

# **MOSS SIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL**



Program of Studies  
2023-2024



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## **DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Gateway School District, in cooperation with parents and other members of the community, is to provide quality educational opportunities for all students, to promote academic excellence in a safe and caring environment, to enhance self-confidence through personal responsibility, and to develop life-long learners who will be productive citizens in a diverse and changing world.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT**

The Gateway School District Middle School Program exists to respond to the needs and characteristics of the mid-level student. It is our mission to provide a child-centered approach to education that ensures all students develop a personalized skillset to learn, live, and work together in a collaborative and productive manner.

### **THE MOSS SIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL...**

- Address the unique needs of the student utilizing a balanced curriculum designed to accommodate physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development through a child-centered active approach to learning.
- Utilize flexible grouping and a variety of teaching strategies to accommodate different learning styles and ability levels.
- Provide opportunities for all team members to demonstrate interrelationships among the various curricular areas through the development of interdisciplinary units.
- Promote a home/school partnership to encourage ongoing communications among the student, teacher, and parent.
- Foster an atmosphere of respect in which students will respect themselves, respect their peers, and respect all adults and expect respect from others in return.
- Promote professional growth and renewal through ongoing staff development designed to increase understanding of the middle school student and programs.
- Recognize students for academic and behavioral success in a manner that supports positive choices and decisions.



## Administration and Contact Information

### Building Administration

**Principal**

Mr. Michael Jack  
[mjack@gatewayk12.org](mailto:mjack@gatewayk12.org)

Mrs. Paula Dragovich  
[pdragovich@gatewayk12.org](mailto:pdragovich@gatewayk12.org)  
(412)373-5831

**Asst. Principal**

Mrs. Lyndsey Love  
[llove@gatewayk12.org](mailto:llove@gatewayk12.org)

Ms. Lynnsey Oliver, Secretary  
[loliver@gatewayk12.org](mailto:loliver@gatewayk12.org)  
(412)373-5832

**Asst. Principal**

Mr. Robert Hall  
[rhall@gatewayk12.org](mailto:rhall@gatewayk12.org)

Mrs. Jaclyn Candioto, Secretary  
[jcandioto@gatewayk12.org](mailto:jcandioto@gatewayk12.org)  
(412)373-5830

### Important Numbers

#### Middle School Phone Numbers 2023-2024 School Year

Attendance Secretary	Lynnsey Oliver
School Counselor - 5th Grade	Richard Taylor
School Counselor - 6th Grade	Betty Howard
School Counselor - 7th Grade	Mary Jayne Edwards
School Counselor - 8th Grade	Kathleen Johnston
School Social Worker	Karen Brecht
Health Office	Christy Moriarty
Food Service	Alysha Robinson
Middle School Fax	412-373-5885

### Central Administrative Staff

Dr. William Short, Superintendent  
Dr. Dennis Chakey, Assistant Superintendent  
Dr. Guy Rossi, Assistant Superintendent



### MIDDLE SCHOOLS CONTACT INFORMATION

Here are common concerns families have during the school year and the appropriate person / department to contact.

Questions Concerning ...	Contact
New Student / Enrollment / Residency / Withdrawing Student	1st: Mrs. Cynthia Capell, Central Admin Office 2nd: Ms. Lynnsey Oliver
Transportation Concerns	1st: Mrs. Bonnie Easha, Director of Transportation 2nd: Mr. Michael Jack, Principal
Health / Medical Concerns	Mrs. Christy Moriarty, School Nurse Mrs. Shawna Bacco, Staff Nurse
Academic / Behavioral Classroom Concerns	1st: Classroom Teacher 2nd: Mrs. Lyndsey Love - Co- Principal Mr. Robert Hall - Asst. Principal 3rd: Mr. Michael Jack, Principal
Academic / Behavioral General Concerns	1st: Mrs. Kathy Johnston / Mrs. Jaynie Edwards / Mrs. Betty Howard / Mr. Rich Taylor, School Counselors
Teacher Complaint	1st: Classroom Teacher 2nd: Mr. Michael Jack
Class Grade	1st: Classroom Teacher 2nd: Mrs Lyndsey Love; Mr. Robert Hall
Student Assistance Program	1st: Mrs. Jaynie Edwards, School Counselor 2nd: School Counselors 3rd: Mrs. Lyndsey Love
Food Service - Breakfast / Lunch	Mrs. Alysha Robinson
Attendance / Trip Requests	Ms. Lynnsey Oliver
Skyward	1st: Ms. Lynnsey Oliver 2nd: Mrs. Jaclyn Candioto
Athletics	1st: Head Coach 2nd : Mr. Michael Jack
Cyber School	1st: Mr. Robert Hall



## Letter from the Principals

Dear Middle School Students and Families,

It is with great pride that we share with you the 2023-2024 Middle School Program of Studies. In order to prepare our students for success in a changing world, we annually update and revise our academic offerings. In the 2021-2022 school year, we joined our 5th and 6th grade classes with our 7th and 8th grade classes to form a new middle school at Gateway. This has been a great opportunity to develop and grow our students over four years as we work together to prepare them for the academic rigor expected of high school students.

The Board of Directors of the Gateway School District has adopted a Middle School Program designed specifically to meet the educational, social, and emotional needs of the young adolescent. It provides a gradual transition between life in elementary school and high school, but is a unique experience apart from both.

The Middle School Program will provide a gradual transition between life in elementary school and high school. It was developed to provide a unique experience; a special offering for each child experiencing this period of growth and development. The greatest range of differences in terms of physical, social, and intellectual growth is found in middle school students. Therefore, such a varied range of differences necessitates a program, which is distinctive in both curriculum, instruction, assessment, and socialization instruction.

The Middle School Program provides increased opportunity for students to learn about themselves and the world around them. The instructional model emphasizes the process of learning as well as the content. It is student-centered rather than teacher-centered. The program should be personal and meaningful, as well as an attractive and engaging component of your child's educational journey.

The staff and administration of Gateway is committed to providing each student with the best educational program possible. It is our desire to keep you informed of all that is taking place at school. It is our hope that through the cooperative efforts of the school and the home, your child will experience success throughout the time spent with us.

We appreciate your continuing cooperation and support. Best wishes to all students as you prepare for the 2023-2024 school year.

Sincerely,

Michael Jack  
Principal

Lyndsey Love  
Asst. Principal

Robert Hall  
Asst. Principal



## Promotion Requirements

Grade promotion requirements are established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Gateway School District Board of Directors. Each student and parent have the responsibility to make promotion a goal and develop a plan to achieve it. Each student is to perform school work related to their individual ability achievement expectancies. Performance is based on evaluation of assignments, participation, and tests in the classroom. Attendance, attitude, and behavior are additional personal indicators which affect classroom performance. Performance on grade-level PSSAs may impact future scheduling requests. (Please note that students do not acquire credits towards high school graduation while enrolled at the middle school.)

**Grade Five:** Promotion to Grade Six requires successful completion of the core curricular subjects. English Language Arts (2 credits), Mathematics (2 credits), Social Studies, and Science. Students may acquire additional credit through a Combination of other 5th grade courses such as Art, Music, Technology, and Physical Education.

**Grade Six:** Promotion to Grade Seven requires successful completion of the core curricular subjects. English Language Arts (2 credits), Mathematics (2 credits), Social Studies, and Science. Students may acquire additional credit through a Combination of other 6th grade courses such as Art, Health, Technology, and Physical Education.

**Grade Seven:** Promotion to Grade Eight requires successful completion of the core curricular subjects. English Language Arts (2 credits), Mathematics (2 credits), Social Studies, and Science. Students may acquire additional credit through a Combination of other 7th grade courses such as Fine Arts, STEAM 7, Physical Education, Digital Fluency, Engineering 7, Coding and Design 7 and Music Electives.

**Grade Eight:** Promotion to Grade Nine requires successful completion of the core curricular subjects. English Language Arts (2 credits), Mathematics (2 credits), Social Studies, and Science. Students may acquire additional credit through a Combination of other 8th grade courses such as Fine Arts, Health, FACS, Physical Education, Digital Fluency 8, Engineering 8, Coding and Design, Multimedia Production and Music Electives.



## Keystone Exams

In accordance with PA Act 158, Gateway School District has graduation pathways related to state assessments and proficiency in Algebra I, Biology, and Literature standards. Aligned with Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) requirements and the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), every student will attempt the Algebra I, Biology, and Literature Keystone Exams upon completion of the aligned course for each exam. These end-of-course assessments are known as the Keystone Exams and are required for Pennsylvania Public School students. The Algebra I Keystone Exam is taken in May of the year the student has the Algebra I math course scheduled. The other Keystone Exams are taken while in high school.

**Middle School students enrolled in Algebra I need to score proficient or advanced on the end-of-course Keystone Exam as a scheduling prerequisite for Geometry.**

## Math Pathways Chart

<b>MATH PATHWAYS CHART 5-12</b>							
GRADE 5	GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8	GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
Math 5	Math 6	Math 7	Math 8	Algebraic Concepts	iAlgebra 1 or Algebra 1	Geometry	Consumer Math (sem) and Transition to College Math (sem)
				Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Trig/Precalc or AP Statistics or Intro Prob/Stats (sem) or
	Math 6 Honors	Math 7 Honors	Math 8 Honors -or- Algebra I	Algebra I -or- Geometry	Algebra II	Trig/Precalc	Calculus or Honors Business Calculus or AP Statistics or AP Calculus AB
		Algebra I	Honors Geometry	Honors Algebra II	Honors Advanced Algebra/Trig	AP Calculus AB	AP Calculus BC





## Academic Planning and Scheduling

The following academic programming is designed to help students and parents understand their plan course selection over the next four years in middle school. The following schedules illustrate the required courses for each grade level at the middle school.

\*\*Specific course details including the description and term length are described in the following pages.

### Scheduling Key:

Double - two periods every day for the entire school year

Single - one period every day for the entire school year

Term - one grading quarter (9 weeks) during the school year

### 5th Grade

Category	Course Number	Course Name	Period (All Year)/ Quarter (9 Weeks)	Credits
English Language Arts	00105	ELA 5	Double Period	2
Mathematics	00405	Math 5	Double Period	2
Science	00605	Science	Single Period	1
Social Studies	00705	Social Studies	Single Period	1
Art	00965	Art	Quarter	.25
Music	00945	General Music	Quarter	.25
Physical Education	00905	Physical Education	Quarter	.25
Technology	00955	Exploring the Tech World	Quarter	.25
Music**		Instrument Lessons	Lessons	0
Academic Advisory	01015	Academic Advisory	Single Period	0

Students will have the option to play an instrument for the entire school year **OR** have an academic advisory period. These two options are shaded in gray to highlight the option.

\*\*Students will be scheduled once a week for instrumental lessons.. These lessons will occur during Academic Advisory or an elective class..



## Academic Planning and Scheduling

### 6th Grade

Category	Course Number	Course Name	Period (All Year)/ Quarter (9 Weeks)	Credits
English Language Arts *			Double Period	2
Mathematics *			Double Period	2
Science	00606	Science	Single Period	1
Social Studies	00706	Social Studies	Single Period	1
Art	00966	Art	Quarter	.25
Health	00916	Health	Quarter	.25
Physical Education	00906	Physical Education	Quarter	.25
Technology	00956	Innovations in Technology	Quarter	.25
Music (Select One) **		Band/Choir/Orchestra	Single Period	0
Academic Advisory	01016	Academic Advisory	Single Period	0

\* Students will be placed into the appropriate ELA and Mathematics courses based upon student achievement data and teacher recommendations. This information will be used to determine a student's course of study for 6th grade only.

ELA Options

00106 ELA 6  
00116 ELA 6

Math Options

00406 Math 6  
00416 Math 6A

\*\* Students will choose **ONE** music class (band, choir, orchestra) **-OR-** have an Academic Advisory class as listed.

Music Options

00926 Band Workshop 6  
00936 Orchestra Workshop 6  
00946 Treble Choir 6



## Academic Planning and Scheduling

### 7th Grade

Category	Course Number	Course Name	Period (All Year)/ Quarter (9 Weeks)	Credits
English Language Arts *			Double Period	2
Mathematics *		Math/Math Lab	Single/Double Period	1/2
Technology	00518	Robotics I	Single Period	1
Science	00607	Science	Single Period	1
Social Studies	00707	Social Studies	Single Period	1
Fine Arts	00967	Art	Quarter	.25
Technology	00957	Emerging Trends in Technology	Quarter	.25
Physical Education	00907	Physical Education	Quarter	.25
Technology	00987	Engineering 7	Quarter	.25
Music (Select One) **		Band/Choir/Orchestra	Single Period	1.0
Science	00997	STEAM 7	Quarter	.25
Foreign Language	00307	Intro to Spanish	Quarter	.25
Technology	00977	Coding and Design 7	Quarter	.25
Academic Advisory	01017	Academic Advisory	Quarter	0

\* Students will be placed into the appropriate ELA and Mathematics courses based upon student achievement data and teacher recommendations. This information will be used to determine a student's course of study for 7th grade only.

ELA Options

00107 ELA 7  
00117 ELA 7A

Math Options

00407 Math 7  
00417 Math 7A  
00418 Algebra I /  
00518 Robotics I (paired w/Algebra I)

\*\*Students will choose **ONE** music class (band, choir, orchestra) **-OR-** the block of four electives (STEAM 7, Intro to Spanish, Engineering 7, and Academic Advisory) as listed.

Music Options

00927 Concert Band 7  
00937 Strings Orchestra 7  
00947 Mixed Choir 7



## Academic Planning and Scheduling

### 8th Grade

Category	Course Number	Course Name	Period (All Year)/ Quarter (9 Weeks)	Credits
English Language Arts *			Single/Double Period	1/2
Foreign Language*	00308	Spanish I	Single Period	1
Mathematics *		Math / Math Lab	Single/Double Period	1/2
Technology	00518/00523	Robotics I/Robotics II	Single Period	1
Science	00608	Science	Single Period	1
Social Studies	00708	Social Studies	Single Period	1
Technology	00952	Advanced Tech Trends	Quarter	.25
Technology	00978	Coding and Design 8	Quarter	.25
Physical Education	00908	Physical Education	Quarter	.25
Health	00918	Health	Quarter	.25
Music (Select One) **		Band/Choir/Orchestra	Single Period	1.0
Technology	00988	Engineering 8	Quarter	.25
Family and Consumer Sce.	00958	FACS	Quarter	.25
Arts	00968	Fine Arts	Quarter	.25
Academic Advisory	01018	Academic Advisory	Quarter	0

\* Students will be placed into the appropriate ELA and Mathematics courses based upon student achievement data and teacher recommendations. This information will be used to determine a student's course of study for 8th grade only.

<u>ELA Options</u>	<u>Foreign Language</u>	<u>Math Options</u>
00108 ELA 8		00408 Math 8
00118 ELA 8A	& 00308 Spanish I	00409 Math 8A
		00418 Algebra I & 00518 Robotics I
		00423 Geometry & 00523 Robotics II

\*\*Students will choose **ONE** music class (band, choir, orchestra) **-OR-** the block of four electives (Coding and Design 8, Multimedia Production, Engineering 8, and Fine Arts 8) as listed.

Music Options  
 00928 Concert Band 8  
 00938 Symphonic Orchestra 8  
 00948 Concert Choir 8



## Course Descriptions

**00105 English Language Arts (ELA) 5      Grade 5      Double      2.0 Credits**

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In fifth grade, students broaden and deepen their understanding of informational and literary text through comparing and contrasting. Students reflect on their skills and adjust their comprehension and vocabulary strategies to become better readers. They use textual evidence and quote accurately to support their analyses and interpretations. Using evidence from multiple texts, students discuss, reflect, and respond to a wide variety of literary genres and informational text. Students read for pleasure, choosing books based on personal preference, topic, genre, theme, or author. Students develop a strong personal voice in their writing beginning in fifth grade. This is demonstrated by the way they sometimes inject humor into their narratives and support their opinions with credible reasons. Students use precise, specialized vocabulary appropriately in content-area writing. Students develop their writing craft with an emphasis on pacing and an awareness of style. They experiment with sentence length and complex sentence structures and vary leads and endings. Students are able to summarize and synthesize important works to include in their composition.

**00405 Math 5      Grade 5      Double      2.0 Credits**

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In grade 5, mathematics is about (1) developing fluency with addition and subtraction of fractions, and developing an understanding of the multiplication of fractions and of the division of fractions in limited cases (unit fractions divided by whole numbers and whole numbers divided by unit fractions); (2) extending division to two-digit divisors, integrating decimal fractions into the place value system and developing an understanding of operations with decimals to hundredths, and developing fluency with whole number and decimal operations; and (3) developing an understanding of volume.

**00605 Science 5      Grade 5      Single      1.0 Credits**

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*HMH Science Dimensions* is a program that is designed to make science exciting for everyone involved! *HMH Science Dimensions* takes a fresh look at science through the use of investigations, hands-on activities, and explorations into engineering, design, technology, matter, ecosystem, plants and animals, Earth's systems, and natural resources. Each unit is characterized by in-depth lessons that explore a variety of concepts related to the theme of study. These lessons all have a hands-on investigation that is directly related to the topic of study in addition to several mini-investigations throughout each lesson in the unit. These mini-investigations provide your child with opportunities to step away from their books or computers and actively participate in their learning. *HMH Science Dimensions* will assist your child in building a foundation of how to make claims, enhance reasoning skills, and provide evidence as support to those answers and claims.

**00705 Social Studies 5      Grade 5      Single      1.0 Credits**

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By the end of fifth grade students know and understand the story of the development of the nation, with emphasis on the period up to 1800. They focus on one of the most remarkable stories in



## Course Descriptions

history: the creation of a new nation, people by immigrants from all parts of the globe, and the ideals of the Enlightenment, and English traditions of self-government. This experiment was inspired by the innovative dream of building a new society, a new order for the ages, in which the promises of the Declaration of Independence would be realized. Whenever possible, events should be seen through the eyes of participants such as explorers, Native Americans, colonists, slaves and free blacks, children, or pioneers. The narrative for the year must reflect the experiences of different racial, religious, and ethnic groups.

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<b>00965</b>	<b>Art 5</b>	<b>Grade 5</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>0.25 Credits</b>
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This course meets daily for one nine week grading period. Students will explore the art elements (line, color, shape, space, texture, and value) and art principles (pattern, balance, contrast, rhythm, emphasis, and unity) in creating works of art. Various art techniques will be explored in addition to learning how to properly care for and maintain materials. Two-dimensional and three-dimensional art will be produced as well as exploring art criticism, art history, and aesthetics.

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<b>00945</b>	<b>Music 5</b>	<b>Grade 5</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>0.25 Credits</b>
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The General Music Curriculum focuses on the basic music elements, including but not limited to; Rhythm, Melody, Harmony, Form, Timbre. Musical concepts are learned through singing, chanting, dance, movement, drama and the playing of percussion instruments. Improvisation, composition and creativity are explored. The students will also take part in a World Drumming Unit that allows us to travel to different regions of the world through rhythm. Each student will have the opportunity to play various percussion instruments such as Djembe drums, Tubano Drums, Shekeres, Cow Bells, and Gankogui Bells.

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<b>00905</b>	<b>Physical Education 5</b>	<b>Grade 5</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>0.25 Credits</b>
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This course meets every day for the entire 9 weeks. The physical education program provides an opportunity for each student to develop knowledge and skills needed for lifelong fitness. Efforts are made to help students gain an understanding of the positive relationship between regular physical activity and health. Assisting students in the development of lifetime sport skills, self-control, and social awareness in cooperative play are also primary objectives of the course. This program contains activities that promote an understanding and appreciation of the varying abilities, as well as a strong emphasis on lifetime activities. With the emphasis on curbing obesity throughout the world, we strive to create fun and exciting ways to keep children active, while giving them the tools and knowledge to continue healthful behaviors throughout their lives. Some 5th grade physical education topics will include soccer, basketball, badminton, kickball, flubber ball, scooters, dodgeball, benchball, Gatorball, fitness, jump rope, and climbing ropes.

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<b>00955</b>	<b>Exploring the Tech World</b>	<b>Grade 5</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>0.25 Credits</b>
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Students will explore academic technology that will enhance their core educational opportunities by utilizing them appropriately. Students will use various productivity and multimedia tools that will help them in their academic, professional, and personal pursuits.



## Course Descriptions

<i>Current offerings + Projects</i>			
*Presentation Software using Google Slides, Keynote, PowerPoint and SWAY *Movie Making with Apple Clips	*Using GSuite and Office 365 Tools *Using iPad Resources to Increase Productivity *CAD Design and 3D Printing with TinkerCAD	* Keyboarding *Graphic Design using GIMP *Website Design using Google Sites *Sketchnoting	*Make a video game with Scratch Programming *Programming Drones and Sphero Robots *Spreadsheet Design with Google Sheets, Excel, and Apple Numbers

**00925 Band Lessons 5**

**Grade 5**

**Term**

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Instrumental lessons are designed to build upon previous musical and instrumental instruction in order to prepare students for participation in large music ensembles. Students enrolled in the band track will focus on woodwind, brasswind, or percussion instrumental techniques. The curriculum focuses on the development of fundamental instrument techniques, music reading skills, and musicianship. Students will explore a variety of musical genres through the performance of concert band repertoire, solo material, and the study of etudes. Students will earn a letter grade on their report card, which will reflect individual progress of musical skills and techniques, as well as participation in concert performances. Students will receive at least one 30 minute lesson per week and one full ensemble rehearsal. Beginners may enroll at the discretion of the instructor.

**00935 Orchestra Lessons 5**

**Grade 5**

**Term**

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Instrumental lessons are designed to build upon previous musical and instrumental instruction to prepare students for participation in large music ensembles. Orchestra will focus on the string instruments (violin, viola, cello, bass) and techniques specific to those instruments. The curriculum focuses on the development of fundamental instrumental technique, music reading skills, and musicianship. A variety of musical genres will be explored using string orchestra repertoire, method books and solo materials. Students will earn a letter grade on their report card, which will reflect individual progress of musical skills and techniques, as well as participation in concert performances. Students will receive at least one 30 minute lesson per week and one full ensemble rehearsal. Beginners may enroll at the discretion of the instructor.

**01015 Academic Advisory**

**Grade 5**

**Term**

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This class is designed to give students the opportunity to meet their academic and social emotional needs throughout the day. Students will be able to work on programs or activities designed to meet their own individual academic needs as well as use this time to work on class assignments. In addition, this class period will provide students the time to meet with their school counselor or other support staff.





## Course Descriptions

**00106 English Language Arts (ELA) 6 Grade 6 Double 2.0 Credits**

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In sixth grade, students read grade-appropriate, complex literature and informational text and cite textual evidence to support analyses. They examine how authors use reasons to make their points and support arguments with evidence, separating unsupported ideas from those backed by evidence. Students analyze both the structure and content of complex, grade-appropriate texts, determining how sentences and paragraphs within texts influence and contribute to the unfolding of a plot and the development and elaboration of events or ideas. Students share their findings in class discussions, practicing how logically to sequence ideas and highlight the themes and key details they find most persuasive. Students' vocabularies expand as they become more attuned to using context, knowledge of Greek and Latin roots and affixes, and word analysis to determine the meaning of academic words. Students are increasingly challenged to sharpen their ability to write and speak with more clarity and coherence, providing clear reasons and relevant evidence. Students learn how writers try to influence readers while discovering how they can do the same in their own prose. They know how to answer questions through writing and can use rewriting opportunities to refine their understanding of a text or topic. They also take a critical stance toward sources and apply criteria for identifying reliable information as opposed to mere conjecture.

**00116 English Language Arts (ELA) 6A Grade 6A Double 2.0 Credits**

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Accelerated ELA 6 integrates all aspects of reading, listening, writing, communication skills, and speaking at an accelerated pace and in more depth than the grade level English Language Arts course. In sixth grade, students read grade-appropriate, complex literature and informational text and cite textual evidence to support analyses. They examine how authors use reasons to make their points and support arguments with evidence, separating unsupported ideas from those backed by evidence. Students analyze both the structure and content of complex, grade-appropriate texts, determining how sentences and paragraphs within texts influence and contribute to the unfolding of a plot and the development and elaboration of events or ideas. Students share their findings in class discussions, practicing how logically to sequence ideas and highlight the themes and key details they find most persuasive. Students' vocabularies expand as they become more attuned to using context, knowledge of Greek and Latin roots and affixes, and word analysis to determine the meaning of academic words. Students are increasingly challenged to sharpen their ability to write and speak with more clarity and coherence, providing clear reasons and relevant evidence. Students learn how writers try to influence readers while discovering how they can do the same in their own prose. They know how to answer questions through writing and can use rewriting opportunities to refine their understanding of a text or topic. They also take a critical stance toward sources and apply criteria for identifying reliable information as opposed to mere conjecture.

**00406 Math 6 Grade 6 Double 2.0 Credits**

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In Grade 6, Instructional time focuses on five critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations, (4) developing an understanding of statistical reasoning; and (5) learning Geometric figures and concepts.





## Course Descriptions

**00416 Math 6A**

**Grade 6**

**Double**

**2.0 Credits**

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This accelerated course is designed based on the Common Core standards, to provide students opportunities to enhance their computational skills as well as to develop and strengthen their problem solving skills and become critical thinkers. This course will introduce students to algebraic concepts through the study of variables, expressions, equations, and inequalities as well as complete the study of real numbers dealing with integers, fractions, and decimals. This course will also place emphasis on ratios, proportions, percent's, Geometric Concepts, and probability and data analysis. Throughout the course, students will be given enriching opportunities to connect mathematics to real-life, meaningful applications. Through a differentiated approach to learning, students will learn and be evaluated with meaningful problem-solving activities, hands-on, real-life projects, and written assessments.

**00606 Science 6**

**Grade 6**

**Single**

**1.0 Credits**

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In sixth grade, students engage in four hands-on, inquiry based, integrated science units. In the genetics unit, students gain a deeper understanding of how organisms' traits are the result of inheritance and environmental factors. Students also examine how biotechnology can change the genetic make-up of an organism. In the cells unit, students study the levels of organization, cell theory, unicellular and multicellular organisms, as well as, analyze how cells carry out the functions necessary to sustain life. Students will use prepared slides and temporary slides (which they prepare), to examine cells more closely under a microscope. In the space unit, students explore relationships and patterns in the solar system that result from celestial movements. In the engineering and design unit, students use logical thinking skills to identify problems, along with associated constraints and limitations. They work together to brainstorm solutions before building prototypes. Next, they test and redesign their solutions. The goal of this course is to provide students the opportunity to use and interpret science to better understand the world around them.

**00706 Social Studies 6**

**Grade 6**

**Single**

**1.0 Credits**

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Sixth grade students will learn about the challenges facing the newly unified nation. They will explore military, economic, social, and political events of the early twentieth century, such as World War I and the Great Depression. Students will describe the key events and accomplishments of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States and the nation's growing role in world affairs, from World War II to modern day. Students will further study how the communities of Pittsburgh, Monroeville, and Pitcairn contributed to the development of Western Pennsylvania post Civil War. Students will develop analytic and critical thinking skills through the evaluation of evidence, historical perspectives and the interpretation of primary sources.



## Course Descriptions

**00966 Art 6** **Grade 6** **Term** **0.25 Credits**

This course meets daily for one nine week grading period. Students will explore the art elements (line, color, shape, space, texture, and value) and art principles (pattern, balance, contrast, rhythm, emphasis, and unity) in creating works of art. Various art techniques will be explored in addition to learning how to properly care for and maintain materials. Two-dimensional and three-dimensional art will be produced as well as exploring art criticism, art history, and aesthetics.

**00916 Health 6** **Grade 6** **Term** **0.25 Credits**

This course meets daily for one term. Building upon health education concepts from the elementary school, middle school health issues are covered in more depth. Topics include body systems, personal health, social health, and mental emotional health. In this course, the foundation of health concepts are set to continue encouraging healthy behaviors that are built on in years to come. The health triangle is introduced and the concept of risk behaviors are analyzed.

**00906 Physical Education 6** **Grade 6** **Term** **0.25 Credits**

This course meets every day for the entire 9 weeks. The physical education program provides an opportunity for each student to develop knowledge and skills needed for lifelong fitness. Efforts are made to help students gain an understanding of the positive relationship between regular physical activity and health. Assisting students in the development of lifetime sport skills, self-control, and social awareness in cooperative play are also primary objectives of the course. This program contains activities that promote an understanding and appreciation of the varying abilities, as well as a strong emphasis on lifetime activities. With the emphasis on curbing obesity throughout the world, we strive to create fun and exciting ways to keep children active, while giving them the tools and knowledge to continue healthful behaviors throughout their lives. Some sixth grade physical education topics will include football, basketball, fitness, climbing ropes and wall, hockey, kickball, flubber ball, wiffle ball, jump rope, scooters, soccer, basketball, dodgeball, Gator ball, Volleyball, tennis, and ping pong.

**00956 Innovations in Technology** **Grade 6** **Term** **0.25 Credits**

Students will continue to use cutting edge technology resources to develop proficiency across the curriculum. They will dive deeper into tech skills that will further their understanding of technology and assist them outside of the classroom environment.

<i>Current offerings + Projects</i>			
*Using Advanced iPad Resources to Increase Productivity *Keyboarding	*Podcasting with Garageband *Graphic Design with Photoshop *Creating Animated GIFS with Keynote	*Animation with Pencil 2D and Adobe Animate *Movie Making with iMovie *Virtual Field Trips with Google Earth	*Programming with ALICE 3D Software *App Development with SWIFT Playground *Coding with Minecraft



## Course Descriptions

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<b>00946</b>	<b>Treble Choir</b>	<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>Single</b>	<b>1.0 Credits</b>
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This ensemble will meet daily for the entire school year. Students will focus on music notation, proper vocal production and technique, ear training and performance skills. The choir will perform a variety of musical styles beginning with unison singing and advancing towards two part harmony in treble notation. Attendance is required at all scheduled concerts. Students will receive a letter grade on their report cards, which will reflect individual progress of musical skills.

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<b>00926</b>	<b>Band Workshop</b>	<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>Single</b>	<b>1.0 Credits</b>
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This course is designed to allow wind, brass, and percussion students to apply the skills they developed in the lesson program to a performance ensemble setting. Students will continue to develop instrumental technique, music reading skills, and musicianship with added emphasis on ensemble performance skills such as following a conductor, instrument part independence, and balance and blend within an ensemble. Students will also continue to explore new musical genres through performance of a varied repertoire of selections. \*Prerequisite\*: One year of instrument playing experience. Beginners may enroll at the discretion of the instructor.

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<b>00936</b>	<b>Orchestra Workshop</b>	<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>Single</b>	<b>1.0 Credits</b>
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This course is designed to allow string instrument students to apply the skills they developed in the lesson program to a performance ensemble setting. Students will continue to develop instrumental technique, music reading skills, and musicianship with added emphasis on ensemble performance skills such as following a conductor, instrument/section part independence, and balance and blend within a string ensemble. Students will also continue to explore new musical genres through performance of a varied repertoire of selections. \*Prerequisite\*: One year of study on a stringed instrument (exception will be made for the 2021-2022 school year). Beginners may enroll at the discretion of the instructor.

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<b>01016</b>	<b>Academic Advisory</b>	<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>Single</b>	<b>1.0 Credits</b>
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This class is designed to give students the opportunity to meet their academic and social emotional needs throughout the day. Students will be able to work on programs or activities designed to meet their own individual academic needs as well as use this time to work on class assignments. In addition, this class period will provide students the time to meet with their school counselor or other support staff.



## Course Descriptions

**00107 English Language Arts (ELA) 7 Grade 7 Double 2.0 Credits**

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Grade seven English integrates all aspects of reading, listening, writing, communication skills, and speaking. Using thematic units, students will review and build upon their knowledge of the form and function of the English language and its parts. Vocabulary skills will be integrated on a daily basis through vocabulary activities, literary selections, and within each unit. Analytical thinking skills will be promoted through active reading strategies and the writing process, which will also provide a structured approach to informative, argumentative, and narrative writing. Creative writing will be encouraged through reader response to literary selections, narrative writing, and poetry. Research and reference skills will be taught through the use of library facilities and modern technology during the completion of a research project. Learning in all areas will be student-centered, and English teachers will collaborate with other subject teachers in interdisciplinary units to further reinforce learning.

**00117 English Language Arts (ELA) 7A Grade 7 Double 2.0 Credits**

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Honors ELA 7 integrates all aspects of reading, listening, writing, communication skills, and speaking at an accelerated pace and in more depth than the grade level English Language Arts course. Using thematic units, students will review and build upon their knowledge of the form and function of the English language and its parts. Vocabulary skills will be integrated on a daily basis through vocabulary activities, literary selections, and within each unit. Analytical thinking skills will be promoted through active reading strategies and the writing process, which will also provide a structured approach to informative, argumentative, and narrative writing. Creative writing will be encouraged through reader response to literary selections, narrative writing, and poetry. Research and reference skills will be taught through the use of library facilities and modern technology during the completion of a research project. Learning in all areas will be student-centered, and English teachers will collaborate with other subject teachers in interdisciplinary units to further reinforce learning.

**00407 Math 7 Grade 7 Double 2.0 Credits**

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The 7th grade math course, which is delivered through academic or enrichment pre-algebra courses, is designed based on the Common Core standards, to provide students opportunities to enhance their computational skills as well as to develop and strengthen their problem solving skills and become critical thinkers. This course will introduce students to algebraic concepts through the study of variables, expressions, equations, and inequalities as well as complete the study of real numbers dealing with integers, fractions, and decimals. The Pre-Algebra course will also place emphasis on ratios, proportions, percent's, geometric concepts, and probability and data analysis. Throughout the course, students will be given enriching opportunities to connect mathematics to real-life, meaningful applications. Through a differentiated approach to learning, students will learn and be evaluated with meaningful problem-solving activities, hands-on, real-life projects, and written assessments.



## Course Descriptions

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<b>00417</b>	<b>Math 7A</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>Double</b>	<b>2.0 Credits</b>
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Seventh grade students who display mastery of 7th grade mathematics content will be exposed to Algebra with a strong emphasis placed on the Grade 8 Common Core Mathematics Standards, as well as the NCTM standards of mathematical practice. Students will begin work with algebraic concepts by working with variables, equations, inequalities, and graphs. A strong emphasis is placed on the study of real numbers, especially irrational numbers. A heavy focus will be placed on problem solving with applications to the real world. Problem solving topics include, but are not limited to, Distance = Rate x Time, Cost, Income, and Value, as well as Geometry.

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<b>00418</b>	<b>Algebra I</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>Single</b>	<b>1.0 Credit</b>
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In grade 7, Algebra is an accelerated course offered only to students who have proven they are capable of working with algebraic concepts at an accelerated pace and in greater depth. Achievement test scores, performance on a qualifying algebra exam, academic recommendations of teachers, and other performance records are used in the consideration of students for this course. Strong emphasis is placed on the study of real numbers dealing with both rational and irrational numbers. Students will use algebraic concepts, working with variables, equations and inequalities, and graphs. Focus is also placed on problem solving with applications of ratios, proportions, percentages, and geometric concepts. Topics covered include properties and operations of real numbers (simplifying square roots, etc.) as well as operations involving polynomials, solving and graphing equations and inequalities, problem solving with real life applications, and solving and graphing systems of linear equations and inequalities. Learning will be enhanced by the use of calculators and computers.

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<b>00518</b>	<b>Robotics and Design I</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>Single</b>	<b>1.0 Credit</b>
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Paired with Algebra I, the Robotics and Design Technology course is offered to 7th and 8th grade students. This is a full year course that offers an in-depth study of robotics, coding, engineering and design technologies. This course will explore the area of robotic engineering, mechanical engineering, transportation and problem solving. Lego EV3 robots will be used to teach the robotic engineering section. Students will also explore Arduino Microcontrollers and the programming used to control these devices. This STEM based course will offer students an introduction to the engineering and robotics classes offered at Gateway High School and possible career avenues.

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<b>00607</b>	<b>Integrated Science 7</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>Single</b>	<b>1.0 Credit</b>
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At the 7th grade level, Integrated Science is designed to provide investigative experiences and inquiry activities in the biological, environmental and earth sciences. The students also practice the application of these sciences to societal issues. Our goal is to develop scientifically literate students who have both the background necessary for understanding biological and environmental concerns in our society and the fundamental tools for further study in Science. Every student is educated so that they are able to make scientifically sound judgments on a variety of topics.



## Course Descriptions

**00707 Early History and Geography      Grade 7      Single      1.0 Credit**

The Western Civilizations course is designed to introduce students to the social, political, religious, intellectual, artistic achievements from the earliest civilizations through the European Middle Age. Students will learn through example (lecture, text), practice (discussion, papers) and the historical/critical method of thought and expression. Students will be acquiring basic skills that historians used to gather material and exposed to the use of primary sources. The course is taught thematically so that students can connect with the material culturally as well as chronologically.

**00987 Coding and Design 7      Grade 7      Term      0.25 Credits**

Coding and Design Technology introduces students to computer coding and design through the use of Arduino microcontrollers and 3D Modeling/Printing. Students will explore concepts of basic electricity and DC Circuits. Students will develop 21st century learning skills by working collaboratively to create/manipulate programs to run the microcontrollers. In addition, students will acquire problem-solving skills necessary to identify solutions to programming errors. Daily classwork includes hands-on projects where students will complete simple to moderate tasks involving wiring, coding and design. For example, students will wire and program a microcontroller to create a musical keyboard or LED display. Students will be introduced to 3D modeling, programming, basic wiring, and various electrical components.

**00957 Digital Fluency 7      Grade 7      Term      0.25 Credits**

**Emerging Trends in Technology** - Students will further expand their competency of technology by investigating 21st century technology tools that can be incorporated into their academic courses. Students will use both multimedia and productivity tools to create projects that demonstrate the application of the program.

<i>(Current offerings)</i>	<b>Multimedia</b>	<b>Productivity</b>	<b>Other tech</b>
<b>Products used</b>	Animoto Audacity Pixlr Windows Video Editor (or iMovie) Glogster	Buncee Prezi Google Gsuite	Wordclouds.com Poll Everywhere Pivot Animator FlipaClip

**00967 Fine Arts 7      Grade 7      Term      0.25 Credits**

This course meets daily for nine weeks. Students will explore the elements and principles of design in creating works of art. Various art techniques and processes will be explored in addition to learning how to properly care for and maintain materials and equipment. The art program will focus on two-dimensional and three-dimensional art as well as studying art history, art criticism, and aesthetics.





## Course Descriptions

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<b>00907</b>	<b>Physical Education 7</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>0.25 Credits</b>
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The physical education program provides an opportunity for each student to develop and maintain a desirable level of physical fitness. Efforts are made to help students gain an understanding of the positive relationship between regular physical activity and overall wellness. Assisting students in the development of lifetime sports skills, self-control, and social awareness in cooperative play are the primary objectives of this course. This program contains activities that promote an understanding and appreciation of lifelong fitness, as well as, the varying abilities of others.

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<b>00947</b>	<b>Mixed Choir 7</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>Single</b>	<b>1.0 Credit</b>
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Mixed Choir will meet daily for the entire school year. Students will study music notation, reading an octavo score, proper vocal technique, ear training, sight singing and performance skills with attention to the changing voice. The choir will perform a variety of musical styles beginning with two part singing and advancing toward three part harmony. Attendance is required at all scheduled concerts. Students will receive a letter grade on their report cards, which will reflect individual progress of musical skills and performance techniques.

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<b>00927</b>	<b>Concert Band 7</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>Single</b>	<b>1.0 Credit</b>
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Concert Band is designed to provide an ensemble experience to students who have previously studied brass, woodwind or percussion instruments. Beginners may enroll at the discretion of the director. The curriculum focuses on the development of instrumental technique, music reading skills, and musicianship. A variety of musical genres will be explored using concert band repertoire, method books and solo materials. Students will earn a letter grade on their report card, which will reflect individual progress of musical skills and techniques, as well as participation in concert performances. \*Prerequisite: One year of instrument playing experience.

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<b>00937</b>	<b>Strings Orchestra 7</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>Single</b>	<b>1.0 Credit</b>
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The Orchestra meets daily for the entire year. This course is to provide an ensemble experience for students who play a stringed instrument (violin, viola, cello, string bass). Students will study and perform a variety of music and musical styles with specific attention given to playing-technique and music reading. Because the main emphasis is on building a quality of musicianship and preparing for performances, all students are required to perform in several concerts per school year. Students enrolled in this course must own/rent a stringed instrument and properly maintain the instrument. It is possible that students that play the cello or bass may use a school-owned instrument, which should always be kept at school. Students will receive a letter grade on their report card, which will reflect individual progress of musical skills and performance techniques. \*Prerequisite: One year of study on a stringed instrument.

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<b>00977</b>	<b>Engineering 7</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>0.25 Credits</b>
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The Engineering 7 course is arranged to introduce students to a variety of tools and techniques used in engineering and design. Students will be exposed to graphic design software, laser engraving, the engineering design process, product development, and manufacturing. Students will



## Course Descriptions

receive 21st Century learning through the use of advanced technologies and hands-on skills to solve problems. Students will have the opportunity to engage in various hands-on projects.

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<b>00307</b>	<b>Intro to Spanish</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>0.25 Credits</b>
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Students learn vocabulary terms and phrases necessary to begin expressing themselves in Spanish. Students are also introduced to culture and history from a variety of Spanish-speaking countries. The class allows a brief sample of what it would be like to learn another language. .

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<b>00997</b>	<b>STEAM 7</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>0.25 Credits</b>
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Moss Side Middle School offers seventh grade students the opportunity to further explore ideas and concepts related to the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) fields. This course will focus on self-direction, social responsibility, inventive thinking, effective communication, collaboration, the engineering design process, and productivity in order to begin preparing our students for 21st Century careers. Activities and classroom learning experiences will be primarily focused on topics of sustainability. Students will discover and create solutions to current problems. Computers, computer software, tools, and machines will be used to create the solutions. Proper lab safety procedures will be taught and addressed.

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<b>01017</b>	<b>Academic Advisory</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>Single</b>	<b>0 Credits</b>
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This class is designed to give students the opportunity to meet their academic and social emotional needs throughout the day. Students will be able to work on programs or activities designed to meet their own individual academic needs as well as use this time to work on class assignments. In addition, this class period will provide students the time to meet with their school counselor or other support staff.





## Course Descriptions

**00108 English Language Arts (ELA) 8 Grade 8 Double 2.0 Credits**

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The grade eight English course has been developed to closely align with the current state standards. The course is taught with an emphasis on grammar, writing styles and purposes, research techniques, literary elements and analysis, connecting to a text, and communicating effectively. Students will have exposure to various modes of writing with emphasis on argumentative, informative, narrative, and descriptive writing. Additionally, students will analyze poetry and the use of poetic devices. Students will also read and analyze literature that connects to the Social Studies curriculum as part of an interdisciplinary unit.

**00118 English Language Arts (ELA) 8A Grade 8 Single 1.0 Credit**

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The Honors ELA 8 course has been developed to closely align with the current state standards. The course is taught as a single instructional period with an emphasis on grammar, writing styles and purposes, research techniques, literary elements and analysis, connecting to a text, and communicating effectively. There is an emphasis on independent reading and analysis. Students will have exposure to various modes of writing with emphasis on argumentative, informative, narrative, and descriptive writing. Additionally, students will analyze poetry and the use of poetic devices. Students will also read and analyze literature that connects to the Social Studies curriculum as part of an interdisciplinary unit.

**00308 Spanish I Grade 8 Single 1.0 Credit**

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Beginning Spanish emphasizes the basic structure of the Spanish language with instruction centered on the skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Students learn vocabulary terms and phrases and grammatical concepts necessary to begin expressing themselves in Spanish. Some of the topics covered include greetings, describing others, likes and dislikes, hobbies and interests, the school day, and home and family. Students are also introduced to the culture and history of a variety of Spanish speaking areas around the world.

**00408 Math 8 Grade 8 Double 2.0 Credits**

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Students will be exposed to Algebra with a strong emphasis placed on the Grade 8 Common Core Mathematics Standards, as well as the NCTM standards of mathematical practice. Students will begin work with algebraic concepts by working with variables, equations, inequalities, and graphs. A strong emphasis is placed on the study of real numbers, especially irrational numbers. A heavy focus will be placed on problem solving with applications to the real world. Problem solving topics include, but are not limited to, Distance = Rate x Time, Cost, Income, and Value, as well as Geometry.

**00409 Math 8A Grade 8 Double 2.0 Credits**

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Eighth grade students who display mastery of 7th grade mathematics content will be exposed to Pre-Algebra with a strong emphasis placed on the Grade 8 Common Core Mathematics Standards, as well as the NCTM standards of mathematical practice. Students will begin work with algebraic concepts by working with equations, inequalities, and graphs. A strong emphasis is placed on problem solving with applications to the real world with a preparation for Algebra in high school.



## Course Descriptions

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<b>00418</b>	<b>Algebra I</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>Single</b>	<b>1.0 Credit</b>
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This course has a strong emphasis placed on the study of real numbers dealing with both rational and irrational numbers. Students will use algebraic concepts, working with variables, equations and inequalities, and graphs. Focus is also placed on problem solving with applications of ratios, proportions, percentages, and geometric concepts. Topics covered include properties and operations of real numbers (simplifying square roots, etc.) as well as operations involving polynomials, solving and graphing equations and inequalities, problem solving with real life applications, and solving and graphing systems of linear equations and inequalities. Learning will be enhanced by the use of calculators and computers.

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<b>00518</b>	<b>Robotics and Design I</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>Single</b>	<b>1.0 Credit</b>
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Paired with Algebra I, the Robotics and Design Technology course is offered to 7th and 8th grade students. This is a full year course that offers an in-depth study of robotics, coding, engineering and design technologies. This course will explore the area of robotic engineering, mechanical engineering, transportation and problem solving. Lego EV3 robots will be used to teach the robotic engineering section. Students will also explore Arduino Microcontrollers and the programming used to control these devices. This STEM based course will offer students an introduction to the engineering and robotics classes offered at Gateway High School and possible career avenues.

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<b>00423</b>	<b>Geometry</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>Single</b>	<b>1.0 Credit</b>
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Geometry, like Honors Geometry offered at the high school, is an accelerated course focusing primarily on the study of traditional Geometry concepts including applications. Some of the topics studied are: relationships between lines, planes, angles and triangles, congruences, and similarities, inequalities, areas and volumes. Introductions to a variety of proofs including two column coordinate and indirect proofs are also discussed. Applications are done through problem situations completed by the students. A review of Algebra I skills is integrated throughout the course.

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<b>00523</b>	<b>Robotics and Design II</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>Single</b>	<b>1.0 Credit</b>
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The Robotics and Design II course serves as an extension of the Robotics and Design I course for second year Robotics students. This course acts as a framework for teaching robotics and engineering that is based on natural ways of learning problem solving and engineering applications. It is a multipoint curriculum where mathematics, science, and engineering come together to help students create unique solutions. Students will also explore Seaperch, an aquatic robotics program.

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<b>00608</b>	<b>Integrated Science</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>Single</b>	<b>1.0 Credit</b>
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This Science course offers students a hands-on, inquiry-based approach to learning science content and process. Grade 8 Integrated Science includes three major content areas: physics, astronomy, and chemistry. The first semester of studies will focus on motion, forces, astronomy, and energy.



## Course Descriptions

The second semester will focus on matter, elements, compounds, and chemical reactions. This course is designed to help students develop scientific skills such as making accurate measurements; analyzing and graphing experimental data, using laboratory equipment and technology, and designing and conducting controlled experiments. The goal of this course is to enhance student problem solving and critical thinking skills by utilizing the scientific method through active experimentation and investigation.

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**00708 Evolution of the Am. Republic      Grade 8      Single      1.0 Credit**

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This course is designed to cover American History from 1689-1877 with a focus on the development of the American Republic. Students will do investigative study and use a variety of materials and techniques necessary to participate in individual/cooperative problem-solving activities. The study of the contributions of all groups in a multi-cultural society is an integral part of this course.

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**00958 Advanced Tech Trends      Grade 8      Term      0.25 Credits**

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As students finish their middle school learning, students will develop independence and transferable skills utilizing technology in their personal academic endeavors that will prepare them for their future careers. In this course we will dive deeper into some of the technology that you have used the last three year as well as explore some new multimedia and productivity tools. As always the goal is to develop a diverse digital technology toolbox for use in your academic, professional, and personal life.

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**00952 Family and Consumer Science      Grade 8      Term      0.25 Credits**

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This course, Foundations for Your Future, meets daily for nine weeks. In the Fashion and Interior Design unit, students will coordinate proper clothing choices as well as design their dream bedroom. After reviewing the sewing machine operation, students will make a chair back for their Engineering and Design chair project. Students will also recycle an old t-shirt to create something new. Topics in Advanced Human and Child Development include developmental milestones and the cost of raising a child. In Food Preparation II, students will prepare and eat a variety of recipes that practice healthy living.

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**00918 Health 8      Grade 8      Term      0.25 Credits**

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This course addresses topics outlined by the Center for Disease Control. These Risk Behavior themes of Physical Inactivity, Dietary Behaviors and Intentional/Unintentional Injuries offer the students the tools and knowledge to set goals and make educated decisions. A variety of teaching strategies will be utilized offering students multiple opportunities to adopt, practice and maintain health-enhancing behaviors. The presentation of additional risk behaviors such as Tobacco/Alcohol/ Drug Use and Sexual Behaviors. Social and mental health topics are also discussed in this course. These themes provide a framework allowing for the inclusion of health content and concepts that are appropriate at this developmental stage. Instructional strategies and learning experiences provide opportunities to reinforce health enhancing skills and positive health



## Course Descriptions

behaviors. Application of the skills of analysis, comparison, and evaluation of health resources empowers students to achieve health literacy.

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<b>00908</b>	<b>Physical Education</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>Credits</b>
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This course meets every day for the entire 9 weeks. The physical education program provides an opportunity for each student to develop knowledge and skills needed for lifelong fitness. Efforts are made to help students gain an understanding of the positive relationship between regular physical activity and health. Assisting students in the development of lifetime sport skills, self-control, and social awareness in cooperative play are also primary objectives of the course. This program contains activities that promote an understanding and appreciation of the varying abilities, as well as a strong emphasis on lifetime activities. With the emphasis on curbing obesity throughout the world, we strive to create fun and exciting ways to keep children active, while giving them the tools and knowledge to continue healthful behaviors throughout their lives.

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<b>00928</b>	<b>Concert Band</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>Credits</b>
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Concert Band is designed to provide an ensemble experience to students who have previously studied brass, woodwind or percussion instruments. Beginners may enroll at the discretion of the director. The curriculum focuses on the development of instrumental technique, music reading skills, and musicianship. A variety of musical genres will be explored using concert band repertoire, method books and solo materials. Students will earn a letter grade on their report card that will reflect individual progress of musical skills and techniques, as well as participation in concert performances. \*Prerequisite: Two year of instrument playing experience.

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<b>00948</b>	<b>Concert Choir</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>Credits</b>
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The Concert Choir will meet daily for the entire school year. Students will study music notation, octavo score reading, proper vocal technique, ear training, sight reading and performance skills with attention to understanding personal vocal choices. The choir will perform a variety of musical styles beginning with three part harmony and advancing toward four part harmony. Attendance is required at all scheduled concerts. Students will receive a letter grade on their report cards, which will reflect individual progress of musical skills and performance techniques.

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<b>00938</b>	<b>Symphonic Strings</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>Credits</b>
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This course is to provide an ensemble experience for students who play a stringed instrument (violin, viola, cello, string bass). Students will study and perform a variety of music and musical styles with specific attention given to playing-technique and music reading. Because the main emphasis is on building a quality of musicianship and preparing for performances, all students are required to perform in several concerts per school year. Students enrolled in this course must own/rent a stringed instrument and properly maintain the instrument. It is possible that students that play the cello or bass may use a school owned instrument, which should always be kept at school. Students will receive a letter grade on their report card that will reflect individual progress





## **SPECIAL SERVICES**

### **AIM (ACCENT ON INDIVIDUAL MOTIVATION)**

In accordance with Chapter 16, specially designed instruction is offered for qualified students based on Gifted Individual Education Plans. Students involved in AIM have many opportunities to extend their learning outside the walls of the regular classroom.

### **ESL (ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE)**

In accordance with Title 22, Chapter 4, Moss Side Middle School provides a program for each student whose dominant language is not English. Qualifying students are afforded a planned program of English as a second language (ESL) instruction to facilitate the acquisition of English language skills and an instructional program appropriate to the student's developmental and instructional level.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION AND SECTION 504 PLANS**

In accordance with Chapter 14, specially designed instruction is offered for qualified students based on their Individual Educational Plans. Students receiving services will be assigned a roster teacher, which will oversee their educational services.

### **TITLE I**

Additional academic support is available to our Middle School students based on federal review of local population statistics. We are currently eligible for related funding and services, as all students have access to Title I resources.