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# North Schuylkill

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Jr./Sr. High School



## Course Selection Guide

2017-2018

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE

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## INTRODUCTION

Within this *Course Selection Guide* 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 and 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 graduate students who have a respect for learning and are empowered to be self-sufficient and successful problem solvers.

### ***STUDENT OUTCOMES***

- Identify effort, strengths, and weaknesses that 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
- Read and analyze critically and independently
- Be responsible, upstanding, and civic-minded media citizens of the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Develop listening and problem solving skills
- Develop pride in work and accomplishments

### ***LEARNING BELIEFS***

- Students will be actively engaged in a comfortable and positive environment with clear expectations.
- Students will produce quality work that meets high standards, connects to prior knowledge and applies to real life situations.
- Students will feel safe and confident that their needs are being met.
- Students will be given opportunities for active involvement in varied learning experiences.
- 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.

### ***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 students for success in the global society.

### ***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 his/her talents 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 eight 44 minute periods each day. 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 eight periods described above.

Your schedule will run on a 2 day cycle. Some of your classes will meet every day. For instance, English 7 is a class that meets "2 day cycle." Thus, if you have English 7 during first period, you will go to English 7 every day first period. Some of your classes will only meet every other day (A or B 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 every other day or to Academic Prep. Each morning we will announce what day it is.

**If we miss a day, or days, of school for any reason, the cycle picks up right where it left off.** If Monday was Day A, and we had off Tuesday and Wednesday, when we come back on Thursday it is Day B.

**Students will be placed in course levels based on data from previous courses, PVAAS, PSSA's, and teacher recommendations.**

## ***7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup> 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, but will also follow a more structured curriculum with no electives.

### **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING COURSES**

- 1.0 Credit of English
- 1.5 Credits of Math
- 1.0 Credit of Science
- 1.0 Credit of Social Studies
- .5 Credit of PE
- .5 Credit of Computers
- 1.0 Credit of Reading
- 1.0 Credit of Rotation
- Academic Prep (study hall)

### **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING COURSES**

- 1.0 Credit of English
- 1.5 Credits of Math
- 1.0 Credit of Science
- 1.0 Credit of Social Studies
- .5 Credit of PE
- .5 Credit PSSA Science
- 1.0 Credit of Reading
- 1.0 Credit of Rotation
- Academic Prep (study hall)

Students are exposed to a wide variety of mandatory curriculum offerings. Course descriptions for are included in the Course Offerings section that follows.

## ***PROMOTION TO THE NEXT GRADE LEVEL***

Students in grade 7 must earn a minimum of 5.5 credits for promotion to grade 8. Students must earn at least 12 credits by the end of grade 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 2017-2018 – GRADE 7

### *LITERATURE AND ENGLISH COMPOSITION*

#### **100 ENGLISH 7**

##### **2 DAY CYCLE**

**1 CREDIT**

In this course, students will complete units in the areas of grammar/usage, writing skills, vocabulary development, research, and literature.

**Prerequisite** – Students will be placed in their course based on previous PSSA scores and teacher recommendation.

#### **101 ENGLISH LITERATURE 7**

##### **2 DAY CYCLE**

**1 CREDIT**

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.

**Prerequisite** – Students will be placed in their course based on previous PSSA scores and teacher recommendation.

#### **501 ENGLISH COMPOSITION 7**

##### **2 DAY CYCLE**

**1 CREDIT**

This course will 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 their course based on previous PSSA scores and teacher recommendation.

### *MATHEMATICS*

#### **200/201 MATH 7/ACADEMIC MATH 7**

##### **2 DAY CYCLE**

**1.5 CREDITS**

This course is Course 2 of McGraw-Hill 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 operations of fractions; decimals and integers; the relationship among fractions; decimals and percentages; ratios and proportions; the concept of positive and negative numbers; variables; equations and formulas; and measurement, as well as geometry. This course will focus on the PSSA standards.

**Prerequisite** – Students will be placed in their courses based on previous year’s course average and teacher recommendation.

#### **207 PRE-ALGEBRA**

##### **2 DAY CYCLE**

**1.5 CREDITS**

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.

**Prerequisite** – Students will be placed in this course based on their previous year’s math course average and teacher recommendation.

## *SOCIAL STUDIES*

### **300/301 GEOGRAPHY 7/ACADEMIC GEOGRAPHY 7**

**1 CREDIT**

#### **2 DAY CYCLE**

Geography 7 is the study of Earth and its people. 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** – Students will be placed in their course based on previous year's course average.

## *SCIENCE*

### **400/401 ECOLOGY-LIFE SCIENCE 7/ACADEMIC SCIENCE 7**

**1 CREDIT**

#### **2 DAY CYCLE**

This course is an introductory level biology course. Studies 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.

**Prerequisite** – Students will be placed in their course based on previous year's course average.

## *READING*

### **500 INTENSIVE READING 7**

**1 CREDIT**

#### **2 DAY CYCLE**

This course is designed to refine and extend acquired reading skills for any student who does not score at the proficient level or above on the English Language Arts PSSAs. This course is designed to provide further focused instruction on areas in need of growth. Emphasis is placed upon developing foundation reading skills and reasoning processes such as critical, analytical, and evaluative reading.

**Prerequisite** – Students will be placed in their course based on previous PSSA scores and teacher recommendations.

## *PHYSICAL EDUCATION*

### **800 PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**0.5 CREDIT**

#### **1 DAY CYCLE**

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 motor skill improvement and developmentally appropriate activities.

## *BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY*

### **280 COMPUTERS AND TECHNOLOGY 7**

**0.5 CREDIT**

#### **1 DAY CYCLE**

Computers and Technology 7 is a course for all 7<sup>th</sup> grade students at North Schuylkill. This course will focus on developing 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

### **818 CAREER EXPLORATION**

**0.25 CREDIT**

#### **2 DAY CYCLE – 9 WEEKS**

Any realistic career planning must begin with developing a better understanding of oneself. 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 or a specific career. 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 college majors and future career paths.

## *INDUSTRIAL ARTS*

### **700 MECHANICAL DRAFTING**

**0.25 CREDIT**

#### **2 DAY CYCLE – 9 WEEKS**

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.

## *FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE*

### **925 FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE**

**0.25 CREDIT**

#### **2 DAY CYCLE – 9 WEEKS**

This is an exploratory course which give 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 independently and cooperatively to complete hands-on cooking labs.

## *FINE ARTS*

### **875 MUSIC**

**0.25 CREDIT**

#### **2 DAY CYCLE – 9 WEEKS**

This is a class in the quarter rotation for seventh grade students. Students will write music and learn basic composition techniques. They will be reading and playing music, too. All students will learn techniques in listening and use them for our sing off, as well as to further their enjoyment in all genres of music.

**884 JUNIOR HIGH CHORUS****0.5 CREDIT****1 DAY CYCLE**

All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade chorus members will be enrolled in this class. Students will work on selections of music specific to junior high as well as music for the entire choral program. Students will be reading music, broadening their vocal range, and doing choreography.

**888 SYMPHONIC BAND****0.5 CREDIT****1 DAY CYCLE**

This course will provide junior high band students the opportunity to perform wind band literature suitable for those at a traditional high school level. Students will be expected to perform Grade 3 level band works at three 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.)



## COURSE OFFERINGS 2017-2018 – GRADE 8

### LITERATURE AND ENGLISH COMPOSITION

#### **105 ENGLISH 8**

##### **2 DAY CYCLE**

**1 CREDIT**

In this course, students will complete units in the areas of grammar/usage, writing skills, vocabulary development, research, and literature.

**Prerequisite** – Students will be placed in their course based on previous PSSA scores and teacher recommendation.

#### **106 ENGLISH LITERATURE 8**

##### **2 DAY CYCLE**

**1 CREDIT**

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.

**Prerequisite** – Students will be placed in their course based on previous PSSA scores and teacher recommendation.

#### **511 ENGLISH COMPOSITION 8**

##### **2 DAY CYCLE**

**1 CREDIT**

This course will 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 their course based on previous PSSA scores and teacher recommendation.

### MATHEMATICS

#### **205/206 ALGEBRA IA /ACADEMIC ALGEBRA IA**

##### **2 DAY CYCLE**

**1.5 CREDITS**

This course is Course 3 of McGraw-Hill and is designed to give the eighth grade student a solid foundation in algebraic concepts as preparation for Algebra IB the following year. Topics will include estimating, comparing, and ordering real numbers and introduction to properties of integer exponents. Students will learn how to write, solve, and graph linear equations in one/two variables. Pythagorean Theorem will also be covered.

**Prerequisite** – Successful completion of Math 7/Academic Math 7. Students will be placed in this course based on previous year's course average and teacher recommendation.

#### **226 HONORS ALBEGRA I**

##### **2 DAY CYCLE**

**1.5 CREDITS**

This course focuses on covering PA Common Core standards and 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 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** – This course is designed specifically for students entering eighth grade who have successfully completed pre-algebra with 90% or who have at least a 93% cumulative average in Math 7/Academic Math 7 with a teacher signature required.

## *SOCIAL STUDIES*

### **315/316 AMERICAN HISTORY I/ACADEMIC AMERICAN HISTORY I 1 CREDIT**

#### **2 DAY CYCLE**

This course covers the history of America from the time it was first explored (1492) to 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. Other topics covered will include: western expansion, sectionalism, and the Civil War, slavery – and race relations in general, the growth of American industry, the Populist movement, and the modernization of American society.

**Prerequisite** – Students will be placed in their course based on previous year's course average.

## *SCIENCE*

### **405/406 CHEMISTRY-PHYSICAL SCIENCE/ACADEMIC CHEMISTRY-PHYSICAL SCIENCE**

#### **2 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.

**Prerequisite** – Students will be placed in their course based on previous year's course average.

## *READING*

### **510 INTENSIVE READING 8**

#### **2 DAY CYCLE**

**1 CREDIT**

This course is designed to refine and extend acquired reading skills for any student who does not score at the proficient level or above on the English Language Arts PSSAs. This course is designed to provide further focused instruction on areas in need of growth. Emphasis is placed upon developing foundational reading skills and reasoning processes such as critical, analytical, and evaluative reading.

**Prerequisite** – Students will be placed in their course based on previous PSSA scores and teacher recommendations.

## *SCIENCE PSSA*

### **402 PSSA SCIENCE 8**

**0.5 CREDIT**

#### **1 DAY CYCLE**

This course is designed to reinforce the student's scientific knowledge and skills in preparation for the PSSA Science exam. Emphasis will be placed on the PA Common Core and anchors that must be met by eighth grade students.

## *PHYSICAL EDUCATION*

### **801 PHYSICAL EDUCATION 1 DAY CYCLE**

**0.5 CREDIT**

Physical education for grade 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> introduces individual and lead up team sports and fitness activities. Track, soccer, football, basketball, swimming, badminton, dodgeball, kickball, whiffle ball, weight training, volleyball, organized games, and fitness testing will be offered. The emphasis in grades 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> is placed on motor skill improvement and developmentally appropriate activities.

## *BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY*

### **280 COMPUTERS AND TECHNOLOGY 8 2 DAY CYCLE – 9 WEEKS**

**0.25 CREDIT**

Computers and Technology 8 is a course for all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at North Schuylkill. This course will focus on developing 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

## *INDUSTRIAL ARTS*

### **702 INDUSTRIAL ARTS 2 DAY CYCLE – 9 WEEKS**

**0.25 CREDIT**

This course introduces SAFETY education to students as they begin to enter into more complex areas of study. Students learn about safety in our school, safety in our shop areas, and safety in their home. Students will learn about hand tools and their use, simple machines and build a mousetrap car. Students will build a bird house with hand tools and drills. Students will also use AutoCAD and Revit computer programs as they see how Computer-Aided Design is used in our world today. **Before students are allowed to use hand tools or power tools in Industrial Arts class or select an Industrial Arts elective, students must successfully demonstrate their ability to operate safely in a shop environment by scoring an 80% or higher on the SAFETY CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSE WORKSHEET.**

## *FOREIGN LANGUAGE*

### **515 INTRODUCTION TO FOREIGN LANGUAGES 2 DAY CYCLE – 9 WEEKS**

**0.25 CREDIT**

Introduction to Foreign Language is offered to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students for one marking period. The course is designed to expose students to second language acquisition, both German and Spanish. Basic vocabulary dealing with various topics in their environment will be introduced. Cultural aspects of the countries' 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 throughout the course with emphasis on technology use in German and speaking/writing in Spanish. The main goal is to foster a desire in students to continue with second language acquisition into the high school years.

## *ART*

### **829 FOUNDATIONS OF ART**

**0.25 CREDIT**

#### **2 DAY CYCLE – 9 WEEKS**

This course is designed to provide eighth 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 during the 9-week course.

## *FINE ARTS*

### **884 JUNIOR HIGH CHORUS**

**0.5 CREDIT**

#### **1 DAY CYCLE**

All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade chorus members will be enrolled in this class. Students will work on selections of music specific to junior high as well as music for the entire choral program. Students will be reading music, broadening their vocal range, and doing choreography.

### **888 SYMPHONIC BAND**

**0.5 CREDIT**

#### **1 DAY CYCLE**

This course will provide junior high band students the opportunity to perform wind band literature suitable for those at a traditional high school level. Students will be expected to perform Grade 3 level band works at three 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.)