



January 2018

Dear Parents and Sixth Grade Students:

It's hard to believe we are already planning for the 2018-19 school year. In preparation for next year, your child will need to select elective/encore courses. The following guidelines, hopefully, will be helpful to you as you sit down with your son/daughter to review their options.

- 1) Your child has received an elective sheet based on the courses in which they are currently enrolled. The courses that are available to your child now are influenced by your previously chosen option.
- 2) Choices should be made on the basis of interest, not on what friends are selecting. We all know that peer approval and social acceptance are of critical importance to many middle school youngsters. It's hard for them to detach from this in order to make sound decisions based upon what might be good for them as individuals. You can help with this too! Their friendships often grow **and** change during middle school. Making decisions based on friend's choices may seem like a great idea in January, but it could be a faulty choice when August rolls around. In addition, there will be multiple sections of each course offered with no guarantee of being scheduled into the same class with their friends.
- 3) Your signature, giving approval, will be needed on the sign-up sheet. **Students should return a completed form to their 1st period teacher by January 26, 2018.**
- 4) *As staffing and scheduling are influenced by student choices, changes cannot be made after your child's sheet is returned.* Again, please stress with your child the importance of showing responsibility as they make their selections with your guidance. Students who successfully complete French/Spanish 1A and 1B will be recommended for French2/Spanish2 for their freshman year of high school.
- 5) Please refer to the directions on the attached form.

If you should have any questions, please contact the **Hill** Middle School Guidance Office at **630-428-6207**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Dutdut".

Michael Dutdut
Principal

District 204 Middle School Elective Course Planning Guide-7th Grade 2018/19

<p style="text-align: center;">Option 1 Band, Chorus, or Orchestra Students</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6th Grade</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">PE/Health</td></tr> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Essential Technology</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Design & Modeling</td> <td style="width: 33%;">FACS</td> </tr> <tr><td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">Band, Chorus, Orchestra</td></tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">7th Grade</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">PE/Health</td></tr> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Creative Technology</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Art</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Study Skills</td> </tr> <tr><td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">Band, Chorus, Orchestra</td></tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">8th Grade</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">PE/Health</td></tr> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Elective</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Elective</td> </tr> <tr><td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Band, Chorus, Orchestra</td></tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>8th Grade Electives</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-Digital Media -Tech Revolution -Foods -Sewing - Energy and Environment -Manufacturing Technology/STEM Plus -Design & Sculpture -Drawing & Painting</p>	PE/Health			Essential Technology	Design & Modeling	FACS	Band, Chorus, Orchestra			PE/Health			Creative Technology	Art	Study Skills	Band, Chorus, Orchestra			PE/Health		Elective	Elective	Band, Chorus, Orchestra		<p style="text-align: center;">Option 2 World Language Students</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6th Grade</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">PE/Health</td></tr> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Essential Technology</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Study Skills</td> <td style="width: 33%;">World Language and Cultures</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Music</td> <td>Art</td> <td>Design & Modeling</td> </tr> <tr><td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">FACS</td></tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">7th Grade</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">PE/Health</td></tr> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Creative Technology</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Elective</td> </tr> <tr><td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">World Language (French 1A or Spanish 1A)</td></tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>7th Grade Electives</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-Art -Automation and Robotics -FACS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8th Grade</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">PE/Health</td></tr> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Elective</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Elective</td> </tr> <tr><td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">World Language (French 1B or Spanish 1B)</td></tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Students who successfully complete French/Spanish 1A and 1B will be recommended for French2/Spanish2 for their freshman year of high school.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>8th Grade Electives</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-Digital Media -Tech Revolution -Foods -Sewing - Energy and Environment -Manufacturing Technology/STEM Plus -Design & Sculpture -Drawing & Painting</p>	PE/Health			Essential Technology	Study Skills	World Language and Cultures	Music	Art	Design & Modeling	FACS			PE/Health		Creative Technology	Elective	World Language (French 1A or Spanish 1A)		PE/Health		Elective	Elective	World Language (French 1B or Spanish 1B)	
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Seventh Grade Encore Courses

Quarter Courses (9 Weeks)*

Art I*

Students will focus on developing skills which include drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, and collage. They will have the opportunity to experiment and refine skills using a variety of art media. Elements and principles of design will be emphasized in each project. (A small lab fee is required.)

Study Skills*

The content of this course will focus on six different skill areas that fall within the vast context of Study Skills. These areas include organization, time management/personal responsibility, active listening, note taking/summarizing, test-taking skills, and goal setting. Students will participate in a variety of activities in order to strengthen skills in each of these areas of focus and learn to apply these skills to their work in other courses.

** These courses are offered at the 7th grade level for those students in Band, Chorus, or Orchestra who did not have the opportunity to take them as 6th grade students.*

Semester Courses (18 Weeks)

Art II

This class is a continuation of Art I, building on skills and concepts. Exploration of different mediums and art techniques occur while creating two-dimensional and three-dimensional art products. Hands-on activities provide students an opportunity to practice creative and critical problem-solving. (A small lab fee is required.)

7th Grade PLTW - Automation Robotics (AR)

Students will trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics. They learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation and computer control systems. Students use a robust robotics platform to design, build, and program a solution to solve an existing problem. (A small lab fee is required.)

Creative Technology (Required)

Note that some students will complete this requirement during sixth grade.

This course prepares students to use computer technology in an effective and creative manner. Students expand knowledge of word processing, spreadsheets, online collaboration tools, presentations, communication, web tools, and digital media software. Students will explore digital photography, illustration, video editing, audio recording, and mobile device applications. Students establish what it means to be a good digital citizen and how to use technology creatively. Students apply skills and knowledge to real life problems to communicate ideas through quality products.

7th Grade - Family & Consumer Science (FACS)

FACS is an engaging, semester-long course that teaches students how to be more self-sufficient in the areas of sewing and foods. Students work independently in the sewing lab to create hand and machine sewn projects. Students use the Dietary Guidelines for Americans to make smart food decisions and then put that nutrition knowledge to work while participating in a variety of cooperative food preparation labs based on the meals of the day. (A small lab fee is required.)

World Music: Culture Jam

Culture Jam is a hands-on exploration of current music from around the world. Students will create, perform, and experience music using a variety of instruments and technology.

Year Long Courses (36 Weeks)

7th Grade Physical Education (27 weeks) & Health (9 weeks) (Both are Required)

Physical Education plays a major role in a student's overall educational experience. All students are required to participate in Physical Education for 3 quarters (27 weeks). The program focuses on building a foundation for lifelong learning through physical activity, fitness, wellness, and team building. These components provide an opportunity for the development of each student's physical, social, and emotional well-being. Students will also participate in 7th Grade Health for 1 quarter (9 weeks). Health covers the different aspects of physical, mental and social health, and how the aspects affect each person's overall well-being. Some areas covered include healthy relationships, emotional empowerment, ATOD (Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs), healthy eating and reproductive wellness. Understanding human development from fertilization to childbirth and consequences of teen pregnancy will be reviewed during reproductive wellness.

7th Grade Band

Seventh grade band is for students who have completed band through the sixth grade. Any student who has not completed sixth grade band in District 204 must have approval from the director before enrolling in band. The class meets daily and performs approximately four times each year. Special activities are scheduled throughout the school year. In addition to the daily band rehearsal, technique classes are scheduled on a rotational basis allowing for small group instruction to improve individual instrument performance techniques. Students enrolled in band may also audition to participate in Jazz Ensemble and Wind Ensemble that meet before school. Students may also participate in Jazz Band and/or Solo & Ensemble Festival.

7th Grade Chorus

In seventh grade chorus, the singers study a variety of music from different styles and cultures. Through classroom activities and performance, these students further develop their knowledge of the elements of music, proper vocal technique, and music reading skills. Students will sing a wide variety of quality choral music and will participate in at least four performances a year.

7th Grade Orchestra

Any student who has completed orchestra through their sixth grade year is encouraged to continue their music education by enrolling in seventh grade orchestra. Any student who has not completed sixth grade orchestra in District 204 must have approval from the teacher before enrolling in seventh grade orchestra. The class meets daily and performs at least three concerts during the school year. In addition to daily orchestra class, technique classes are scheduled on a rotational basis allowing for small group instruction to improve individual instrument performance techniques. Special activities are scheduled throughout the school year. Additionally, students enrolled in orchestra may also audition to participate in an advanced honors orchestra that meets before school. Students also may choose to take part in the school fiddle group and/or Solo & Ensemble Festival.

World Language

These courses are designed as a two year course to be started in 7th grade and then completed during 8th grade. Students will be expected to continue to use the workbook purchased at the beginning of 7th grade in 8th grade. Students who successfully complete French/Spanish 1A and 1B will be recommended for French2/Spanish2 for their freshman year of high school.

- French 1A introduces the student to practical vocabulary and basic grammatical structures that will enable him or her to communicate in simple French. The course focuses on speaking, listening, reading, and writing, as well as various aspects of French culture. Oral communication is stressed.
- Spanish 1A introduces the student to basic vocabulary and grammar structures which allows them to understand, speak, read, and write Spanish at the novice level. The course presents a cultural background of the Spanish-speaking world. Oral communication is stressed.