



January 2018

Dear Parents and Seventh Grade Students:

It's hard to believe we are already planning for the 2018-2019 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 that reads "Michael Dutdud".

Michael Dutdud  
Principal

## District 204 Middle School Elective Course Planning Guide-8th Grade 2018/19

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Option 1</b> Band, Chorus, or Orchestra Students</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <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 &amp; 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;"><b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <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;"><b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <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>          -Digital Media   -Tech Revolution   -Foods   -Sewing          - Energy and Environment   -Manufacturing Technology/STEM Plus          -Design &amp; Sculpture   -Drawing &amp; 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;"><b>Option 2</b> World Language Students</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <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%;">FLEX</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">Music</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Art</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Design &amp; Modeling</td> <td style="width: 25%;">FACS</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <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>7<sup>th</sup> Grade Electives</u>          -Art   -Automation and Robotics   -FACS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <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>          -Digital Media   -Tech Revolution   -Foods   -Sewing          - Energy and Environment   -Manufacturing Technology/STEM Plus          -Design &amp; Sculpture   -Drawing &amp; Painting</p>	PE/Health			Essential Technology	Study Skills	FLEX	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)	
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																																															
PE/Health																																															
Essential Technology	Study Skills	FLEX																																													
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)																																															
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Option 3</b> World Language + Band, Chorus, or Orchestra Students</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr><td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">PE/Health</td></tr> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Essential Technology</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Creative Technology</td> </tr> <tr><td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Band, Chorus, Orchestra</td></tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr><td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">PE/Health</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">World Language (French 1A or Spanish 1A)</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Band, Chorus, Orchestra</td></tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr><td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">PE/Health</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">World Language (French 1B or Spanish 1B)</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Band, Chorus, Orchestra</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>	PE/Health		Essential Technology	Creative Technology	Band, Chorus, Orchestra		PE/Health		World Language (French 1A or Spanish 1A)		Band, Chorus, Orchestra		PE/Health		World Language (French 1B or Spanish 1B)		Band, Chorus, Orchestra		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Option 4</b> Students Not Wishing to Take World Language or BCO</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <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%;">FLEX</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">Music</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Art</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Design &amp; Modeling</td> <td style="width: 25%;">FACS</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <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 style="width: 50%;">Elective</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Elective</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>7<sup>th</sup> Grade Electives</u>          -Art   - Automation and Robotics   -FACS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <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 style="width: 50%;">Elective</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Elective</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>8<sup>th</sup> Grade Electives</u>          -Digital Media   -Tech Revolution   -Foods   -Sewing          - Energy and Environment   -Manufacturing Technology/STEM Plus          -Design &amp; Sculpture   -Drawing &amp; Painting</p>	PE/Health			Essential Technology	Study Skills	FLEX	Music	Art	Design & Modeling	FACS	PE/Health		Creative Technology	Elective	Elective	Elective	PE/Health		Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective						
PE/Health																																															
Essential Technology	Creative Technology																																														
Band, Chorus, Orchestra																																															
PE/Health																																															
World Language (French 1A or Spanish 1A)																																															
Band, Chorus, Orchestra																																															
PE/Health																																															
World Language (French 1B or Spanish 1B)																																															
Band, Chorus, Orchestra																																															
PE/Health																																															
Essential Technology	Study Skills	FLEX																																													
Music	Art	Design & Modeling	FACS																																												
PE/Health																																															
Creative Technology	Elective																																														
Elective	Elective																																														
PE/Health																																															
Elective	Elective																																														
Elective	Elective																																														

# **Eighth Grade Encore Courses**

## **Semester Courses (18 Weeks)**

### **Digital Media**

This course combines visual design, computer applications, and business techniques. Students create, manipulate, and use print media, audio recordings, video recordings, and websites to communicate information and ideas effectively to multiple audiences. Possible projects include: photo manipulation, digital animations, sound bites, movie productions, and digital portfolios.

### **Tech Revolution**

This course provides an introduction to computer science and software engineering. Students learn the basics of software development by making video games, developing mobile apps, and creating dynamic web sites. The course is designed to foster computational thinking and logical problem-solving. Basic computer science careers and educational options will also be explored.

### **Design & Sculpture**

In this course, students will focus on creative problem-solving while making three-dimensional and design-inspired art products. Emphasis is on elements of art and principles of design composition as well as sculptural techniques and materials. Media may include, but is not limited to ceramics, wire, paper and found objects. (A small lab fee is required.)

### **Drawing & Painting**

This course will focus on the elements of art, principles of design composition, and the basic techniques and concepts of drawing and painting. Students will experiment and refine technical skills using a variety of media including, but not limited to, watercolor, acrylic paints, colored pencil, chalk, oil, pastels, and graphite. (A small lab fee is required.)

### **PLTW - Energy and the Environment (EE)**

Students investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the environment. They design and model alternative energy sources and participate in an energy expo to demonstrate energy concepts and innovative ideas. Students evaluate ways to reduce energy consumption through energy efficiency and sustainability. (A small lab fee is required.)

### **Manufacturing Technology (Scullen, Gregory, Hill, and Still ONLY)**

Students will explore areas of manufacturing including safety, materials, tools, machinery, processes, and related careers. Students will use wood and plastic as primary materials for the production of various projects to be taken home. (A small lab fee is required.)

### **STEM Plus (Crone, Fisher, and Granger ONLY)**

This inquiry-based class will challenge students to use a design thinking process as they become makers and innovators. In this hands-on classroom environment, students will discover powerful skills in problem-solving, critical thinking and creativity to solve various authentic learning challenges using tools and materials of engineering. Students will collaborate on teams and reflect on their learning. (A small lab fee is required.)

### **8th Grade - Foods, Nutrition, & Wellness**

This is a hands-on course in which students learn and apply fundamental culinary skills. Students learn essential culinary principles regarding the safety of food and the physical safety of themselves and those they work with. Using Nutrition Facts labels and the USDA's food guidance system MyPlate, students learn how to make healthy choices. Students also learn the essential skills for properly executing a variety of recipes and prepare a wide variety of culinary creations. (A small lab fee is required.)

### **8th Grade - Sewing**

During this self-paced course, students of all sewing levels focus on developing their skills by creating both hand and machine sewn projects. Students also learn about clothing design, fabric purchase, use of patterns, written and verbal procedural directions, and critical thinking skills. (A small lab fee is required.)

## **Year Long Courses (36 Weeks)**

### **8th 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 8th Grade Health for 1 quarter (9 weeks). Health covers the different aspects of physical, mental and social health, and how these aspects affect each person's overall well-being. Some areas covered include healthy relationships, emotional empowerment, ATOD (Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs), and reproductive wellness. The subject of STDs and AIDS will be reviewed during reproductive wellness.

### **8th Grade Band**

Eighth grade band is for students who have completed band through the seventh grade. Any student who has not completed seventh grade band in District 204 must have approval from the director before enrolling in band. The class meets daily and performs approximately three to 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 as well as participate in Jazz Band and/or Solo & Ensemble Festival.

### **8th Grade Chorus**

In eighth 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. If students were not enrolled in chorus as a 7th grader, please contact a faculty member of the Choral Department before completing the attached form.

### **8th Grade Orchestra**

Any student who has completed orchestra through their seventh grade year is encouraged to continue their music education by enrolling in eighth grade orchestra. Any student who has not completed seventh grade orchestra in District 204 must have approval from the teacher before enrolling in eighth 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. Eighth grade orchestra is a prerequisite for enrolling in high school orchestra.

### **World Language**

These courses are designed as two-year courses to be started in 7th grade and then completed during 8th grade. French 1B/Spanish 1B courses are the equivalent to the second semester curriculum of the freshman courses offered at the high schools. Students who successfully complete French/Spanish 1A and 1B will be recommended for French/Spanish 2 for their freshmen year of high school.

- French 1B 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 1B is designed to train the student to understand, speak, read, and write basic Spanish as well as present a cultural background of the Spanish-speaking people. Oral communication is stressed.