

EVERETT AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL

PLANNED COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

2021-2022

GENERAL INFORMATION

The availability of elective courses depends entirely upon the feasibility of scheduling - meaning the scheduling of individual students, space, availability, teacher and classroom availability.

COURSE REGISTRATION

During the registration period each student should select carefully those subjects that will comprise his/her grade or program for the next school year. Students are encouraged to seek assistance and advice from teachers, counselors and parents. Once a student registers for a program, this becomes a **CONTRACT**. Every effort will be made to provide the student with his/her selection. However, certain courses may be cancelled due to insufficient enrollment and alternate courses must be selected to complete a schedule. Entrance to a class or course may be denied because of over enrollment or under enrollment. Minimum enrollment is 10 students. Maximum enrollment is dependent upon the course.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Please be advised of the school's policy regarding schedule changes. Students will be given **TWO CALENDAR WEEKS** following the distribution of next year's schedules in **June** to request any necessary schedule changes for the entire year. Students must have a valid reason for making changes, such as computer error, double scheduled or a cluster change. Reasons such as teacher preferences, class is not required for graduation, and lunchtime choice are not valid reasons.

1. No subject may be dropped unless a subject is added to replace it.
All schedule changes must be approved by a guidance counselor or the principal.
2. A student may change courses after 10 school days if recommendation is made by the teacher and approved by the guidance counselor or the principal. The student's grade may/may not transfer to the new course based on teacher recommendation.
3. A student dropping a course after 10 school days without administrative approval will receive an "F" in the course and may be required to schedule another course.

COURSE SELECTION

The likelihood that a student will have a satisfactory experience in the next sequence of a course where he or she has had a "D" in the previous sequence is limited. Most courses are organized to move into a sequence of learning experiences. Therefore, teachers who are teaching courses in sequence expect students to have a minimum level of skills and knowledge in that field. Otherwise, a teacher spends a great deal of time teaching the skills and concepts of a previous course.

INCOMPLETE GRADES

Students must complete all course work by the end of each marking period. After 10 days, failure to do so will result in the student receiving an "F" on the incomplete assignment(s). Extenuating circumstances (i.e. extended illnesses) must be approved by faculty and administration.

CREDITS

Credit is given for middle school courses. These courses are middle school credits only and do not apply towards high school credits and graduation requirements

VALEDICTORIAN STATUS

To be eligible for consideration for valedictorian status, each nine-week grade will be included in the permanent record so that they can be factored into the valedictorian selection. For instance, if a student earns all A's for each of the nine weeks in credited courses, they will be selected as the valedictorian over a student who earns any B's for nine-week grades. Thus, a student may graduate with a 4.0 GPA and not be valedictorian due to earning one or more B's for a nine-week grade. A student repeating a class will be ineligible for valedictorian recognition. All university prep students must complete the university prep track as listed in the Planned Course Description Guide and Tech Prep students must complete the tech prep track as listed in the Planned Course Description Guide for valedictorian consideration.

ART

0304 – Art 6

Quarter

Grade 6

This course will focus on introducing the students to four main areas of art: creating art, art appreciation, art history, and art criticism. The students will learn about artists and learn about the elements of art and principles of design. The students will explore art activities and create their own artworks. They will explore the following art activities: sketching, drawing, painting, sculpture, pottery, color theory, and calligraphy.

0300 – Exploratory Art

Quarter

Grade 8

This class is the basic entry course into the high school art program. During this course we will focus primarily on the fundamentals of art. It is important for each student to learn and understand line, texture, color, and shape in order to create interesting and fun pieces in both 2 and 3-Dimensional forms.

BUSINESS

0600 – Introduction to Computer

Quarter

Grade 7

This course provides an introduction to microcomputers and information processing with an emphasis on keyboarding and word processing. Proper keyboarding techniques will be learned in this course.

CAREER READINESS

0158 - Career Exploration

Quarter

Grade 6

A quarter course whereby students explore a variety of career fields and opportunities. Research into a myriad of possible careers will ensue such as job duties, level of education needed, income earned, etc. Students will be required to add evidence to their online portfolios depicting this exploration.

0794 – Focus Skills

Quarter

Grade 6

Focus Skills: A quarter course for 6th graders in which students will explore the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. Through hands on activities, student will explore more effective ways of thinking, learning, and communicating with others. This course explores what it means to be a good student, friend, and productive community member.

0166 - Career and Character Education

Quarter

Grade 8

Career and Character Education is a quarter course allowing students to explore careers and positive character traits. This course covers the Career and Work standards in the state of Pennsylvania which include: Career Awareness and Preparation, Career Acquisition (getting a job), Career Retention and Advancement, and Entrepreneurship. Students complete career inventories and continue their Career Portfolios in the course. Students also discuss how positive character traits such as responsibility, resiliency, kindness, fairness, honesty, citizenship etc. are important in the career world, but are vital to their everyday lives.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Individual Middle School Courses

Year

Grades 6, 7, 8

Language Arts

Math

Prerequisite: Individualized Education Plan

Individual courses are based on the regular education curriculum; however the class requires significant modification based on a student's instructional level, strengths, and needs as prescribed by the educational evaluation and Individualized Education Plan. These classes afford students the opportunity to gain an educational benefit at their instructional level and rate of acquisition.

The alignment of the regular education curriculum to the PA Core Standards may be modified to benchmarks or standards at different levels that are appropriate to a student's level of functioning.

<u>0914 – Middle School Learning Skills</u>	Grade 6
<u>0905 – Middle School Learning Skills</u>	Grade 7
<u>0906 – Middle School Learning Skills</u>	Grade 8

Prerequisite: Individualized Education Plan

Middle Level Learning Skills is designed to meet the goals of a student's IEP. Learning Skills is a class that provides support and strategies for success in all classes.

0922 – Middle School Social Skills

Grades 6, 7, 8

Prerequisite: Individualized Education Plan

Middle Level Social Skills is designed to meet the goals of a student's IEP. Socials skills is a class that provides support to students in need of instruction in the areas of decision making, anger management, making friends, etc. The course objectives will be directly linked to each student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

0350 – Exploratory Spanish

Quarter

Grade 8

Exploratory Spanish class will focus on culture and beginning level Spanish expressions. Concepts such as the alphabet, calendar, classroom objects and school subjects, commands, numbers, colors, greetings, and a basic understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures will be taught.

INFORMATION SKILLS

0018 – Cyber Ethics and Character Education

Quarter

Grade 6

This course is designed to familiarize students with various tools necessary to gather and use electronic and print sources of information, both in the school setting and as a responsible citizen. Entering middle school can be a challenging yet exciting time for students. This course will focus on personal development, positive character traits, online privacy and the risks of improper internet use, digital literacy and ethics, identification of credible sites, as well as cyber-bullying issues. Cyber Ethics and Character Education empowers students to take responsibility for their actions.

0615- Essentials of Computer Science & Technology

Quarter

Grade 7

This quarter course provides students with an entry level understanding of the essentials for computer science and technology. Students will build on vocabulary, problem solving techniques, and hands-on computer activities to complete tasks.

0616- Essentials of Computer Science & Technology – Semester

Semester

Grade 7

This semester course provides students with an entry level understanding of the essentials for computer science and technology. Students will build on vocabulary, problem solving techniques, and hands-on computer activities to complete tasks. This course will be a more in-depth approach which will include an introduction to robotics.

0602 – Media Skills

Quarter

Grade 8

This course introduces the student to the three types of information: print, audiovisual, and electronic. It shows the student how to evaluate these sources of information to determine if the source is appropriate. It also aims at familiarizing the student with doing research including selection of a topic, using information sources and preparing a bibliography.

LANGUAGE ARTS

0102 – English Language Arts 6

Year

Grade 6

The 6th grade English Language Arts course is designed to encourage comprehension and communication skills at an age appropriate level. It is a balanced and comprehensive program. Reading skills such as key ideas and details, literary structure, text dependent analysis, and the integration of knowledge will be taught using rich and varied literature. This literature will come in the form of short stories, poetry, novels, and informational texts. Students will also practice writing skills across multiple genres, including narrative, expository, persuasive, and literature response. Along with writing instruction, students will learn the conventions of Standard English and acquire grade appropriate vocabulary. Cooperative learning opportunities will be provided to assist students in achieving appropriate speaking and listening skills.

0100 – English Language Arts 7

Year

Grade 7

This course consists of units of work involving grammar, usage skills, and writing skills. Students will study literature and informational texts to develop fluency and comprehension skills. Instruction will be based on the PA Core reading, grammar, and writing standards.

Students will practice strategies to become stronger readers and better writers. All genres will be explored as students are prepared for authentic experiences, both dependent and independent of texts.

0105 – English Language Arts 8

Year

Grade 8

This course is heavily focused on applying English grammar, mechanics, and organizational skills across a variety of writing contexts. Involved in this course are units focusing on language skills, writing skills, and speaking/listening skills. Students use mentor texts to pursue deep analysis of a variety of genres of writing, both fiction and nonfiction. Reading strategies, test taking skills, and emphasis on PA Core Reading standards will be used as students are exposed to a range of texts and tasks. Rigor will be infused into instruction and students will read, and comprehend, increasingly complex texts. Students will engage in authentic, project-based learning experiences to represent ways writing and communication are used in everyday life.

0109 – Intro to Drama

Quarter

Grade 7

Students will develop and demonstrate their ability to interpret Drama; create and perform various skits and plays; develop acting techniques; identify and create types of stages; analyze drama terms; listen as an audience; and participate in small and large group discussions.

MATHEMATICS

0402 – Math 6

Year

Grade 6

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

This course covers the areas of addition, subtraction, multiplication, division of whole numbers, decimals numbers, fractions, and rational numbers. Also, ratio, algebraic, measurement conversion, geometric, order of operation, and inequality concepts will be covered. Students will explore and experience math concepts in a variety of context such as discovery-based critical thinking exercises and so much more.

0400 – Pre-Algebra 6

Year

Grade 6

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

This course covers the areas of multiplication, division of whole numbers, decimals numbers, fractions, percentages and rational numbers. Also, ratio, proportions, algebraic, measurement conversion, geometric, order of operation, and inequality concepts will be covered. These skills will be taught in a variety of ways incorporating open ended word problems and discovery. This course is geared for students able to move more quickly and have a solid depth of understanding math concepts and theory.

0405 – Pre-Algebra 7

Year

Grade 7

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

This course is geared for most seventh graders. 7th grade Common Core topics will be covered including: ratios and proportional relationships, the number system, expressions and equations, geometry, statistics and probability. Also, basic algebra concepts such as evaluation and simplification of algebraic expressions and the solution of simple equations are introduced. This class will work through the course more slowly than Algebra 1A 7. It is intended that these students will complete Algebra I over 2 years, Algebra 1A and Algebra 1B.

0412-Algebra 1A 7

Year

Grade 7

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra 6

This course reviews and expands upon the topics of variables, expressions, order of operations, distributive property, solving linear equations, functions and graphing linear equations. 7th grade Common Core topics will also be covered including: ratios and proportional relationships, the number system, expressions and equations, geometry, statistics and probability. Algebra I concepts not completed in this course will be completed in 8th grade in Algebra IB-8.

0415 – Algebra 1/2

Year

Grade 8

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

This course reviews and expands upon the topics of variables, expressions, order of operations, distributive property, solving linear equations, functions and graphing linear equations. Topics will include exponents and radicals, real numbers, linear relationships, systems of linear equations, functions, geometry, statistics and probability.

0410 – Algebra 1A 8

Year

Grade 8

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra with a C or better or teacher recommendation

This course reviews and expands upon the topics of variables, expressions, order of operations, distributive property, solving linear equations, functions and graphing linear equations. It introduces students to systems of equations and linear inequalities. The course also includes the topics of exponents and radicals, geometry, and statistics and probability. Algebra I concepts not completed in this course will be completed in Grade 9 - Algebra IB.

0429 – Algebra 1B 8

Year

Grade 8

Prerequisite: Algebra 1A 7

This course reviews and expands upon the topics of solving and graphing linear equations, solving systems of linear equations, solving linear inequalities, operations with polynomials, and factoring polynomials. 8th grade Common Core topics will also be covered: exponents and radicals, functions, geometry, statistics and probability. Students will take the Algebra Keystone at the end of this course. Students who successfully complete Algebra 1B-8 will take geometry in 9th grade.

0409 – Math 4 Life
Quarter

Grade 8

This is a math elective course where students will study mathematics for everyday situations by doing projects, activities, and using hands-on techniques. Students will learn and understand how to think critically and creatively, apply mathematical concepts to real-world applications, how to work and participate in groups, and how to develop and use hands-on projects related to mathematics.

MUSIC

0323 – Exploratory Music 7
Quarter

Grade 7

Exploratory Music 7 will explore elements of American Music History to include but are not limited to the following areas:

Modes of Musical Production
Types of Ensembles
Conducting
Blues
Jazz
Ragtime
Marches
Folk Music
Rock N' Roll
Country Music
Modern Era Music Styles

Music and Culture of:
Native Americans
Pilgrimage
Revolutionary Times
Slavery
Civil War Times

0328 – White Concert Band
Year

Grade 6

Prerequisite: 5th Grade Band or Previous Lessons based upon Director discretion.

The White Concert Band will study musical literature based upon the type of performances for which the band will perform. Performances include two major concerts in the winter and spring. Band is curricular, therefore all after-school and evening rehearsals/performances are considered to be an extension of the classroom. Attendance is required at all concert events. Instrumental lessons are required for all students enrolled in the instrumental music program in grade 6.

0330 – Red Concert Band
Year

Grades 7, 8

Prerequisite: 6th Band or Previous Lessons based upon Director discretion.

The Red Concert Band will study musical literature based upon the type of performances for which the band will perform. Performances include two major concerts in the winter and spring and a shared performance at a senior high football game. To prepare for performances some after-school and evening rehearsals may be scheduled. Band is curricular, therefore all after-

school and evening rehearsals/performances are considered to be an extension of the classroom. Attendance is required at all of these events. Instrumental lessons are required for all students enrolled in the instrumental music program in grades 7 and 8.

0332 – Middle School Jazz Band

Semester

Grades 7, 8

Prerequisite: Audition by band director

Study of literature and group size will be based on the types of engagements for which the Jazz Band will be asked to perform. Thus, the musical literature studied in this course will be varied and balanced according to performance demands. This course is open to students through audition only. All students will be able to demonstrate competency on his/her instrument in a small jazz ensemble setting.

0338 – Sixth Grade Chorus

Year

Grade 6

The Sixth Grade Chorus is a non-auditioned ensemble that is open to all students in 6th grade. The Chorus is a performance-based class that is designed to provide growth in the areas of performance, vocal technique, ear training and basic music theory. Students will have the opportunity to study repertoire that covers a wide spectrum of styles, time periods and cultures. This class will serve as an introduction to becoming a member of future choirs, so special attention will be given to vocal technique and basic theory. Since performance is considered to be a major part of each student's grade, all students are required to participate in major performances. There are two major performances per year: the annual Christmas and Spring choral concerts.

0340 – Seventh and Eighth Grade Chorus

Year

Grades 7, 8

The Seventh and Eighth Grade Chorus is a non-auditioned ensemble that is open to all students in 7th and 8th grade. The Chorus is a performance-based class that is designed to provide growth in the areas of performance, vocal technique, ear training and basic music theory. Students will have the opportunity to study repertoire that covers a wide spectrum of styles, time periods and cultures. This course will also prepare students to sing in future choirs in their high school years. Since performance is considered to be a major part of each student's grade, all students are required to participate in major performances. There are two major performances per year: the annual Christmas and Spring choral concerts.

0333 – Middle School Tribe

Semester

Grades 7, 8

Prerequisite: Audition by choral director. Must be a member of the 7th and 8th Grade Chorus

This course is an extension of the Seventh and Eighth Grade Chorus and is for students who wish to further their interests in choral music and singing. Tribe is an auditioned ensemble and members will be placed in the ensemble based on their audition results. Students will have the opportunity to study a higher-level repertoire that covers a wide spectrum of styles, time periods

and cultures. Special attention will be given to small group singing and technique. Since performance is considered to be a major part of each student's grade, all students are required to participate in performances. There are four major performances per year: the annual Christmas Concerts and Spring Concerts. There will also be additional community performances scheduled throughout the school year.

0343 – White Concert Band/Chorus

Year

Grade 6

Available for any band/chorus student who would be registering for both classes. Students enrolled in both band and chorus will alternate days of rehearsing. These rehearsals days will be determined week by week by the chorus and band director.

0347 – Red Concert Band/Chorus

Year

Grades 7, 8

Prerequisite: See 6th, 7th, or 8th Grade Ensemble Prerequisites.

Available for any band/chorus student who would be registering for both classes. Students enrolled in both band and chorus will alternate days of rehearsing. These rehearsals days will be determined week by week by the chorus and band director.

0346 – Middle School Tribe/Jazz Band

Semester

Grades 7, 8

Prerequisite: Must be a member of the choir or band and pass a successful audition.

Available for any band/chorus student who would be registering for both classes. Students enrolled in both Jazz Band and Tribe will alternate days of rehearsing. The rehearsal schedule will vary from week to week. Please see the Tribe and/or the Jazz Band course descriptions for more information.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

0006/0008 – Physical Education

Semester

Grades 6, 8

Physical education is designed to provide each student with an opportunity to develop basic skills and an understanding of a variety of sports activities. Through physical education, desirable character and social traits are developed as well as defined responsibilities toward the physical development of the individual. Objectives such as increasing strength and endurance, better coordination of motor skills, improved health practices and an understanding of personal adjustment in our society are emphasized with the individual. Of major importance is developing skills in a sequence from Grades 6 thru 12 in relationship to the individual growth of the student. The following activities are offered in the middle school physical education classes:

flag football, soccer, badminton, lacrosse, Presidential & National Physical Fitness Test (fall and spring), volleyball, basketball, speedball, weight training, wrestling, field hockey, aerobic training, softball and Backyard Games Unit. The activities are offered in units with the students being able to select activities they wish to participate in. In addition, all activities are offered as coeducational. Act 211 (drug, alcohol and tobacco) will be addressed in Grade 8.

0013 – Adaptive Physical Education

Grades 6, 7, 8

Adaptive physical education is a diversified program of developmental activities, games, etc., suited to the interests, capacities and limitations of students with disabilities who may not safely or successfully engage in the regular program. Admission to the program is based upon a physician's medical diagnosis and recommendations applicable to the individual's condition.

0945(B) – Alternate Physical Education

0946(G) – Alternate Physical Education

Grades 7, 8

Admission to this program is based upon the student IEP stating that the student needs alternative physical education. Student will participate in classes that have been adapted to fit the student's needs. Activities: cardio room, weight room, ball skills and Life-time activities.

0007 – Wellness 7

Semester

Grade 7

Wellness 7 is designed to provide each student with an opportunity to develop basic skills and an understanding of a variety of sports activities. Through physical education, desirable character and social traits are developed as well as defined responsibilities toward the physical development of the individual. Objectives such as increasing strength and endurance, better coordination of motor skills, improved health practices and an understanding of personal adjustment in our society are emphasized with the individual. Also, included is an emphasis on health, nutrition and the human body as well as safety, prevention of alcohol, chemical and tobacco abuse, and family and community health. Information on health and wellness will be emphasized along with behavioral and emotional health.

SCIENCE

0502 – Science 6

Year

Grade 6

The Sixth Grade Life Science program invites students to investigate the world of living things at levels both large and small by reading, writing, observing, and experimenting with the different aspects of life on earth. Topics in this course include the study of the scientific method, cells and cell structures, proper use of the microscope, classification of life on earth, basic genetic principles, and adaptations of living organisms.

0500 – Earth/Space Science

Year

Grade 7

Earth/Space Science is the study of planet earth, its features, its forces and its place in the universe. This course will include the study of plate movements, erosional forces, the atmosphere, geology of the Earth, as well as, our solar system. Rock and mineral identification, map reading, erosional control device construction, rocket building, and weather journals are just some of the activities included in this course.

0501 – Integrated Science

Quarter

Grade 7

Students will get an introduction into 8th grade physical science and a review of life/environmental science and earth and space science. The course includes an overview of chemistry, biology, physics, earth and space, and possibly astronomy. Some of the topics covered will be units of measurement, simple machines, matter, cells, and others.

0505 – Science 8

Year

Grade 8

This course is a study of matter and energy, which emphasizes everyday application of physical laws. The interrelation of matter and energy is studied through a diversity of topics including motion, forces, matter classification, chemical and physical reactions, light, sound, electricity, magnetism, nuclear energy, and environmental issues.

0506 – Super Science

Quarter

Grade 6

A quarter course for students to participate in hands-on Science applications incorporating STEM-type activities. This experience will involve an exploration of the Sciences, as well activities to build knowledge in these fields, in order to better improve knowledge about the world around them.

SOCIAL STUDIES

0202 – Social Studies 6

Year

Grade 6

This World History course will begin with an emphasis on basic geographic literacy. These skills will then be incorporated into the study of ancient world history from the prehistoric time period through the Reformation. During the study of each time period or region, students will learn how geography and culture shaped civilization and how each civilization impacted modern society. Students will also sharpen critical thinking skills as well as content reading and writing skills through various cooperative and differentiated activities.

0200 – World Geography

Year

Grade 7

The purpose of this course is to provide articulation of the five fundamental themes in geography: location – place – human environment interaction – movement – region. Students are expected to use maps, globes, and other graphic tools successfully to acquire and process geographic information. They will identify critical, physical, and cultural processes that create patterns on the surface of the earth, such as climate, mountain – building forces, erosion, flooding, and atmospheric conditions. These areas provide a framework for the geographic knowledge students should have and the skills they should be able to execute.

0210 – Civics

Year

Grade 8

The purpose of this course is to make students aware of the government and economic systems of the United States. To accomplish this goal, students will study the importance of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights as well as other pertinent documents. Students will become aware of their rights and responsibilities as U.S. citizens by studying: federal and state governments, political parties, foreign policy, and civil rights. Students will also learn the foundations of economics including: the types of economies in the world, managing money, spending and saving, loans, the role of business and labor in the U.S. economy and how the government and the economy work together.

0205 – PA/Bedford County History

Quarter

Grade 7

This class will incorporate the history of Pennsylvania from our beginnings before colonization through our current times. We will examine current issues and how they impact the daily lives of Pennsylvanians. In this class, we will also examine the roles of Bedford County in shaping our local, state, and national levels today.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

0700 – Introduction to Technology & Design

Quarter

Grade 8

This 9-week introductory course offers students a glimpse into the modern-day technical field. Through a challenging and engaging series of learning activities, students will learn to optimize their own practical abilities as they develop new skills in the use of modern design software. These activities seamlessly integrate STEM-based (science/technology/engineering/mathematics) subject matter in order for students to explore, investigate, and problem solve in real-world scenarios. Specific content includes foundational concepts in measurement and data collection, design processes, mechanisms, construction systems, and energy/power transmission.

Tech Investigators: A quarter course in which students will participate in a variety of STEM-type critical thinking, problem solving activities, and innovation of digital products/processes. Students will utilize beginner tech programs to improve coding skills and construct digital robotics.