

NORTH HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL



2019-2020 PROGRAM OF STUDIES

Introduction

To fulfill the Middle School vision of “Inspiring All to Achieve Their Very Best,” our staff is committed to helping our students become successful, independent learners while maintaining high academic expectations for each student. In addition to our academic focus, we believe that it is our duty to help students become responsible citizens.

Our curriculum is designed to meet the diverse academic and social needs of our middle school students while ensuring that their learning experiences prepare them for the demands of the 21st century. It is essential for our students to be able to read analytically, write logically, and think critically. These skills are necessary to meet the challenges in school as well as the ones he/she will encounter after his/her career in the North Hills School District.

To be successful at the middle level and beyond, students must develop organizational skills to be ready to learn. Preparation is another key to success as it affords students the opportunity to focus and concentrate on the academic material presented. Organization and preparation demonstrate students’ readiness for an increase in responsibility that in turn increases the likelihood of academic success.

One of the first responsibilities of our students is selecting his/her courses online. This program of studies will serve as a tool to assist parents and students with the online scheduling process. In this guide, parents and students will find descriptions for courses offered at the middle school listed by grade. Counselors also review the procedures for online course selection with sixth and seventh grade students.

After reviewing the course descriptions, parents and students may use the appropriate grade course selection worksheet to help identify and organize student selections. To schedule your child’s classes for the 2019-2020 school year, please follow the directions in the back of this guide to complete the online course request.

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7th Grade Team Approach

To assist elementary students in their transition process, seventh grade students are divided into academic teams. The team approach offers cohesion among a smaller number of students within the larger student population in seventh grade. Team teachers meet daily to collaborate and discuss instruction, plan activities, and meet with parents. Students are randomly assigned to a team that is balanced by gender and ability. **Students are notified of team placement and schedule in mid-August.**

8th Grade Team Approach

To facilitate the transition to ninth grade, eighth grade students are still placed on teams but the approach is different. Comparable to last year, students will have similar schedules in terms of English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies classes. However, our goal is to work collaboratively with students to foster greater independence. This approach will help prepare our students for high school coursework. **Students are notified of team placement and schedule in mid-August.**

Gifted and Talented Education

Identified gifted education students receive individualized support from the GATE teachers at NH Middle School. GATE teachers meet with students and their parents to ensure student needs are being met through appropriate course selection and participation in GATE activities.

Special Education Program

The PA Special Education law and regulations, Public Law 94-142, and the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997, requires school districts to provide a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to all students with disabilities who are eligible for special education. FAPE means special education and related services are designed to meet the individual educational needs of students through an Individualized Education Program (IEP). The North Hills Middle School provides direct and supportive services for children who are vision or hearing impaired, emotionally disturbed, learning disabled, speech and/or language impaired, or who have other health impairments. Our goal is to provide students the individualized support to participate as fully as possible in the regular education environment.

Homework and Grades

Students are provided with an assignment book to record daily assignments. Middle school parents and students should monitor students' progress and homework via PowerSchool, the online grading system used district wide. PowerSchool not only is the method of first contact for teachers about grades, but, in addition, teachers use this tool for homework notification. Parents and students are asked to monitor PowerSchool closely and often. If you have not created a parent account for PowerSchool, please send an email to psquestions@nhsd.net and request a registration key. You can find more information on the district website at: <http://www.nhsd.net/PowerSchool1.aspx>

SEVENTH GRADE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Required Core Courses

- English
- Math*
- Science
- Social Studies
- Literacy Arts*

* Students will be placed into the correct Literacy Arts and Math course based upon data.

Required Electives

- Art
- Exploratory World Language**
- Family & Consumer Sciences
- Intro to Coding**
- Physical Education
- Technology Education

** Access to Exploratory World Language and/or Intro to Coding will be based upon each student's identified Literacy Arts needs.

Music Elective Courses

- Beginning Band 7
- Cadet Band 7
- Chorus 7
- General Music 7
- Orchestra 7

Typical Schedule

Although this is an example of a typical 7th grade schedule, it is not reflective of all the student schedules. Schedules will be based upon each student's identified literacy arts needs.

Subject	Period	Days	Term
Cadet Band 7 Woodwind	1	M W F	1234
Phys Ed 7	1	T R	1234
Social Studies 7	2	ALL	1234
WE German	3	ALL	1
WE French	3	ALL	2
WE Latin	3	ALL	3
WE Spanish	3	ALL	4
English 7	4	ALL	1234
Lunch A	5	ALL	1234
Art 7	6	ALL	12
F&CS	6	ALL	23
Tech Ed 7	6	ALL	34
Science 7	7	ALL	1234
Math 7	8	ALL	1234
Literacy Arts 7A	9	ALL	12
Intro to Coding	9	ALL	34

SEVENTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

The student's final grade in 6th grade math, teacher recommendation, past PSSA achievement, and results on an Algebra Readiness exam administered by the district are among the metrics used when determining the most appropriate course to be scheduled. Students may be scheduled to take Algebra 1, Math 7A, Math 7, Math 7C, or Math 7D.

MATH 7A

#7315_A

In Math 7A, instructional time focuses on four critical areas: (1) developing an understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing an understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

Instruction will move rapidly as the curriculum includes the content from both Grades 7 and 8 and expands on topics to provide a challenging study of arithmetic, geometric, statistical, and algebraic topics. These topics will form the foundation for the study of advanced mathematics later in high school.

MATH 7 #7315

In Grade 7, instructional time focuses on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

MATH 7C #7315_C

This year long course is designed for one math period per day plus additional lab periods opposite the 7th grade PE, music, or Literacy Arts C course. This intensive mathematics program blends personalized, online instruction with teacher-directed instruction to empower learners who have math delays. Specifically, the lab section is designed to improve basic math skills and mathematics foundation while completing guided practice. This course is structured to align with the 7th grade common core standards.

MATH 7D #7315_D

This year long, co-taught course is designed for one math period per day plus additional lab periods opposite the 7th grade PE, music, or Literacy Arts C course. This intensive mathematics program blends personalized, online instruction with teacher-directed instruction to empower learners who have identified math learning delays. Specifically, students will progress at a pace to improve their basic math skills and mathematics foundation while completing guided instruction during their lab section. This course is structured to align with the on grade-level common core standards of 7th grade.

ALGEBRA 1 #7319

Algebra 1 topics include the representation and application of functions, with special emphasis on linear and quadratic functions. Students will learn to represent them in multiple ways – verbal descriptions, equations, tables, and graphs. They will also learn to model real-world situations using functions to solve problems arising from those situations. Focus areas will include reinforcing communication skills, problem solving strategies, real world applications, technology use, cooperative skills, and application of math to the real world and other subjects. This course is rigorous, requiring a commitment to completing homework on a regular basis. Algebra 1 has been aligned to the Pennsylvania State Standards and the Algebra 1 Keystone Assessment. Successful completion of the Algebra 1 Keystone Exam is a graduation requirement and can determine future scheduling and math placement. This course requires a TI-84 graphing calculator.

SOCIAL STUDIES 7 #7225

Social Studies 7 provides students with an introductory framework for analyzing the world and its people as a single, interconnected unit. The course encompasses the major themes and ideas of physical geography while also exploring the diverse histories, economic systems, governments, and social issues associated with each region of the world. Social Studies will provide students with opportunities to expand critical thinking and problem-solving skills, allowing for mastery of essential content themes.

SCIENCE 7 #7415

Science 7 is an introduction to the areas of basic Biology, Chemistry, and Ecology. Concepts are introduced through general practices of note taking and lectures while being reinforced through inquiry-based lessons using hands-on activities. Students will develop their measurement, computation, and thinking skills. They will analyze and interpret data, draw conclusions, and make scientific connections to their everyday lives. The course will promote a deeper understanding of scientific concepts that are part of the Pennsylvania State Standards.

ENGLISH 7 #7125

English 7 utilizes a thematically-based study of short stories, poetry, and nonfiction selections to introduce students to the analysis of literature. Students read at least two major literary works during the year. Using the writing process, students will write in the argumentative, narrative, and expository modes. Previously taught language and grammar skills are reviewed, and new skills are

introduced. In addition, the course reinforces the skills identified in the Pennsylvania Common Core Standards for English Language Arts, preparing the students to achieve Proficient to Advanced performance scores on the 7th grade PSSA ELA assessment.

WORLD LANGUAGE EXPLORATORY #7515

This course offers an exploratory program of four world languages: French, German, Spanish, and Latin. Students will acquire knowledge of some of the customs and cultures of French, German and Spanish speaking countries, and will receive an introduction to Roman times. Some of the vocabulary and grammar of the languages will be introduced.

LITERACY ARTS

All 7th grade students will be placed into one of three Literacy Arts courses based upon data. Students who have met the requirements will be enrolled in the correct course by the 7th grade counselor.

LITERACY ARTS 7A #7171

This one-semester course is designed for students reading at high proficient or advanced levels. The course will strengthen students' ability to integrate and to evaluate content presented in a rich variety of formats. Specifically, they will learn to evaluate authors' claims and views and to compare them against other sources and personal viewpoints. In addition, they will refine their ability to assess the strengths and limitations of sources.

LITERACY ARTS 7B #7172

This year long course is a comprehensive reading class designed to increase students' literacy understanding and comprehension along with provide the necessary skills and instructional strategies to support reading throughout the student's education. This

course provides effective, explicit, sequential and systematic instruction in reading, writing and speaking. An additional component will be the support of reading instruction in a content area subject.

LITERACY ARTS 7C #7173

This year long course is designed for a 90- minute instructional block each day. This intensive literacy program blends personalized, online instruction with teacher-directed instruction to empower learners who have significant literacy delays. Specifically, students will progress at their own pace online to improve their reading while being exposed to complex text and rigorous vocabulary in teacher- directed instruction. An additional component will be the support of reading instruction in a content area subject.

INTRODUCTION TO CODING #7816

SWIFT is a programming language designed specifically for middle school students with the use of an iPad. In this course, students will build on their fundamental knowledge of Swift encapsulated in a Learn to Code course. They'll journey beyond simply solving puzzles and create digital worlds of their own. They'll learn about variables and types, the coding constructs that allow them to store and access information. These new skills, along with initialization and parameters, will give them strategies to use code to interact with their characters and the puzzle world, allowing them to change the rules of the world itself. This course is required of all North Hills 7th grade students.

STEAM TRIMESTER COURSES

(12 WEEK ROTATION)

ART 7 #7616

The Art 7 curriculum infuses art production, art history, art criticism, and aesthetic awareness. Students will be introduced to project-based learning (STEAM) and additional cross-curricular content throughout their art class experience. This program is designed to provide students with the opportunity to develop a foundation of varied skills in the areas of drawing, ceramics and photography, as well as, an appreciation for multiple art forms. Students will learn about art through both individual and collaborative assignments and art projects. The elements of art, principles of design and composition will be explored while striving to improve their craftsmanship, develop creative problem-solving skills and learn how to safely and appropriately handle art equipment and materials.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES 7 #7855

Family & Consumer Science for seventh graders is an activity-packed course that explores the family topics of childcare, family life, nutrition, and food preparation skills. Students work in groups collaboratively on various projects and cook in the kitchens. Teamwork is a focus of all of our learning. Students will learn the skills to be a responsible babysitter for your family and in the community. We will share about our families and identify the skills required for a happy, committed family life. Learning to take good care nutritionally of yourself and others completes our course. In these units, we learn rookie-cooking skills and prepare a variety of tasty foods.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION 7 #7825

Seventh Grade Technology Education is the use of accumulated knowledge to process resources to meet human wants and needs. Students develop the ability to select and correctly use materials, tools, and techniques to answer questions, understand explanations and solve problems encountered in “Real World” situations. Areas of study in seventh grade may include: Technical Drawing, CAD, Architecture, Glass Etching, Game Star Mechanics, and Google SketchUp. The activities are designed to give students hands-on experiences while incorporating individual teaching techniques.

ALTERNATE DAY COURSES

(FULL YEAR)

BEGINNING BAND 7 #7735

(3 DAYS/WEEK)

Beginning Band provides an opportunity for those students who did not play a band instrument during their elementary school years to become a part of the North Hills Band program. This class also provides an opportunity for those students who want to resume playing a band instrument at the Middle School. The school can provide some instruments on a first-come, first-served basis. The school can provide horns, baritones, tubas, trombones, tenor saxophones, bassoons and oboes on a limited basis. Students will be pre-auditioned and recommended by the elementary band instructors or the middle school band teacher.

CADET BAND 7 #7737

(3 DAYS/WEEK)

Cadet Band is for seventh grade students who have studied a band instrument in elementary school and

who are ready to develop more extensive musical skills. The band will engage in a variety of concerts throughout the school year. Students will be recommended to Cadet Band by their elementary band instructor.

CHORUS 7 #7725

(3 DAYS/WEEK)

Chorus 7 is an introduction to vocal technique, singing skills, part-singing, and performance of choral literature. Emphasis is placed on ensemble performance, with several required evening concerts for the public showcasing skills learned in class. Opportunities for more advanced study are available through select extra-curricular ensembles and festival experiences. No audition or previous experience in chorus is required.

GENERAL MUSIC 7 #7715

(3 DAYS/WEEK)

General Music is designed to give students a hands-on learning experience. Students will play many forms of drums, rattles and shakers in classroom world drumming. Students will learn to play six-string acoustic guitars in addition to reading treble clef notation, guitar tablature, and chord diagrams. Students will watch musical theatre productions and listen to many genres of music. Students will analyze song lyrics and create their own lyrics.

ORCHESTRA 7 #7747

(3 DAYS/WEEK)

Orchestra 7 is for students who have studied an orchestra instrument in elementary school and also provides an opportunity for students to begin a string instrument for the first time. Basic instrument technique and musical skills will be covered as the students learn to perform a variety of music. Instruction will be differentiated in a manner that will meet the needs of all learners regardless of skill

level. The orchestra will also participate in performances throughout the year. Beginning students will meet with the middle school orchestra instructor in advance to select their instrument. Some instruments are provided by the district for student use.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7 #7915
(2 DAYS/WEEK)

Seventh grade Physical Education will emphasize individual skills as they relate to lifetime fitness and wellness.

Note: Physical Education is a state requirement for all students. A gym uniform is mandatory for everyone (North Hills shirt and shorts). There is a nominal charge to cover the cost of the uniform.

2019-2020

**GRADE 7 - COURSE SELECTION
WORKSHEET**

In seventh grade, all students are required to take English, Literacy Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Art, Music, Physical Education, Family & Consumer Science, and Technology Education. World Language and Intro to Coding are additional electives for students based upon their Literacy Arts and Mathematics courses.

A music elective is the only scheduling choice for 7th grade students; students can choose Band, Orchestra, Chorus or General Music. Unless specially designed instruction has been planned for your child through our special education department or our GATE department, your child will be enrolled in the courses outlined per this worksheet.

This worksheet should be completed prior to scheduling online.

Course Number				Course
7	1	2	5	English 7
7	1	7	*	Literacy Arts 7*
7	2	2	5	Social Studies 7
7	3	1	*	Math 7*
7	4	1	5	Science 7
7	5	1	5	World Language **
7	6	1	5	Trimester Courses (Art, FCS, Tech Ed)
7	8	1	6	Intro to Coding**
7	9	1	5	Physical Education

The following course requires specific course numbers, based on student preference. Each course requires 4 digits.

7	7			Music
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*Students will be placed into the correct Literacy Arts and Mathematics course based upon data.

**Access to Exploratory World Language and/or Intro to Coding will be based upon each student's identified Literacy Arts and Mathematics needs.

All current 6th graders must register online, via PowerSchool, for the 2019-2020 school year. The scheduling window will open on January 22nd and close on February 18th, 2018.

EIGHTH GRADE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Required Core Courses

- English
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies

Required Courses

- Art
- Health
- Family & Consumer Sciences
- Level 1 Language
- * Literacy Arts 8B or 8C
- Music
- Technology Education
 - * *Students meeting the requirements for either of these courses will not have access to a Level 1 Language.*

Elective Courses

- Level 1 Language
 - French 1
 - German 1
 - Latin 1
 - Spanish 1
- Music
 - Chorus 8
 - Middle School Wind Ensemble 8
 - Music Appreciation 8
 - Orchestra 8
 - Band 8
- Physical Education
 - Physical Education 8
 - Next Level Fitness
- STEAM
 - Introduction to Sustainable Engineering
 - Digital Fabrication
 -

Typical Schedule

Although this is an example of a typical 8th grade schedule, it is not reflective of all the student schedules. Schedule will be based upon each student's identified Literacy Arts and Mathematics needs.

Subject	Period Beg-End	Term
Spanish 1	1	1234
Math 8	2	1234
Social Studies 8	3	1234
Science 8	4	1234
Chorus 8	5	1234
Lunch 8	6L	1234
Art 8	7	12
F&CS 8	7	23
Tech Ed 8	7	34
Phys Ed 8	8	12
Health 8	8	34
English 8	9	1234
Homeroom	HR	1234

EIGHTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH 8

#8125

English 8 emphasizes the connection between reading and writing to promote the development of critical thinking skills. This course provides students with a thematically-arranged study of the essay, short story, poetry, novel, and drama. Students read and respond to at least two full-length works, and they also are required to reach an independent reading goal throughout each quarter. In addition to reflecting on literature, the students develop written pieces in a variety of modes. Technology, research, and language skills are taught in conjunction with the reading and writing processes. In addition, the course reinforces the skills identified in the Pennsylvania Core Academic Standards for Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening, preparing the students to achieve Proficient to Advanced performance scores on the 8th grade English Language Arts PSSA.

LITERACY ARTS

Only students meeting the data prerequisites for the Literacy Arts 8B or 8C courses will be enrolled. Students enrolled in either of these courses will not take a World Language class.

LITERACY ARTS 8B #8153

Literacy Arts 8B is designed to refine students' reading skills in vocabulary and comprehension. The course integrates the use of novels, nonfiction text, projects and various reading strategies to enhance comprehension. Speaking, listening and writing activities are integrated to help prepare students for the 8th grade PSSA reading assessment.

LITERACY ARTS 8C #8151

This course consists of two 40-minute periods each day. This intensive literacy program blends personalized, online instruction with teacher-directed instruction to empower learners who have significant literacy delays. Specifically, the students progress at their own pace online to improve their reading while being exposed to complex text and rigorous vocabulary in teacher-directed instruction. An additional component will be the support of reading instruction in a content area subject.

MATH 8 #8315

The Common Core State Standards have identified three big ideas for 8th grade math -- algebra including statistical applications, functions and geometry. The big ideas involving exponents and scientific notation, equations, and functions are taught in the beginning of the school year so students have the whole year to master and review them. The second half of the school year addresses geometry,

statistics, and polynomials. Students will learn about these topics while reinforcing communication skills, problem-solving strategies, real-world applications, technology use, cooperative skills, and application of math to the real world and other subjects. A TI-84 graphing calculator is strongly recommended for this course.

MATH 8C #8315_C

This year long course is designed for one math period per day plus additional lab periods opposite the 8th grade PE or Literacy Arts C course. This intensive mathematics program blends personalized, online instruction with teacher-directed instruction to empower learners who have math delays. Specifically, the lab section is designed to improve basic math skills and mathematics foundation while completing guided practice. This course is structured to align with the 8th grade common core standards.

MATH 8D #8315_D

This year long, co-taught course is designed for one math period per day plus additional lab periods opposite the 8th grade PE or Literacy Arts C course. This intensive mathematics program blends personalized, online instruction with teacher-directed instruction to empower learners who have identified math learning delays. Specifically, students will progress at a pace to improve their basic math skills and mathematics foundation while completing guided instruction during their lab section. This course is structured to align with the on grade-level common core standards of 8th grade.

ALGEBRA 1 #8317

Algebra 1 is a course designed where by the end of the school year the students will learn families of functions, with special emphasis on linear and quadratic functions. Students will learn to represent them in multiple ways – verbal descriptions, equations, tables, and graphs. They will also learn to model real-world situations using functions to solve problems arising from those situations. We will learn about these topics while reinforcing communication skills, problem solving strategies, real world applications, technology use, cooperative skills, and application of math to the real world and other subjects. This course has been aligned to the Pennsylvania State Standards and the Algebra 1 Keystone Assessment. Successful completion of the Algebra 1 Keystone Exam is a graduation requirement.

Incoming Algebra students are required to meet the following criteria: 90% or greater final grade in Math 7A course, Advanced on 7th grade PSSA, and Proficient on the Algebra Readiness exam. A TI-84 graphing calculator is required for this course.

HONORS GEOMETRY #8318

In Honors Geometry, students will develop reasoning and problem-solving skills as they study topics such as congruence and similarity, and apply properties of lines, triangles, quadrilaterals, and circles. The students will also develop problem solving skills by using length, perimeter, area, circumference, surface area, and volume to solve real world problems. Students will use a graphing calculator in this course.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of the Algebra Keystone exam. Please note a student who signs up for this course but fails to meet the requirements will be removed and placed in the appropriate math course.

SCIENCE 8 #8415

Science 8 introduces students to, and develops proficiency in, the basic earth science principles that will be assessed on the PSSA examination in Grade 8. The topics that will be studied include rocks and minerals, geologic history, plate tectonics, astronomy, meteorology and physics. In this course students will gain an understanding of the earth systems that affect our daily lives.

SOCIAL STUDIES 8 #8225

Social Studies 8 examines the history of the United States, beginning with the formation of the English colonies in America and finishing with the industrialization of the United States in the early 20th century.

Areas of focus are: life in English colonies, the French and Indian War, the separation of the United States from England, the origin and development of our governmental system, the expansion of the United States politically, economically, and geographically, economic and social differences between the north and south leading up to the Civil War, detailed coverage of the Civil War, and reconstruction of the United States

STEAM TRIMESTER COURSES

Throughout all of the 8th grade curriculum, students will participate in real-world classroom activities, technology-based lessons and simulations; all-encompassing a STEAM (Science. Technology. Engineering. Art. Mathematics.), problem-solving approach to learning.

(12 WEEK ROTATION)

ART 8 #8616

Art 8 infuses art production, art history, art criticism, and aesthetic awareness. Students will actively engage in creative problem solving, strengthen visual literacy skills, and explore how art translates into their other classes and areas of their lives through drawing, painting, sculpture and digital art assignments. Students will develop creative solutions to proposed problems and use various media and modes of communication through a STEAM project that will be completed collaboratively by groups of students.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES 8 #8855

All middle school students are given the opportunity in exploratory courses to get acquainted with the components of Family & Consumer Sciences. The specific units of study that are offered in 8th grade are Personal Finance/Consumer Literacy, Character Education and Communication and Sewing Skills. Within these units, students further delve into the topics of the importance of money management to meet financial goals, the application of sustainable resource skills, career exploration, interior design (theory and practice), advertising and marketing, refinement of decision-making skills, character education and the importance of verbal, non-verbal and digital communication skills.

In regard to the sewing unit, emphasis is placed on sewing techniques, craftsmanship, and on the application of work ethic skills of organization and time management. Supplies for the sewing unit will be selected and purchased by the student, encouraging them to use the budgeting skills acquired throughout the financial literacy unit.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION 8 #8825

8th Grade Technology Education students are given the opportunity to explore technology and manufacturing through several areas of study. These areas of study include material processing, structural engineering, electronics, animation, 3-D modeling, and robotics. The activities are designed to give students hands-on and problem-solving experiences.

SEMESTER COURSES

WORLD LANGUAGE

Students will be introduced to the basic sound system and spelling patterns of the language. They will know and use common vocabulary and grammar in basic speaking and writing. Basic common vocabulary terms will be recognized through listening and reading. Students will study the geography, customs and culture of the language. A variety of materials, including textbook, handouts, flash cards, pictures, DVDs and multi-media tools, in addition to online resources will be used through the course.

- FRENCH 1 #8525
- GERMAN 1 #8535
- SPANISH 1 #8545
- LATIN 1 #8555

DIGITAL FABRICATION #8617

This introductory course deals with controlling computer technology to produce both 3-dimensional and 2-dimensional artworks. The purpose of this course is to learn how to create art, original graphics, and sculptural forms using computer software and technological equipment. Time spent in this course will be divided among learning Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop, and concepts of digital photography. Projects are designed to integrate the use of computers, scanners, digital drawing tablets, cameras, iPads and possibly 3D printers and laser engravers while learning the elements and principles of design.

INTRODUCTION TO

SUSTAINABLE ENGINEERING #8830

Various engineering disciplines will be introduced to the students with an

emphasis on sustainable engineering practices. Students will design, construct, and test a variety of engineering concepts while being taught the soft skills embedded in a project-based course, including collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, and communication.

SWIFT LEARNING TO CODE #8816

This course helps students expand the coding skills they learned in the Introduction to Coding course and previous lessons to start thinking more like an application developer. SWIFT is a programming language designed specifically for middle school students with the use of an iPad device.

HEALTH #8925

Eighth grade Health is designed to give each student the opportunity to develop and maintain one's health through the acquisition of sound knowledge, appropriate attitudes, decision-making skills, and mature behavior in the areas of mental/emotional, social, and physical health. Students will apply the above mentioned to the care and maintenance of several body systems, human growth and development, nutrition, drug, alcohol, and tobacco use and abuse. Abstinence from all high-risk behaviors is incorporated into all units of study.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8 #8915

This eighth-grade physical education course is a continuation of the seventh-grade program and introduces students to High School Sports and Recreation electives. This includes team sports, individual fitness/wellness activities, and lifetime fitness units with emphasis on individual skill development and sportsmanship.

NEXT LEVEL FITNESS #8916

Students will participate in a course that aligns with or is a precursor to the High School Personal fitness class. Students will become familiar with the fitness facility and the fitness equipment. (TRX system, free weights, boxing equipment, cross fit style equipment, their own body weight, and various pieces of technology such as the Fitbit.) New workouts of the week will be introduced that will focus on a specific muscle, muscle group, equipment, style of workout, or component of fitness. Students will gain an appreciation for health and fitness by learning that exercise doesn't necessarily have to revolve around playing a team sport.

Note: For the Physical Education 8 and Next Level Fitness courses, a gym uniform is mandatory for everyone (North Hills shirt and shorts). There is a nominal charge to cover the cost of the uniform.

MUSIC COURSES

MUSIC APPRECIATION #8715

This course is designed to provide experiences that heighten awareness and understanding of the art of music. Students will develop aural skills by listening to many forms of music. Students will play six-string acoustic guitars throughout this semester course. Students will read standard treble clef music notation in addition to guitar tablature and chord charts. Students will acquire proper right- and left-hand technique as we play notes and chords in first position. Musical concepts such as theory and composition are introduced/reinforced through computer technology.

CHORUS 8 #8725

Students enrolled in Chorus 8 build upon the skills learned in Chorus 7 by experiencing a more intense study

of vocal techniques, ear training, and choral literature from around the world and from various periods in music history. Classroom experiences culminate in several required public performances throughout the year. Opportunities for participation in festivals and select ensembles outside of the regular classroom are also available. Previous experience in chorus is preferred, but not required.

BAND 8 #8737

Band 8 is for eighth grade students who have developed musical skills through participation in either Beginning or Cadet Band. Students will study various exercises to continue to build technique and musicianship. The band will engage in a variety of concerts throughout the school year. Students will be recommended to the Band 8 by their band instructor.

ORCHESTRA 8 #8747

Orchestra is an elective musical ensemble that is open to all string players. Students will study various exercises to build technique and musicianship. Performance material will include excerpts from the classical and modern repertoire. The Orchestra will engage in a variety of concerts throughout the school year.

MIDDLE SCHOOL**WIND ENSEMBLE #8757**

Middle School Wind Ensemble is for eighth grade students who have developed musical skills through participation in either Beginning or Cadet Band. Students will study various exercises to continue to build technique and musicianship. The band will engage in a variety of concerts throughout the school year. Students will be recommended to the Middle School Wind Ensemble by their band instructor.

2019-2020
GRADE 8 - COURSE SELECTION
WORKSHEET

Unless specially designed instruction has been planned for your child through our special education department or our GATE department, your child will be enrolled in the courses outlined in this selection worksheet.

In eighth grade, all students are required to take English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Art, Family & Consumer Science, Technology Education, Health, and Music as per Group A.

Students who meet the requirements may select a World Language and alternate; all others will be placed in Literacy Arts 8B or 8C as per Group B.

Students choose a Group C elective to be opposite the semester Health course. Group D is to identify a second choice.

All current 7th graders must register online, via PowerSchool, for the 2019-2020 school year. The scheduling window will open on January 22nd and close on February 18th, 2018.

This worksheet may be used to assist in the online scheduling process.

Course Number				Course
<i>Group A</i>				
8	1	2	5	English 8
8	2	2	5	Social Studies 8
8	3	1		Math
8	4	1	5	Science 8
8	6	1	5	Trimester STEAM Courses
8	9	2	5	Health

The following courses require specific course numbers, based on student preference. Each course requires 4 digits.

8	7			Music Appreciation, Chorus, Band, Orchestra, Wind
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Group B

8	5			World Language *1st choice: _____
8	5			World Language *2nd choice: _____

** Only those students who meet the requirements may select a World Language, all other students will be placed in Literacy Arts 8B or 8C.*

Semester Elective - **First Choice**. Choose one elective course from Group C.

Group C

8				Refer to semester courses and descriptions on pages 14-15.
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Semester Elective - **Second Choice**. Choose one elective course from Group D. (You may duplicate PE course chosen from Group C above, if desired.)

Group D

8				Refer to semester courses and descriptions on pages 14-15
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NORTH HILLS MIDDLE VISION STATEMENT - INSPIRING ALL TO ACHIEVE THEIR VERY

NORTH HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

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COUNSELORS

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MR. FRANZ RATNAVALE, STUDENT ASSISTANCE COUNSELOR