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INTRODUCTION

Within this *Guide For Planned Instruction* you will find information to help you understand the curriculum for grades 7 and 8. Included in this booklet are course descriptions, and requirements for promotion. It is imperative for you as well as your parents to review this information carefully.

If you have specific questions, the guidance department, faculty and administration of North Schuylkill Jr./Sr. High School are available to assist you.

NORTH SCHUYLKILL SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The North Schuylkill School District will provide all students a rigorous, meaningful and relevant education which will prepare them to thrive in the 21st Century global community, whether they go on to college or career preparation or the workplace.

SHARED VALUES

Our students are our purpose.

Our district focuses on our students and recognizes that each person has the ability to learn.

Our students are entitled to a safe, caring, learning environment.

All students want to succeed in some way and want to feel good about themselves.

All students should have the opportunity to learn using the most current material and technology available, in order to compete with the rest of the world.

All students should be encouraged to discuss their ideas and the ideas of others in the classroom instead of just rote memorization of facts.

The advancements of society depends on the development of individual talents, and that each student should be given the opportunity and resources to develop his/her talents to the utmost of their potential.

Our learning environment develops values of service, pride, excellence, and integrity.

Our students are encouraged to contribute to the community.

Our district strives for pride, excellence, and integrity.

Our heritage provides a foundation for good citizenship.

The role of all in the school community is to work cooperatively to support the needs of the students.

The family is the foundation for a successful community.

Education of our youth is the shared responsibility of everyone: the home, the school, and the community.

Each individual is important and entitled to respect, understanding and appreciation of his/her uniqueness.

Each person is responsible for his/her own actions.

THE SCHOOL YEAR AND YOUR SCHEDULE

Your schedule will consist of seven periods each day and each period will be 49 minutes in length. You will have three minutes to pass from one class to the next. Lunch will be 30 minutes, and **is not** counted as one of the seven periods described above. Homeroom will be **five** minutes in length each morning, and Activity period will be approximately 20 minutes. If you do not participate in any activities, you will return to homeroom at this time.

Your schedule will run upon what is known as a "6 day cycle." Some of your classes will meet every day of the cycle. For instance, English 7 is a class that meets "6 day cycle." Thus, if you have English 7 during first period, you will go to English 7 every day first period. However, some of your classes will only meet "3 days per cycle." For instance, if you have Physical Education third period, you will go there every other day during third period. On the days you don't go to Physical Education during third period, you will go to another class that meets "3 day cycle". Each morning we will announce what "day" it is.

One important thing to remember about the 6 day cycle is what happens if we miss a day, or days, of school because of bad weather. When we come back the cycle picks up right where it left off. Thus, if Monday was Day 3, and we had off Tuesday and Wednesday, when we come back on Thursday it is still Day 4 because that was the next day in the cycle.

7TH AND 8TH GRADE CURRICULUM

The staff of North Schuylkill Jr./Sr. High School has determined that in order to help create a smooth and positive transition to a high school scheduling format, 7th and 8th grade will offer students the opportunity to have classes with several teachers like senior high students do, but will also follow a more structured curriculum with no electives, similar to what students experienced in elementary school.

In 7th grade the classes offered will be the following:

- English 7
- Math 7 or Pre-Algebra
- Geography 7
- Ecology/Life Science 7
- 9 week rotation of PSSA Math 7, Music, Family & Consumer Science, & Industrial Arts
- Reading 7 (18 weeks) and Keyboarding (18 weeks)
- Physical Education/Health (3 day cycle) and Strategies for Student Success (3 day cycle)

In 8th grade the classes offered will be the following:

- English 8
- Math (Concepts of Algebra or Honors Algebra I)
- Geography 8
- Physical Science 8
- 9 week rotation of Art, Music, Family & Consumer Science & Industrial Art
- Physical Education/Health (year - 3 day cycle)
- PSSA Math 8/Introduction to Foreign Language (semester - 3 day cycle)
- Career Exploration (semester - 3 day cycle)
- Reading 8 (18 weeks) and Document Processing (18 weeks)

At this point students are exposed to a wide variety of mandatory curriculum offerings, as well as some courses to help them transition to the high school setting. Course descriptions for all of the above courses are included in the "Course Offerings" section that follows.

PROMOTION TO THE NEXT GRADE LEVEL

Students in grade 7 must earn a minimum of 5 credits for promotion to grade 8. Students in grade 8 must earn at least 11 credits in grade 7 and 8 for promotion to grade 9.

SUMMER SCHOOL

In order to make up a required course during summer school a student **must have a final yearly average of 50% or above for that class**. Should the student have an average lower than that, he/she must retake the course during the next school year.

COURSE OFFERINGS 2009-2010 - GRADE 7

100 ENGLISH **1 CREDIT** **6 DAY CYCLE**

In this course, students will complete units in the areas of grammar/usage, writing skills, vocabulary development, non-electronic research documentation and short story. **Note! Students must successfully complete this course prior to scheduling their next English course.**

200 MATH **1 CREDIT** **6 DAY CYCLE**

This course is Course 2 of Prentice Hall Middle Grades Math Program and is designed for seventh - grade students to develop competency in basic mathematical skills and their application in solving practical, real - life problems involving several steps. Topics covered will include operation of fractions and decimals; the relationship among fractions, decimals and percentages; ratios and proportions; the concept of positive and negative numbers; variables and formulas; and measurement, as well as geometry. This course will focus on the PSSA standards. **Note! Students must successfully complete this course prior to scheduling their next math course.**

203 PSSA MATH **.25 CREDIT** **6 DAY CYCLE - 9 WEEKS**

This course is designed to reinforce and strengthen students' mathematical skills in preparation for the PSSA test. Emphasis will be placed on the PA standards and anchors that must be met by seventh grade students.

207 PRE-ALGEBRA **1 CREDIT** **6 DAY CYCLE**

This course is designed for seventh grade students as solid preparation for later courses in algebra and geometry. Algebraic concepts will be connected to arithmetic skills to build a foundation for successive mathematics classes. Students must meet three criteria for acceptance in this course: sixth grade math teacher recommendation, excellent grades in their sixth grade math class, and a high score in an administered test.

275 KEYBOARDING **. 5 CREDIT** **18 WEEKS**

This course is designed to teach the students the proper techniques, correct finger positioning and correct finger reaches to the keys without looking at the keyboard. Students will learn how to use a computer software program, Typing Time, to learn the alphabetic, numeric, and symbol keys with an emphasis on accuracy. Students will also utilize the word processing feature of the software program to complete textbook exercises.

300 GEOGRAPHY **1 CREDIT** **6 DAY CYCLE**

This course will emphasize setting the groundwork for geographic study and literacy. Basic concepts of physical geography, water and atmosphere, population, energy, and food will be covered. Underlying all study will be the five themes of geography. The "United States Region" will be stressed, since a knowledge of one's own country is vital, although global interdependence and future trends will also be discussed.

400 ECOLOGY/LIFE SCIENCE **1 CREDIT** **6 DAY CYCLE**

This course is an introductory level biology course. Study of the five kingdoms comprise the bulk of the course. Other topics include life characteristics, structures and processes, basic principles of taxonomy, genetics, and ecology.

**500 READING
18 WEEKS**

.5 CREDIT

This course is designed to build on and enhance previously learned reading skills. Emphasis is placed on the development of strategies for recognizing and reading various types of literature as well as strategies for applying critical reading skills to content area materials. The Accelerated Reading Program will also be used to enhance these skills. Emphasis is placed on the PA Reading Standards.

**700 MECHANICAL DRAFTING
6 DAY CYCLE - 9 WEEKS**

.25 CREDIT

This course will examine the principles and skills of the language of drawing. Topics will include an introduction to instrumental drawing, lettering, geometric construction, shape description, dimensioning, projections, and an introduction to CAD.

**800 PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH
3 DAY CYCLE**

.5 CREDIT

Physical education for grades 7 and encompasses introductions to individual and team sport and fitness activities. Activities such as basketball, track, volleyball, cooperative games, softball and flag football will enable students to: Describe and apply concepts of motor skill development that impact the quality of increasingly complex movement; identify and apply practice strategies for skill development; and describe and apply game strategies to complex games and physical activities. Activities such as swimming, physical fitness and weight lifting will enable students to: Analyze and engage in physical activities that are developmentally/individually appropriate and support achievement of personal fitness and activity goals; analyze the effects of regular participation in moderate to vigorous physical activities in relation to adolescent health improvement; analyze factors that affect the response of body systems during moderate to vigorous activities; analyze factors that affect physical activity preferences of adolescents; analyze factors that impact on the relationship between regular participation in physical activity and motor skill improvement; and describe and apply the components of skill-related fitness to movement performance.

The 7th/8th grade health course is designed to enable students to develop a better understanding of common health problems. Topics included are the body systems, nutrition, substance abuse, AIDS education, disease and prevention, and current health issues.

**875 MUSIC
6 DAY CYCLE - 9 WEEKS**

.25 CREDIT

This course will provide students with a basic knowledge of music theory and history from the beginning of time through the Baroque era.

**920 FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE
6 DAY CYCLE - 9 WEEKS**

.25 CREDIT

This course is designed to provide an introduction to Family and Consumer Science (formerly Home Economics). Topics covered will include family living and home life skills. Students will be required to complete projects and to learn both responsibility and organizational skills.

**989 STRATEGIES FOR STUDENT SUCCESS
3 DAY CYCLE**

.5 CREDIT

Strategies for Student Success is a course that is designed to help students think about and improve the way they work by providing strategies for student success. Students are able to use the strategies and/or processes taught to improve both academic and personal/social skills. Academically, study habits, memory, mathematical and writing skills, and test taking techniques can all be enhanced. Personally, managing time, organizational skills, speaking in public, personal relationships, and conflict resolution can all be improved.

The Anti-Bullying Program, Career Exploration, and the All Stars Program are also delivered in this course. The All Stars Program is a school-based program designed to delay and prevent high risk behaviors with middle school adolescents and is implemented by trained facilitators from the Schuylkill County Drug and Alcohol Commission and Service, Access and Management, Inc.

The most valuable activity students can be taught is to practice what is learned. Students will get hands-on experience with the techniques suggested. Active participation will enable the students to remember and utilize procedures that are taught.

COURSE OFFERINGS 2009-2010 - GRADE 8

105 ENGLISH 6 DAY CYCLE

1 CREDIT

In this course, students will complete units in the areas of grammar/usage, writing skills, vocabulary development, electronic research documentation and short story/drama/poetry. **Prerequisite:** Successful completion of English 7. **NOTE: Students must successfully complete this course prior to scheduling their next English course.**

205 CONCEPTS OF ALGEBRA 6 DAY CYCLE

1 CREDIT

This course is Course 3 of Prentice Hall Middle Grades Math program and is designed to give the 8th grade student a solid foundation in algebraic concepts for Algebra I the following year. Topics will include the number system and its operation, measurement, geometry and data analysis and probability. An emphasis will be placed on the PA standards and assessment anchors. **Note! Students must successfully complete this course prior to scheduling their next math course.**

213 PSSA MATH 3 DAY CYCLE - SEMESTER

.25 CREDIT

This course is designed to reinforce and strengthen students' mathematical skills in preparation for the PSSA test. Emphasis will be placed on the PA standards and anchors that must be met by eighth grade students. Students who scored advanced in grade 7 PSSA math are exempt from this course.

226 HONORS ALGEBRA I 6 DAY CYCLE

1 CREDIT

This course is designed specifically for students entering eighth grade who have successfully completed pre-algebra or who have at least a 93% cumulative average in mathematics. Topics to be covered include operating within the real number system, solving equations and inequalities, operations with polynomials, graphing linear equations, and solving quadratic equations.

280 DOCUMENT PROCESSING 18 WEEKS

.5 CREDIT

Document Processing 8 is a course for all 8th grade students at North Schuylkill. Using Microsoft Works 2007, students will learn how to format memos, personal letters, tables, and bound and unbound reports. Lessons from Micro Type Pro will be used to help increase their speed and accuracy levels. Students will also be introduced to Microsoft PowerPoint and Microsoft Excel through integrated projects. The students will also participate in online business simulations and conduct WEB research.
Prerequisite: Keyboarding 7.

310 GEOGRAPHY 6 DAY CYCLE

1 CREDIT

This course will build on the basic knowledge gained in Geography 7, and a regional approach will be utilized. Place geography, as well as cultural and economic factors of each world region will be covered. The "United States Region" will be stressed, since a knowledge of one's own country is vital, although other world regions will be covered. Global interdependence and future trends will also be discussed.

405 CHEMISTRY/PHYSICAL SCIENCE**6 DAY CYCLE****1 CREDIT**

This course is a study of matter and energy. It emphasizes everyday applications of basic physical science principles. Some of the topics covered are the nature of science, force and motion, laws of motion, work and simple machines, properties of matter, and basic chemistry principle.

510 READING**18 WEEKS****.5 CREDIT**

This course is designed to refine and extend acquired reading skills. Emphasis is placed upon developing higher level thinking and reasoning processes such as critical, analytical, and evaluative reading skills. The Accelerated Reading Program will also be used to enhance these skills. Emphasis is placed on the PA Reading Standards.

515 INTRODUCTION TO FOREIGN LANGUAGES**.25 CREDIT****SEMESTER 3 DAY CYCLE**

This course is designed for beginning Spanish and German students. It is designed for continued language study, travel and basic conversational purposes. The emphasis will be in communicative as well as written skills of the living target language. Vocabulary and phonetics studies will be enhanced through visual and auditory means. Dialogue and oral presentations will help students form and develop these skills. For correct usage of the language, a basis grammar foundation will be given through multiple reading, speaking, writing and listening practices. Current country specific cultural topics will also be discussed.

702 INDUSTRIAL ARTS**6 DAY CYCLE - 9 WEEKS****.25 CREDIT**

This course introduces students to three areas. Safety, which includes the following topics; safety attitude, flammable liquids, CO gas, HHW, electricity, natural gas, fires, and safety equipment. Students will also be introduced to basic tools and their use. And the final area covered, is the internal combustion engine, its basic parts and their functions. **All students must successfully complete Industrial Arts 8 in order to be eligible to select any other Industrial Art electives.**

801 PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH**3 DAY CYCLE****.5 CREDIT**

Physical education for grade 8 and encompasses introductions to individual and team sport and fitness activities. Activities such as basketball, track, volleyball, cooperative games, softball and flag football will enable students to: Describe and apply concepts of motor skill development that impact the quality of increasingly complex movement; identify and apply practice strategies for skill development; and describe and apply game strategies to complex games and physical activities. Activities such as swimming, physical fitness and weight lifting will enable students to: Analyze and engage in physical activities that are developmentally/individually appropriate and support achievement of personal fitness and activity goals; analyze the effects of regular participation in moderate to vigorous physical activities in relation to adolescent health improvement; analyze factors that affect the response of body systems during moderate to vigorous activities; analyze factors that affect physical activity preferences of adolescents; analyze factors that impact on the relationship between regular participation in physical activity and motor skill improvement; and describe and apply the components of skill-related fitness to movement performance. The 7th/8th grade health topics are integrated in the P.E. program. They are designed to enable students to develop a better understanding of common health problems. Topics included are the body systems, nutrition, substance abuse, AIDS education, disease and prevention, and current health issues.

819 CAREER EXPLORATION**SEMESTER 3 DAY CYCLE****.25 CREDIT**

Exploration of careers requires that decision making and goal setting strategies be utilized. To be able to make good decisions, students meet in class-size groups to learn skills necessary for them to achieve their goals as they enter into their high school year. This program introduces students to the nature of the future they face and helps them to understand it. It is designed to give them the skills to explore how to function successfully in the future.

829 ART**6 DAY CYCLE - 9 WEEKS****.25 CREDIT**

The 8th grade art curriculum gives students the opportunity to creatively express themselves through a variety of both 2D and 3D art projects and assignments. Aesthetic awareness and sensitivity are developed through the exploration and utilization of various art media. Students will be introduced to basic art skills including drawing, shading, cartooning, graphic design, sculpture, pottery, painting and crafts. Individual skills and techniques will be developed by working in assorted media on various projects and assignments. Creative growth and self expression will be stressed throughout the 9 week course.

880 MUSIC**6 DAY CYCLE - 9 WEEKS****.25 CREDIT**

This course will provide students with a working knowledge of music theory and will include a continuation of music history from the Classical era to the modern day.

925 FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE**6 DAY CYCLE - 9 WEEKS****.25 CREDIT**

This course will provide instruction in handling common household situations that a student may face at some time. Topics covered will include a unit on babysitting and how to handle simple emergencies that might arise, hands-on experience in the food lab cooking foods like pizza, quick breads, and cookies, and nutrition and weight control. **Students must complete this course with at least a "C" average in order to be eligible to schedule other Family and Consumer Science electives.**

BAND AND CHORUS

Any student in grades 7 and 8 may elect to take band and/or chorus during activity period.