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# North Schuylkill

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Jr./Sr. High School



## Course Selection Guide

2016-2017  
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 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 graduate students who have a passion for learning and are empowered to be self-sufficient and successful.

### ***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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 is conducive to learning
- Expected to produce quality work that meets high standards, connects to prior knowledge, and real life situation while challenging students to meet high expectations in and out of group situations
- 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

### ***NORTH SCHUYLKILL JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT***

The North Schuylkill Jr./Sr. High School is to 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 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 eight periods each day and each period will be 44 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 eight periods described above.

Your schedule will run upon what is known as a 2 day cycle. Some of your classes will meet every day of the cycle. 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. However, some of your classes will only meet every other day (A 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.

**One important thing to remember about the 2 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 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.

**Students will be placed in course levels based on data from previous course, PVASS, PSSA, and teacher recommendation, i.e.) English 7/Academic/Honors**

## ***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 do, but will also follow a more structured curriculum with no electives, similar to what students experienced in elementary school.

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

- 1.0 Credit of English
- 1.0 Credit 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
- .25 PSSA Math/Academic Prep (1 day cycle) – ½ year every other day
- .25 PSSA Language/Academic Prep (1 day cycle) – ½ year every other day

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

- 1.0 Credit of English
- 1.0 Credit 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
- .25 PSSA Math/Academic Prep (1 day cycle) – ½ year every other day
- .25 PSSA Language/Academic Prep (1 day cycle) – ½ year every other day

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 5.5 credits for promotion to grade 8. Students in grade 8 must earn at least 12 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 2016-2017 - GRADE 7

### *ENGLISH*

#### **100/101/102 ENGLISH 7/ACADEMIC/HONORS**

**2 DAY CYCLE**

**1 CREDIT**

In this course, students will complete units in the areas of grammar/usage, writing skills, vocabulary development, non-electronic research documentation and short story. **Prerequisite** – Students will be placed in their course based on the previous year's cumulative average for English and Reading, plus teacher recommendation.

#### **103 PSSA LANGUAGE ARTS 7**

**1 DAY CYCLE**

**.25 CREDIT**

This course is designed to reinforce and strengthen student's Language Arts skills in preparation for the PSSA English/Language Arts exam.

### *MATHEMATICS*

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

**2 DAY CYCLE**

**1 CREDIT**

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

#### **203 PSSA MATH**

**1 DAY CYCLE - SEMESTER**

**.25 CREDIT**

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

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

**2 DAY CYCLE**

**1 CREDIT**

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.

### *BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY*

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

**1 DAY CYCLE**

**.5 CREDIT**

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 select and 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.

**281 CYBER LITERACY**  
**9 WEEK COURSE**

**.25 CREDIT**

Cyber Literacy is focused on helping students become proficient in the use of new technologies and comfortable in the atmosphere of cyberspace. Topics discussed will include dealing with cyber bullying, defending against identity theft, using social media and e-commerce sites safely, proper netiquette and managing one's digital trail.

***SOCIAL STUDIES***

**300/301 GEOGRAPHY/ACADEMIC**  
**2 DAY CYCLE**

**1 CREDIT**

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 the "8 culture traits" (Daily Life, History, Government, Economy, Language, Arts, Religion, and Social Groups), 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 /ACADEMIC**  
**2 DAY CYCLE**

**1 CREDIT**

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***

**500/501/502 READING/ACADEMIC/HONORS**  
**2 DAY CYCLE**

**1 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. Emphasis is placed on the PA Common Core Reading Standards.

**Prerequisite** – Students will be placed in their course based on the previous year's cumulative average for English and Reading, plus teacher recommendation.

***INDUSTRIAL ARTS***

**700 MECHANICAL DRAFTING**  
**2 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.

## *PHYSICAL EDUCATION*

### **800 PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**1 DAY CYCLE**

**.5 CREDIT**

Physical education for grades 7, 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, 8 is placed on motor skill improvement and developmentally appropriate activities.

## *MUSIC*

### **875 MUSIC**

**2 DAY CYCLE - 9 WEEKS**

**.25 CREDIT**

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**

**1 DAY CYCLE**

**.5 CREDIT**

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 our vocal range, and doing choreography.

### **888 SYMPHONIC BAND**

**1 DAY CYCLE**

**.5 CREDIT**

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 2015-2016 - GRADE 8

### *ENGLISH*

#### **104 PSSA LANGUAGE ARTS 8**

**1 DAY CYCLE**

**.25 CREDIT**

This course is designed to reinforce and strengthen student's Language Arts skills in preparation for the PSSA English/Language Arts exam.

#### **105/106/107 ENGLISH 8 /ACADEMIC/HONORS**

**2 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. Students will be placed in their course based on the previous year's cumulative average for English and Reading, plus teacher recommendation.

### *MATHEMATICS*

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

**2 DAY CYCLE**

**1 CREDIT**

This course uses Course 3 of McGraw-Hill and is designed to give the eighth grade students 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. **Prerequisites:** 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.

#### **213 PSSA MATH 8**

**1 DAY CYCLE**

**.25 CREDIT**

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

#### **226 HONORS ALGEBRA I**

**2 DAY CYCLE**

**1 CREDIT**

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.

## ***BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY***

### **282 COMPUTER APPLICATIONS 8**

**1 DAY CYCLE**

**.5 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 in a more in-depth manner. Students will be able to select and 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.

## ***SOCIAL STUDIES***

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

**2 DAY CYCLE**

**1 CREDIT**

This course covers the history of America from the time it was first explored (1492) to beginning of the 20th century. 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, the Civil War, slavery - and race relations in general, the growth of American industry, the Populist movement, and the modernization of American society. **This is an 8th grade core requirement that all 8th grade students must schedule and must have a passing grade. Prerequisite** – Students will be placed in their course based on previous year's course average.

## ***SCIENCE***

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

**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***

### **510/511/512 READING 8/ ACADEMIC/HONORS**

**2 DAY CYCLE**

**1 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. Emphasis is placed on the PA Common Core Reading Standards. **Prerequisite** – Students will be placed in their course based on the previous year's cumulative average for English and Reading, plus teacher recommendation.

## ***FOREIGN LANGUAGE***

### **515 INTRODUCTION TO FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

**2 DAY CYCLE - 9 WEEKS**

**.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. 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 language learning into the high school years.

## **INDUSTRIAL ARTS**

### **702 INDUSTRIAL ARTS**

**2 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 hand tools and their use, simple machines and build a mouse trap car, build a bird house, and make and fly a hover craft, using a simple leaf blower to lift themselves up and fly. **All students must successfully complete Industrial Arts 8 in order to be eligible to select any other Industrial Art electives.**

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

### **801 PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**1 DAY CYCLE**

**.5 CREDIT**

Physical education for grades 7, 8 introduces individual and lead up 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, 8 is placed on motor skill improvement and developmentally appropriate activities.

## **ART**

### **829 FOUNDATIONS OF ART**

**2 DAY CYCLE - 9 WEEKS**

**.25 CREDIT**

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 the 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.

## **MUSIC**

### **884 JUNIOR HIGH CHORUS**

**1 DAY CYCLE**

**.5 CREDIT**

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 our vocal range, and doing choreography.

### **890 SYMPHONIC BAND**

**1 DAY CYCLE**

**.5 CREDIT**

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).

**891 WIND ENSEMBLE 8****.5 CREDIT****1 DAY CYCLE**

This course is for the advanced 8<sup>th</sup> grade students on a progressive track toward Wind Ensemble in the high school setting. This course is only for those who have established themselves playing at a level beyond that of a typical 8<sup>th</sup> grade student. These students will be required to perform with the Senior High Wind Ensemble works of Grade 4+. Students in this group will be required to learn more scales and advanced concert band works than that of the Symphonic Band. Students must receive approval from the instructor to enroll in this course.

***FAMILY AND COMSUMER SCIENCE*****925 FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE****.25 CREDIT****2 DAY CYCLE - 9 WEEKS**

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.

**8001 ACADEMIC PREP**

Academic Prep will provide students with a quiet environment that will allow students to complete homework, increase study skills, receive tutoring and/or remediation in a subject area during the school day. Students may schedule an Academic Prep every other day (1-day Cycle) for the entire school year, or every day for 1 semester.