560 Keyboarding (Grades 6 - 8)** – This course introduces new keys by rows where students first learn the middle row, then the top row and the bottom row of the keyboard. The content is designed with a strong focus on sight and high frequency words. This course assumes no keyboarding experience and will guide them through the keyboard. **Elective Course: Semester Course**
- 10559 Scratch Coding (Grades 6 - 8)** – Scratch is a program developed by MIT teaching students the basics on how computers think! This program will introduce students to real coding programs and allow them to drag and drop coding blocks creating a fully functional program. The simple user interface and tutorials allow students to quickly create and run their code to see its results! This course assumes no prior computer coding knowledge and includes self-graded multiple-choice tests and quizzes. **Elective Course: Semester Course**
- 10737 2D Studio Art (Grades 6 - 8)** – Close your eyes and imagine you’re standing in an art studio the smell of paint, the heat of the kiln, and the infinite creative possibilities that linger in the air. This is where art is born, and in 2D Studio Art, you’ll learn how to bring your art visions to life. Whatever medium you prefer painting, drawing, photography this course will teach you the design elements and principles needed to create a work of art, explore your artistic inspirations, travel back in time to look at art in different cultures, and gain insight about the art of critiquing. If you’ve ever dreamed about making a living as an artist, this course will give you the tools and background that you need to turn those dreams into a reality!. **Elective Course: Semester Course**
- 10050 Career Exploration I (Grades 6 - 8)** – How do you pick a career path when you’re not sure what’s even out there? This course allows you to begin exploring options in fields such as teaching, business, government, hospitality, health science, IT, and more! You’ll align your interests, wants, and needs to career possibilities, including the required education for each. Let’s find a pathway that works for you. **Elective Course: Semester Course**
- 10802 Exploring Music (Grades 6 - 8)** – What comes to mind when you hear the word ‘music’? Do you think about your favorite band or artist? Or do you think about instruments and scales and chords? The word music means something different to everyone. Which is why in this Music course, there’s a little bit of something for everyone! You will learn about how we hear music; how music affects our lives; important elements of music like rhythm, pitch, and harmony; different musical genres; singing and your voice; various instruments; music composition; and the history and culture of music over the years. Tune up your understanding and appreciation for all things music by signing up for this course! **Elective Course: Semester Course**
- 10738 Coding I (Grades 6 - 8)** – Do you find yourself wondering how your favorite apps, websites, and games were made? Maybe you want to try building your own. Well, now you can! In Middle School Coding 1a, you will learn all about the technology you use in your day-to-day life as well as explore how the internet functions. Get an introduction to the basics of computer science and discover how to create and build your very own website using HTML and CSS. You’ll also become familiar with programming languages like JavaScript and Python Programming. You will leave the course with your very own portfolio of work that will showcase your skills and all that you’ve created. **Elective Course: Semester Course**

- 10768 Game Design I (Grades 6 - 8)** – We all love to play video games but have you ever wanted to build your own? If you are interested in a career in technology but also want a creative outlet, Game Design might be the field for you. Learn how to build a game from the ground up in Middle School Game Design 1, an interactive and hands-on course that will teach you all the ins and outs of making your own game. You will learn the importance of game structure and discover what makes a game fun, challenging, and interesting to players just like you. You will also have the opportunity to explore the design and creative process involved in game creation, learn block-based programs, and experiment with character and story development. As a bonus, you will leave the course with a digital portfolio of everything you created in class. **Elective Course: Semester Course**
- 10864 Guitar (Grades 6 - 8)** – Whether you want to play guitar for your family and friends, desire to be a professional performer, or just love playing music, this course is a great place to start. No prior music experience is needed. You will learn the fundamentals of music and the basic skills necessary to play a wide variety of music styles. Student guides, Carlos and Summer, will take you through each step of this journey towards becoming a skilled guitarist and musician. **Elective Course: Semester Course**
- 10742 Digital Art & Design (Grades 6 - 8)** – There are so many different types of art in this world fine art, classical art, visual art but the impact of digital art and design is all around us, often in ways that you probably aren't even aware of! After taking Digital Art and Design, you'll enjoy a deeper understanding and appreciation for all things digital as you explore this special genre of art found in everything from advertising to animation to photography and beyond. In this course, you'll learn about the evolution of art, the basic principles of art and design, and the role of art in politics and society. Additionally, you will actually create your own digital art and make it come alive. Give your creative side a boost with this Digital Art and Design course! **Elective Course: Semester Course**
- 10061 Journalism (Grades 6 - 8)** – Are you someone who likes to get the story straight? Do you always want to know more? Who? What? When? Where? How? These are the details that make for a great story. Knowing how to find these key facts and then write them up in a way that makes it easy for others to read about it is the skill of a true journalist. In Middle School Journalism: Tell Your Story, you'll learn how ask the right questions, look for the details, and find the story in any situation. You'll learn how to gather information effectively, organize ideas, format stories for media production, and edit your articles. Get ready to break that news! **Elective Course: Semester Course**
- **Please Note:** If a middle level student elects to take a Virtual Academy course, the student will need to work on the virtual course on his/her own time as there are no study halls or places to go within the middle school during the school day for virtual courses.