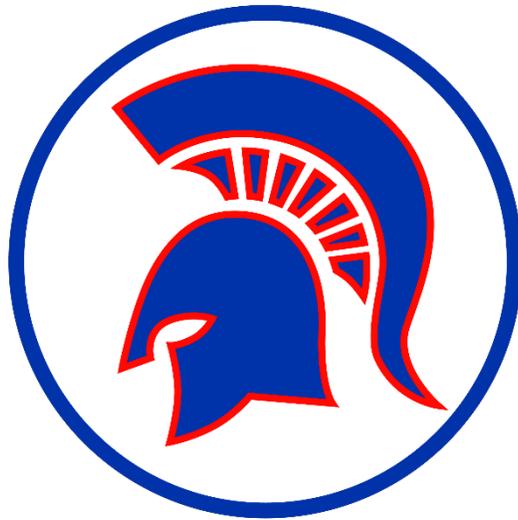

NORTH SCHUYLKILL

Junior/Senior High School



Course Information Guide

2023 – 2024

7th and 8th Grades

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INTRODUCTION

Within this *Course Guide*, you will find information about the curriculum for grades 7 and 8. Included in this booklet are course descriptions, requirements for promotion, and scheduling information. It is imperative for you and your parents to review this information carefully.

If you have specific questions concerning this Course Guide or your career plans, the guidance department, faculty, and administration of the North Schuylkill Jr./Sr. High School are available to assist you in creating a plan to prepare you for the future.

NORTH SCHUYLKILL SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The North Schuylkill School District will graduate students who have a respect for learning and are empowered to be self-sufficient and successful problem solvers.

North Schuylkill Jr./Sr. High School Vision Statement

The North Schuylkill Jr./Sr. High School will provide a competitive, rigorous, and challenging curriculum supported by advanced technology, thus preparing all student for success in the global society.

STUDENT OUTCOMES

- Identify that effort, strengths, and weaknesses affect them academically.
- Take ownership of their educational learning tools in all subjects collaboratively.
- Apply learning in real-life situations and, at times, take risks and embrace errors.
- Every child should be able to read and analyze critically and independently.
- Students will be responsible, upstanding, and civic-minded media citizens of the 21st century.
- Students will develop listening skills, problem-solving, and develop pride in their work and accomplishments with an open mind.

LEARNING BELIEFS

- Students will be actively engaged in a comfortable and positive environment with clear expectations that are conducive to learning.
- Students are expected to produce quality work that meets high standards, connects to prior knowledge, and applies to real-life situations while challenging students to meet high expectations in and out of group situations.
- Students will feel safe, confident, and positive that their needs are being met, opportunities for active involvement in varied learning experiences are provided and are confident and comfortable to ask questions and set goals.
- Instructional materials will be differentiated and encourage students to express themselves individually and creatively while making choices related to their learning, using self, peer, and teacher feedback and problem-solving techniques.
- Students will be encouraged to express themselves individually and creatively while making choices related to their learning using self, peer, and teacher feedback and problem-solving techniques

SHARED VALUES

- Our students are our purpose.
- Our district recognizes that each person has the ability to learn.
- Our students are entitled to a safe and 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 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.
- Students will be given the opportunity and resources to develop their talents in order to contribute to the community.
- Our learning environment develops values of service, pride, excellence, and integrity.
- Our district strives for pride, excellence, and integrity.
- Our heritage provides a foundation for good citizenship.
- The role of the school community is to work cooperatively to support the needs of the students.
- The family is the foundation for a successful community.
- Educating 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 their 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 42 minutes in length. You will have four minutes to pass from one class to the next. Lunch will be 30 minutes and **is not** counted as one of the seven periods mentioned

Your schedule will run on a 2-day cycle (A/B). Some of your classes will meet every day of the cycle. For instance, Science is a class that meets on a 2-day cycle. Therefore, if you have Science or Geography/American History during first period, you will go to Science or Geography/American History every day first period.

ELA classes run on a 2-day cycle – Daily - Twice a Day

Math classes run on a 2-day cycle – Daily & Twice Daily on Day A or B

Honors Math classes run on a 2-day cycle – Daily & Twice Daily on Day A or B

However, some of your classes will only meet 1 day per cycle. For instance, if you have Physical Education third period, you will go there every other day during third period. Each morning we will announce what day it is.

One important thing to remember about the 2-day cycle (A/B) ... 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 A, and we had off Tuesday and Wednesday, when we come back on Thursday it is still day B because that was the next day in the cycle.

COURSE SCHEDULES

The administration reserves the right to discontinue a class for reasons such as low enrollment issues relating to staffing or facilities concerns.

- All courses with a *Prerequisite* of “Teacher Recommendation” means that the student is placed into a specific course based on his/her previous teacher’s ability to witness the student’s classroom work ethic; previous grades earned in that course; and as applicable, previous report cards and PSSA scores from the previous three (3) academic years (PVAAS).
- In order for a student to be recommended for, or remain in an Academic or Honor’s Course, the student must earn an average of 90% or higher (for the year) in their previous or current course. To advance from an Academic to an Honor’s course for the next school year, the student must earn an average of 93% or higher (for the year) in their previous Academic course.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Once a student receives their schedule for the academic year, changes will only be allowed when all three of these conditions are met: (1) Recommendation of the student’s classroom teacher, (2) Agreement by the department chairperson, **and** (3) Approval of the building principal. The school counselor is not responsible for making academic placement determinations.

PROMOTION TO THE NEXT GRADE LEVEL

Students in grade 7 must earn a *minimum* of 5.5 credits for promotion to grade 8.

Students in grade 8 must earn a *minimum* of 5.5 credits (in 8th grade) for promotion to grade 9.

To pass a course, the student must have an end-of-year average of 70% or higher. Students who fail to earn the required 5.5 credits, for the year, will not be promoted to the next grade. The student will be required to repeat THE ENTIRE grade level the following school year; **NOT** just the courses he/she failed.

Students have the option to recover the failed credits in summer school; however, the student **MUST** pass the summer school course in order to be promoted for the next school year.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Students who have failed to earn the required 5.5 credits for the academic year will be offered an opportunity to recover the failed course(s) (maximum of two) in the online summer school program **at their own expense**.

To be eligible for summer school, a student **must have a final yearly average of 50% or above for the failed class/classes**. If the student has an average **lower** than 50% in the failed class/classes, he/she will **NOT** be eligible to recover the course(s) in summer school. Students who do not pass the required course(s) in summer school **AND** have earned less than 5.5 credits (for that academic year) will **NOT** be promoted to the next grade level.

JUNIOR HIGH CURRICULUM

The staff of the 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 students will be offered the opportunity to have classes with several teachers, much like senior high students; but will also follow a more structured curriculum. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of mandatory curriculum offerings. Course descriptions are included in the Course Offerings section which follows. Most students will be able to have an Academic Prep (study hall) in their schedule.

7th Grade Students Will Be Required to Take the Following Courses [Minimum of 7.5 Credits]

- 2.0 Credits English/Language Arts
- 1.5 Credits Math
- 1.0 Credit Science
- 1.0 Credit Geography
- 0.5 Credit Physical Education (PE)
- 0.5 Credit Computers & Technology
- 1.0 Credit Rotation [1 – 0.25 Credit Class during each of the 4 marking periods]

8th Grade Students Will Be Required to Take the Following Courses [Minimum of 7.5 Credits]

- 2.0 Credits English/Language Arts
- 1.5 Credits Math
- 1.0 Credit Science
- 1.0 Credit American History
- 0.5 Credit Physical Education (PE)
- 0.5 Credit Computers & Technology
- 1.0 Credit Rotation [1 – 0.25 Credit Class during each of the 4 marking periods]

Band and/or Chorus

Students have the choice to participate in Band and/or Chorus. This choice **must** be approved by the current band/choral director **before** requesting the addition to their schedule. Once the choice is made and the schedule is created, the student will remain in Band/Chorus until the end of the school year. These options are part of the student's regular schedule and counts toward a grade.

- 0.5 Credit Band
- 0.5 Credit Chorus

Because of scheduling restrictions, a student who participates in Band **OR** Chorus, will not participate in PE. These students **WILL** participate in the regular rotation cycle.

Should a student opt to participate in Band **AND** Chorus, because of scheduling restrictions, these students will not participate in the regular rotation cycle. These students **WILL** participate in PE.

COURSE OFFERINGS – 7TH GRADE

ENGLISH & LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)

100 ELA 7

2.0 CREDITS

2-DAY CYCLE – TWICE DAILY

This course is designed to give 7th grade students a solid foundation in areas of grammar/usage; writing techniques; vocabulary development; and research. Modes of writing covered will include persuasive, expository, narrative, and research. The course will focus on PA Common Core standards in language and writing.

Prerequisite – Students will be placed in this course based on his/her previous school year's course average, previous PSSA scores, and teacher recommendation.

101 ADVANCED ELA 7

2.0 CREDITS

2-DAY CYCLE – TWICE DAILY

This course is a student-centered learning environment where students will analyze text; cite evidence; and respond critically about their learning. Students will take ownership of their learning through goal setting; reflection; independent text selection; and activities that allow them to collaborate with peers. Students will also focus on the PA Common Core Standards in language and writing with an emphasis on grammar/usage; writing skills; vocabulary development; research; and literature.

Prerequisite – Students will be placed in this course based on his/her previous school year's course average, previous PSSA scores, and teacher recommendation.

MATHEMATICS

200 MATH 7

1.5 CREDITS

201 ACADEMIC MATH 7

2-DAY CYCLE – DAILY & TWICE DAILY ON DAY A OR B

This course is designed for 7th 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 operations of fractions, decimals, and integers; the relationship among fractions, decimals, and percentages; ratios and proportions; variables; multi-step equations and inequalities; rational numbers and measurement; as well as geometry. This course will focus on the PA Common Core Standards.

Prerequisite – Students will be placed in this course based on his/her previous school year's course average, previous PSSA scores, and teacher recommendation.

207 PRE-ALGEBRA

1.5 CREDITS

2-DAY CYCLE – DAILY & TWICE DAILY ON DAY A OR B

This course is designed for 7th grade students as solid preparation for later courses in algebra and geometry. Emphasis is placed on the PA Common Core Standards. Algebraic concepts will be connected to arithmetic skills to build a foundation for successive mathematics classes. Topics include rational numbers and exponents; proportionality and linear relationships; statistics and probability; multi-step equations and inequalities; and creating, comparing, and analyzing geometric figures.

Prerequisite – Students will be placed in this course based on his/her previous school year's course average, previous PSSA scores, and teacher recommendation.

GEOGRAPHY

300 GEOGRAPHY 7

1.0 CREDIT

2-DAY CYCLE – DAILY

This course is designed for all 7th grade students as the study of the Earth and its people. Emphasis is placed on the PA Common Core Standards. It is a comprehensive course that focuses on the connections between physical, political, and cultural geography, and emphasizes our role as global citizens. Centered around regional studies, students will explore topics such as map reading; globalization; cultural diffusion; cultural relativism; development; poverty; human rights; international relations; demography; current events; and the environment.

Prerequisite – [This course is required by all 7th grade students.]

SCIENCE

400 SCIENCE 7

1.0 CREDIT

2-DAY CYCLE – DAILY

This course is an introductory level biology course designed for all 7th grade students. Emphasis is placed on the PA Common Core Standards. Studies of the five kingdoms comprise the bulk of this course. Other topics include life characteristics; structures and processes; and the basic principles of taxonomy, genetics, and ecology.

Prerequisite – [This course is required by all 7th grade students.]

BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

280 COMPUTERS AND TECHNOLOGY 7

0.5 CREDIT

1-DAY CYCLE – DAY A OR B

This course will focus on developing 21st Century Skills by incorporating technology concepts, systems, and operations. Students will be able to use district provided applications effectively and productively. Throughout the course, students will demonstrate creative thinking; problem solving; and collaboration. Course activities provide a pathway for students to assess and apply new technical knowledge.

Prerequisite – [This course is required by all 7th grade students, except for students participating in Band/Chorus.]

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

800 PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7 & 8

0.5 CREDIT

1-DAY CYCLE – DAY A OR B

Physical Education for grades 7 and 8 introduces individual and lead up skills for team sports and fitness activities. Track, soccer, football, basketball, swimming, badminton, dodgeball, kickball, whiffle ball, weight training, organized games, and fitness testing will be offered. The emphasis in grades 7 and 8 is placed on being physically active; learning fundamental skills and strategies for sports; team games; other activities; and developing social skills by communicating as teammates.

Prerequisite – [This course is required by all 7th grade students.]

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

513 INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH I

0.25 CREDIT

2-DAY CYCLE – DAILY – 1 MARKING PERIOD

This course is designed to expose students to second language acquisition – Spanish. Basic vocabulary dealing with various topics in their environment will be introduced. Cultural aspects of the country's school life, family life, and other areas will be analyzed and compared with our own country. Listening, reading, writing, and speaking will be integrated throughout this course. Various resources will be used to speak and write in Spanish. The main goal is to foster a desire in students, to continue with second language acquisition into the high school years

Prerequisite – [This course is required by all 7th grade students.]

FINE ARTS

829 FUNDAMENTALS OF ART

0.25 CREDIT

2-DAY CYCLE – DAILY – 1 MARKING PERIOD

This course is designed to provide 7th grade students with creative opportunities to gain new learning experiences in the areas of drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, and design through incorporating Elements and Principles of Art and Design. Work will be done in a variety of media so students learn multiple art techniques and methods. Students will also learn about art history; criticism; aesthetics and interpretation through reading, writing, class discussions; critiques; and assigned projects while using their imagination to create unique works of art.

Prerequisite – [This course is required by all 7th grade students.]

875 MUSIC 7

0.25 CREDIT

2-DAY CYCLE – DAILY – 1 MARKING PERIOD

This class is designed to provide 7th grade students with the opportunity to enhance their learning about a variety of music characteristics, as well as to further their enjoyment in all genres of music. Students will be engaged in writing music; learning basic composition techniques; and reading and playing music. All students will be introduced to learning techniques in listening and in using these techniques for our sing off.

Prerequisite – [This course is required by all 7th grade students.]

884 JUNIOR HIGH CHORUS**0.5 CREDIT****1-DAY CYCLE – DAY B**

Students involved in the chorus program should be enrolled in this course. Students will work on reading music; broadening their vocal range; choreography; selections of music specific to the Junior High level; as well as music for the entire choral program.

Prerequisite – Approval required by previous/current choral director.

888 SYMPHONIC BAND**0.5 CREDIT****1-DAY CYCLE – DAY A**

Students involved in the band program should be enrolled in this course. Students will be provided the opportunity to perform wind band literature suitable for those at a traditional high school level. Students will be expected to perform Grade 2 & 3 level band works at three (3) concerts per year. Individual instruction will be given to students to help develop and nurture foundation level skills. Each semester, students will be required to learn: selected scales; passages of band literature; technique builders; and percussion rudiments (if applicable). Students must also participate in Full Marching Band.

Prerequisite – Approval required by previous/current band director.

COURSE OFFERINGS – 8TH GRADE

ENGLISH & LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)

105 ELA 8

2.0 CREDITS

2-DAY CYCLE – TWICE DAILY

This course is designed to build on skills of grammar/usage; vocabulary development; writing modes; and academic research. Modes of writing covered will include persuasive, expository, narrative, and research. The course will focus on PA Common Core standards in language and writing.

Prerequisite – Students will be placed in this course based on successful completion of a 7th grade level ELA course; his/her previous school year's average; previous PSSA scores; and teacher recommendation.

106 ADVANCED ELA 8

2.0 CREDITS

2-DAY CYCLE – TWICE DAILY

This course is a student-centered learning environment where students will analyze text; cite evidence; and respond critically about their learning. Students will take ownership of their learning through goal setting; reflection; independent text selection; and activities that allow them to collaborate with peers. Students will also focus on the PA Common Core Standards in language and writing with an emphasis on grammar/usage; writing skills; vocabulary development; research; and literature.

Prerequisite – Students will be placed in this course based on successful completion of a 7th grade level ELA course; his/her previous school year's average; previous PSSA scores; and teacher recommendation.

MATHEMATICS

205 ALGEBRA IA

1.5 CREDITS

206 ACADEMIC ALGEBRA IA

2-DAY CYCLE – DAILY & TWICE DAILY ON DAY A OR B

This course is designed to give eighth grade students a solid foundation in algebraic concepts as preparation for Algebra IB in ninth grade. Topics will include estimating; comparing and ordering real numbers; an introduction to the properties of integer exponents; and the Pythagorean Theorem. Students will learn how to write, solve, and graph linear equations in one/two variables. Students will also focus on the PA Common Core Standards.

Prerequisite – Students will be placed in this course based on successful completion of a 7th grade level Math course; his/her previous school year's average; previous PSSA scores; and teacher recommendation.

226 HONORS ALGEBRA I

1.5 CREDITS

2-DAY CYCLE – DAILY & TWICE DAILY ON DAY A OR B

This course focuses on covering the PA Common Core Standards and the PA Keystone Algebra I exam. Topics to be covered include operating within the real number system; solving equations and inequalities; operations with polynomials; graphing linear equations; and solving absolute value equations. Students will be required to complete a summer review packet PRIOR to the start of the school year, in preparation for this course. There will be a test on Day two (2) of the school year on the material contained in the summer review packet. This test will count toward the first marking period grade.

Prerequisite – Students will be placed in this course based on successful completion of Pre-Algebra (grade 7) with a grade average of 85% or above; his/her previous PSSA scores; and teacher recommendation.

AMERICAN HISTORY

315 AMERICAN HISTORY I

1.0 CREDIT

2-DAY CYCLE – DAILY

This course covers the history of America from the time it was first explored (1492) to the Reconstruction. Detailed treatment will be given to topics such as the making of our new nation; the Constitution; the Bill of Rights and the relevance they have to life today in our country; western expansion; sectionalism; the Civil War; slavery – and race relations in general; the growth of American industry; the Populist movement; and the modernization of American society. Emphasis is also placed on the PA Common Core Standards.

Prerequisite – [This course is required by all 8th grade students.]

SCIENCE

405 SCIENCE 8

1.0 CREDIT

2-DAY CYCLE – DAILY

This course is a study of matter and energy; it emphasizes everyday application of basic physical science principles. Some of the topics covered include the nature of science; force and motion; laws of motion; work and simple machines; properties of matter; and basic chemistry principles. Emphasis is also placed on the PA Common Core Standards.

Prerequisite – [This course is required by all 8th grade students.]

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

800 PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7 & 8

0.5 CREDIT

1-DAY CYCLE – DAY A OR B

Physical Education for grades 7 and 8 introduces individual and lead up skills for team sports and fitness activities. Track, soccer, football, basketball, swimming, badminton, dodgeball, kickball, whiffle ball, weight training, organized games, and fitness testing will be offered. The emphasis in grades 7 and 8 is placed on being physically active; learning fundamental skills and strategies for sports; team games; other activities; and developing social skills by communicating as teammates.

Prerequisite – [This course is required by all 8th grade students.]

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

515 INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH II

0.25 CREDIT

2-DAY CYCLE – DAILY – 1 MARKING PERIOD

This course is designed to further expose students to second language acquisition – Spanish. Basic vocabulary that was taught in Intro. to Spanish 1 will be expanded upon, dealing with various topics in their environment. Students will also be exposed to basic grammar allowing them to partake in simple writing and conversation in the target language. Cultural aspects of the country's school life, family life, and other areas will be analyzed and compared with our own country. Listening, reading, writing, and speaking will be integrated throughout this course. Various resources will be used to speak and write in Spanish. The main goal is to foster a desire in students, to continue with second language acquisition into the high school years

Prerequisite – [This course is required by all 8th grade students.]

CAREER

818 CAREER EXPLORATION

0.25 CREDIT

2-DAY CYCLE – DAILY – 1 MARKING PERIOD

The purpose of this course is to provide students with instruction in the career planning process directly related to the selection of a college major; a specific career; or life in the military. Topics include a comprehensive skills assessment; identification of work and personal values; career interests; as well as work and learning styles. As the course progresses, students will begin to develop areas of interests related to future career paths. This course will focus on the PA Career Education and Work Standards.

Prerequisite – [This course is required by all 8th grade students.]

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE

925 FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE

0.25 CREDIT

2-DAY CYCLE – DAILY – 1 MARKING PERIOD

This is an exploratory course which gives students the opportunity to develop basic cooking skills. Emphasis is placed on kitchen safety and sanitation; kitchen equipment; cooking terms; reading and following a recipe; table manners; and basic nutrition. Students will work both independently and cooperatively to complete hands-on cooking labs.

Prerequisite – [This course is required by all 8th grade students.]

FINE ARTS

832 FOUNDATIONS OF ART

0.25 CREDIT

2-DAY CYCLE – DAILY – 1 MARKING PERIOD

This course is designed to further students' knowledge in the basics of Art with creative opportunities. The course will cover areas of sculpture, drawing, and painting, utilizing the Elements and Principles of Art. Students' imagination and creativity will be challenged. Projects are designed for all students to be successful.

Prerequisite – [This course is required by all 8th grade students.]

884 JUNIOR HIGH CHORUS

0.5 CREDIT

1-DAY CYCLE – DAY B

Students involved in the chorus program should be enrolled in this course. Students will work on reading music; broadening their vocal range; choreography; selections of music specific to the Junior High level; as well as music for the entire choral program.

Prerequisite – Approval required by previous/current choral director.

888 SYMPHONIC BAND

0.5 CREDIT

1-DAY CYCLE – DAY A

Students involved in the band program should be enrolled in this course. Students will be provided the opportunity to perform wind band literature suitable for those at a traditional high school level. Students will be expected to perform Grade 2 & 3 level band works at three (3) concerts per year. Individual instruction will be given to students to help develop and nurture foundation level skills. Each semester, students will be required to learn: selected scales; passages of band literature; technique builders; and percussion rudiments (if applicable). Students must also participate in Full Marching Band.

Prerequisite – Approval required by previous/current band director.