

Deer Lakes Middle School

Program of Studies
2023-24 School Year



Deer Lakes Middle School aims to prepare students for the academic rigors of high school and any post-secondary plans. The course offerings are designed for students to explore a variety of areas and interests.

During the three years of middle school, students will take a range of courses including art, computers, wellness education, STEM, and technology education. Students will also have their first opportunity to experience a world language in 7th grade through an exploratory course. Students interested in the performing arts can enroll in our band, strings, or choral programs. Those course experiences, when combined with the core academic curriculum, provide a rounded educational experience for all students.

Deer Lakes Middle School introduces students to “soft” skills such as collaboration, critical thinking, innovation, public speaking, and cultural awareness, which are all critical for success in today’s global marketplace. Teachers are also working to break down what has become known as the “silos of education.” For too long the academic subjects have operated independently in their own “silo.” Math was isolated to math class, writing was isolated to language arts class. Now, teachers work collaboratively on cross-curricular products that the students will produce. This process is aided by 1:1 technology and products such as Google Classroom.

This course of studies guide is designed to give you a brief overview of our middle school curriculum and the support services that we offer.

Please review this course information with your child and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

Dr. Samantha Abate

DLMS Principal





Office Staff

724-265-5310

Staff Member	Title	Extension	Email
Dr. Abate	Principal	3621	sabate@deerlakes.net
TBD	Assistant Principal	3622	TBD
Ms. Jaros	School Counselor	3670	jjaros@deerlakes.net
Ms. Ingold	School Nurse	3681	kingold@deerlakes.net
TBD	Building Secretary	3623	TBD

District Administration

724-265-5300

Staff Member	Title	Extension	Email
Dr. Logue-Belden	Superintendent	1210	jloguebelden@deerlakes.net
Mrs. Barnes	Assistant Superintendent	1213	babarnes@deerlakes.net
Dr. Mariano	School Psychologist	2643	rmariano@deerlakes.net



Mrs. McGaughey	Director of Special Education	2647	lmcgaughey@deerlakes.net
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Support Staff

724-265-5300

Staff Member	Title	Extension	Email
Ms. Radick	Mental Health Liaison	2674	kradick@deerlakes.net
Ms. Barkley	Social Worker	2673	lbarkley@deerlakes.net
Mrs. Wockley	Speech Therapist	3202	kwockley@deerlakes.net
Ms. Sue	English as a Second Language	5510	rsue@deerlakes.net



The mission of the Deer Lakes School District is to shape today’s learners into tomorrow’s leaders.



Numerous services are available to meet the needs of eligible students. Deer Lakes School District offers the



following services within the district: Learning Support, Emotional Support, Autistic Support, Life Skills Support, Speech/Language Support and Gifted Support. The following services are contracted: Vision, Hearing, Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy.

The district also works with the following organizations as deemed appropriate: Western PA School for Blind Children, Western PA School for the Deaf, PACE, Pressley Ridge Schools, Watson Institute, The Children's Institute, Wesley Highlands, Holy Family Institute, Longmore Academy, St. Stephen's, Wesley Academy, and Adelphoi Village.



The Deer Lakes School District uses the following procedures for locating; identifying and evaluating specific needs of school-aged students requiring special programs or services. These procedures, as required by law, are as follows:

The district, as prescribed by Section 1402 of the School Code, routinely conducts screenings of a child's hearing acuity in the following grades: kindergarten, 1, 2, 3, 7, and 11. Visual acuity is screened in every grade. Speech and language skills are screened in kindergarten and on a referral basis. New students are screened annually. Gross motor and fine motor skills, academic skills and social-emotional skills are assessed by classroom teachers on an ongoing basis. Specified needs from all of these screening sources are noted within the child's official file. School records are always open and available to parents, and only to school officials who have a legitimate "need to know" regarding information about the child.

Information from the records is released to other persons or agencies only with appropriate authorization that involves written signed permission by the parents. Communications with parents of exceptional students shall be in English or in the native language of the parents.

Screening information will be used by the Intervention Planning Team within the student's school to meet his or her specific needs or to document the need for further evaluation. The Intervention Planning Team will make adjustments relative to such things as the child's learning style, behavior, physical disabilities and classroom experiences. If a student does not make progress, parents will be asked to give written permission for further individual professional evaluations.

After all the evaluations are completed, an Evaluation Report (ER) will be compiled with parent involvement. It will include specific recommendations for the types of intervention necessary to deal with the child's specific needs. Parents are then invited to participate in a meeting where the results of this multidisciplinary evaluation will be discussed. If the student is eligible, an Individualized Education Plan (I.E.P.) will be developed to provide specialized services to the student.

Deer Lakes School District's I.E.P. Team consists of the parents and the following district staff: a regular education teacher, a special education teacher, the Local Education Agency (LEA) which may be the Director of Special Education and/or the principal, and other teachers/specialists as needed.

Parents may request that the district initiate a screening or evaluation of their student's specific needs at any time by contacting the building principal in writing. Further information about these procedures may be obtained by calling Mrs. Lindsay McGaughey, Director of Special Education, at 724-265-5300, ext. 2647 or 1-888-709-4115.



Parents are an integral part of the I.E.P. Team and should be physically present at the I.E.P. meeting. The district will notify parents in writing, make documented phone calls and home visits, if necessary, to make parents aware of the I.E.P. conference and the need for parental participation. At the completion of the IEP meeting, parents are presented with a Notice of Recommended Educational Placement (NOREP) with which they may agree or disagree. If parents disagree with the program being recommended, the issue may be taken to mediation or to a due process hearing.

The mission of the Deer Lakes School District English as a Second Language Program is to provide effective and age-appropriate English instruction in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, and to support English language learners to achieve in all content areas.

Information about early intervention, parent rights, mediation or due process procedures, specific special education services and programs offered by the Deer Lakes School District, and the district's Educational Records Policy are available upon request from the building principal in a child's school.



The School Counseling Office at Deer Lakes Middle School is designed to assist all students in the areas of academic achievement, personal/social development and career development, ensuring our students become the productive, well-adjusted adults of tomorrow. Students are taught to advocate for themselves and are surrounded by a counseling philosophy that “We are here to help you to help yourself.” The office works with students, parents/guardians, staff, and the community to create a caring, supportive climate and atmosphere whereby young adolescents can achieve academic success in addition to well-adjusted social interactions with peers. The office networks with local agencies and organizations to offer support for students and their families. Ms. Jaros is the middle school counselor.

The Deer Lakes School District is a proud Smart Futures district. All of our students in grades K-12 have a Smart Futures account and interact with school counselors and teachers to navigate the career exploration journey. We want to assure that our students are exposed to many different career opportunities, post secondary educational options, build skills, recognize honors and awards, chronicle careers of interest, build a portfolio, and discover aptitudes, abilities and talents. We want for our students to build a solid career plan as mandated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. All students are required to complete the Smart Futures lessons whether they participate in the brick and mortar building or Lancer Academy.

Each student is given his/her own account that they can access through Classlink. Students do not need to remember a username/password to log in as the information is saved in Classlink.

School Counseling Office Belief Statements

- All children have the potential to be successful.
- Each one of us has a story to share that makes up who he/she is.
- Everyone wants and needs to belong to someone and something.
- Values, experiences, and perception influence our education and learning process.

School Counseling Office Vision Statement



The Deer Lakes Middle School Guidance Office is committed to assisting each middle level student in achieving success academically, personally/socially, and to begin the career exploration process in order to be fully prepared to be a contributing and successful high school student and beyond.

School Counseling Department Mission Statement

The mission of Deer Lakes School Counseling Department is to provide a comprehensive counseling program to meet the academic, career, personal/social and emotional needs of each student. In partnership with other educators, parents/guardians, business/community, and post-secondary partners will ensure all students are offered the knowledge and skills necessary to maximize academic potential, and to explore career decisions to make students competitive in the 21st century.

For more information see the school counseling webpage: <https://www.deerlakes.net/MiddleSchoolGuidance1.aspx>
Follow the Deer Lakes School Counseling Twitter account: @DLSDCounselors



Pennsylvania Student Assistance Programs (SAP) utilizes formal and systematic approaches designed to provide assistance to students troubled by physical health, emotional health, drug, alcohol, or family problems. Members of this group are concerned staff members trained to provide the support and assistance needed by many teens.

Program goals:

- To express a concern for the general well-being of the student
- To focus on educational concerns and improve the quality of student interaction with the school
- To enlist the support of staff, family, and community in providing assistance to the student

Parents/Guardians, staff members, peers, or students may make a referral by contacting any member of the SAP Team. Contact Ms. Jaros for a list of SAP Team members. The team will make an assessment back on observation and interviews with the referred student and, as necessary, have conferences with parents/guardians and staff. The SAP Team will monitor the student, provide support and make any necessary referrals to other assisting agencies which may benefit the student.



The Innovation Center at Deer Lakes Middle School is the "hub" of the school. The 21st Century space books for students to check out, interactive TV's, dry erase walls and an open layout/mobile concept for student and class collaboration. It also features our "Technology Help Desk" a student run group to assist students with their Chromebook devices. There are power towers at each mobile table to charge the student Chromebooks and makerspace items. Our makerspace area is growing each year with new items including a 3D printer and other hands-on/robotics/programming devices. Students can visit



the Innovation Center any time during the school day.

The Deer Lakes Middle School Library Media program provides students and teachers current resources and up-to-date technology. The library/media curriculum focuses on incorporating information literacy with technology skills, enabling our students to become effective users of ideas and information.

The media center is staffed by a full time teacher/library media specialist and is open during the school day. The school uses an online circulation program, Follett Destiny, that can be accessed through any computer/device that has internet access. The website to access Follett Destiny is **deerlakes.follettdestiny.com**. When the webpage appears, select the middle school and click the catalog tab to begin your search.

Students and teachers also have access to numerous online databases purchased by the school district, as well as over 10,000 print resources found in the library media center. In addition, e-books are available for student use as well as for faculty.





PSSA Testing

Except for a very few students who meet specific criteria for participation in an alternate assessment, PSSA tests are administered to students in grades 6-8 in the areas of English/Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics. Students in grade 8 are administered the science PSSA assessment. Testing is conducted in the spring of each school year. The Pennsylvania Department of Education publishes a testing schedule that must be closely followed by the school district. Student results are shared with parents and guardians in the late summer/early fall once scores have been returned to the district and the data has been reviewed.

Parents and guardians may review the assessments by making arrangements with the School Counseling Office. Confidentiality agreements must be signed, and no copies of the assessments or notes about assessment items will be permitted to leave the school. If upon review of the exam parents/guardians do not want their child(ren) to participate due to religious beliefs, a letter must be submitted to the assistant superintendent specifying their objection prior to testing and request their child(ren) be excused from the exam.

Keystone Testing

The Keystone Exams are end of course assessments designed to evaluate proficiency in academic content of the Pennsylvania Core Standards. Algebra I Keystone exams are the only test administered at the Middle School. Students who take algebra I at the Middle School must take the Keystone exam toward the end of the course. The testing window is published by the Department of Education. Typically, the test is administered in the spring of the school year. Student results are shared with parents and guardians in the early fall once scores have been returned to the district and the data has been reviewed.

Parents and guardians may review the Keystone exam if they believe that the assessment is in conflict with their religious beliefs. Confidentiality agreements must be signed, and no copies of the assessments or notes about assessment items will be permitted to leave the school. If upon review of the exam parents/guardians do not want their child(ren) to participate due to religious beliefs, a letter must be submitted to the assistant superintendent specifying their objection prior to testing and request their child(ren) be excused from the exam. A project will need to be completed by students who opt out of the exam.





GRADING

Grade	PERCENTAGE
A+	97-100
A	93-96
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	62-66
F	61 OR BELOW

Grading Procedure

Students who fail two or more core subjects for the school year or fail the same core subject two years in a row will need to make up the course(s) in summer school or will be retained. Contact the Guidance Office for more information.

Honor Roll

Highest Honor	96 – 100%
High Honor	92 – 95%
Honor	87 – 91%



Advanced Courses and Schedule Changes

Advanced Coursework

- Students are encouraged to challenge themselves while here at DLMS.
- To help students prepare for advanced and AP courses at the high school, we offer advanced courses in both math and language arts at the middle school.
- Students and their parents/guardians should have a conversation about whether an advanced course that involves a faster paced and more rigorous curriculum is appropriate.
 - Some factors that you should consider include attendance, work ethic, and current academic performance.
 - Advanced coursework is recommended for students that have regular attendance, have a strong work ethic, and are already excelling academically.
 - These courses move at an accelerated pace when compared to the academic level courses and are designed to help students build independence.

Students currently enrolled in an advanced course:

Our guidelines for advanced coursework include for students currently enrolled in an advanced course to continue:

- academic performance at a level of 85% or better for the first 3 nine weeks.
- Students should be Advanced on the 2022 PSSA test in that subject
- Students should be recommended by the current teacher for advanced courses.
- Students will score 80% or higher on the placement test given prior to recommendations being sent to families.

Students must meet 3 out of the 4 criteria in order to be an advanced coursework candidate.

If a student does not meet this criteria and would still like to be in an advanced course, the student and guardian will need to complete a waiver form found on the middle school page of the district website.

Students who are entering an advanced course must maintain an 80% during the first grading period to continue in the course.

Students who have historically scored advanced on the PSSA may be ready for an advanced course in that subject.

Students who are scoring basic or below will be registered for the academic level course.



Upcoming 6th grade students or students moving from an academic course to an advanced course:

- Academic performance at a level of 90% (A-) or better for first 3 nine weeks
- A rubric will be used for students moving from standards based report cards for grade guideline
- Students should be Advanced on the 2022 PSSA test in that subject
- Students should be recommended by the current teacher for advanced courses.
- Students will score 90% or higher on the placement test given prior to recommendations being sent to families.

Students must meet 3 out of the 5 criteria in order to be an advanced coursework candidate.

- If a student does not meet this criteria and would still like to be in an advanced course, the student and guardian will need to complete a waiver form found on the middle school page of the district website.
- Students currently enrolled in an academic course or advanced course who register for an advanced course but do not meet the criteria above will be registered for an academic level course unless the parent/guardian decides to use the waiver process.
- Parents will be notified of their child's recommended courses before the end of the school year. The waiver process will need to be completed prior to the end of the school year.

Schedule Changes

Students have the first four weeks of the school year or semester to make adjustments to their schedule. Schedule change forms are located in the School Counselor's Office or online. A parent/guardian signature is required on the form along with a rationale for the requested schedule change.



DEER LAKES MIDDLE SCHOOL ADVANCED COURSE WAIVER FORM

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Teacher Name: _____

In the Deer Lakes School District we encourage students to challenge themselves by taking rigorous courses that will help to prepare them for post-secondary education or training. Additionally, since motivation and interest are important variables in student success we realize that current academic performance may not predict future academic performance. Consequently, if you believe that your son/daughter is capable of being successful in this advanced course you may complete this form to request admission.

Please provide a written rationale for your request which will help us to gain a better understanding of your child before rendering a decision. Additionally, while teachers typically offer extra support for their students, you should not expect the teacher to provide extensive tutoring for your child in this advanced course.

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT / GUARDIAN:

Rationale:

Parent's Signature _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY OFFICE:

Criteria		Request:
Academic grade of 85% or 90%		Approved _____
Advanced on previous PSSA in subject		Not Approved _____
Teacher recommendation		Reason for disapproval:
Placement Test Score		

Principal / Assistant Principal Signature: _____ Date: _____

Students scoring BELOW BASIC on the PSSA will not be considered for Advanced coursework.



6th Grade

3160 Language Arts 6

Students will begin to look critically at texts and form arguments based on their reading. In addition to creating claims, which are supported through textual support, students will begin to become critical readers of text and be able to revise and edit not only their work, but the work of others as well. With a focus on academic writing style and format, students will complete most work in class using the stages of the writing process to write clear, coherent drafts and compositions throughout the school year. Students will also review all of the parts of speech as well as selected grammar rules, with a focus on varying sentence length and complexity to increase understanding for their audience. In addition to writing, the student will use media and technology for expressive, informational, argumentative, critical, and literary purposes. Students will be exposed to a variety of grade-level literature and informational texts while practicing effective reading strategies and working to improve overall reading comprehension. Higher-level thinking skills will be used as students read closely, analyze text, and cite textual evidence to support their assertions through text-dependent writing assignments.

The content of this course meets and exceeds Pennsylvania Department of Education Common Core standards for Language Arts and includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Using the reading process to construct meaning from a wide range of literary, informational, and technical texts.
- Using the writing process to communicate information and ideas.
- Using listening, viewing, and speaking strategies.
- Understanding the power of language and using language in authentic contexts.
- Understanding the common features of a variety of literary forms.
- Responding critically to visual, oral, and written texts.

3016 ELA Extension 6

ELA extension is scheduled in addition to the students regular ELA course. Students who qualify will strengthen skills in reading and writing. The course will focus on the development of skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. This course incorporates reading comprehension skills, vocabulary development, the writing process, and grammar skills. Throughout the year, students will read and investigate a variety of text structures in order to strengthen background knowledge and develop skills in the area of literacy.

3360 Math 6

Math 6 will reinforce basic mathematical concepts as well as introduce new concepts that are required for grade 6. This course is aligned with the Pennsylvania Core Standards. Students will work within the five main core standards for grade 6. These main standards include Ratios and Proportional Relationships, The Number System, Expressions and Equations, Geometry, and Statistics. The students will be expected to work with their peers, problem solve and clearly explain their reasoning when applicable. The students in Math 6 will be responsible for all the possible eligible content from the PA Core Standards. The basic content within the standards will be introduced to the students this year and will be built upon in later courses within the district.

3026 Math Extension 6

This course is scheduled in addition to Math 6. Students who qualify will strengthen their skills in all five domains; the number system, ratios and proportions, expressions & equations, geometry and statistics & probability to support regular Math coursework.



3365 Advanced Math 6

Advanced Math 6 is aligned with the Pennsylvania Core Standards. The students will have essential mathematical concepts reinforced while working within the five main core standards. These main standards include Ratios and Proportional Relationships, The Number System, Expressions and Equations, Geometry, and Statistics.

Advanced Math 6 students are responsible for the same set of Pennsylvania Core Standards that are requirements of all 6th grade students. However, the students in Advanced Math 6 will be exposed to a different level of understanding within each of the standards through the use of tasks, complex questioning, and problem solving situations. Students in this course may also be introduced to concepts towards the end of the school year that would benefit them in future courses such as Advanced Math 7.

3560 Science 6

Science 6 is an integrated course aligned to the Pennsylvania State Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards. It is designed to give students a significant introduction to four separate units: The Nature of Science (scientific tools, measurement, and the scientific method); Ecosystems, Natural Resources, Astronomy and Space (Earth, moon, and sun); Weather and Water; and Energy as Waves (sound and light energy). Students will use various problem solving strategies, independent and group activities, laboratory experiments and online resources to enhance student learning.

The students will use a variety of independent and group activities including hands-on and online activities to learn concepts in the different science disciplines.

3460 World Geography and Ancient Civilizations

This geography and ancient civilizations course provides the learner with the ability to obtain and use information from a wide variety of resources (maps, charts, graphs) and how a location influences the area's economics, government, culture, and climate. The five themes of geography - movement, regions, human-environment interaction, location, and places will drive this course. Using this information, students will learn about various ancient civilizations and how the location/geography influenced their establishment, opportunities, successes, conflicts, failures and daily life.

6th Grade Unified Arts

3661 Wellness Education 6

Wellness education focuses on being WELL and understanding WHY it is important to be well. Our curriculum consists of four main components: physical (confident movers), social/emotional (composed/Kind people), nutrition (knowledgeable eaters), and understanding the human body (body wise). DLMS Wellness Education students will have the learning opportunities within these four components while also demonstrating how they are applying their new knowledge to their everyday lives.

What is wellness? Wellness is becoming aware of and making choices toward a healthy and fulfilling life. So, the student can be the best they can be in life. Wellness Education at DLMS is being confident movers, knowledgeable eaters, body-wise, and composed/kind people.

How will we do this? This will be accomplished through lots of fun physical and mental activities that will help you discover how you will start, continue or maybe for some contemplate how you are going to keep yourself "well".



4361 Technology Education 6

Technology Education explores various technology systems including communication, transportation, construction, manufacturing, power and energy, and bio-/enviro-technology. The course is intended to introduce students to the specific characteristics of each system and helps them to recognize the impacts they have on industry, society, and the environment and daily life.

4461 Art 6

Art 6 will experience different facets of art from production, historical and aesthetic aspects. Each year, students will build upon the skills and knowledge gained the year before. Students will create various projects via drawing, painting, and sculpture. Some Artists we touch upon: Andy Warhol, Georgia O'Keeffe, Pablo Picasso, Vincent Van Gogh, and many others.

4561 Computers 6

Students in Computers 6 will be exposed to real-world applications of Google Workspace for Education Tools. Additionally, students will learn basic computer programming concepts through the creation of block-based coded projects in Scratch.

4860 Connections 6

Connections 6 is a 9 week course that is designed to help transition students from upper elementary to middle school. The course will help students understand their learning style, how to foster a growth mindset, how to balance a busy schedule and provide study tips, and organizational strategies. The course will incorporate components of the Olweus anti-bullying program as well as Common Sense Media. College and Career readiness artifacts will be collected through the use of the Smart Futures program.

6th Grade Performing Arts

4116 Band 6

Band 6 is a performance-based class that focuses on fundamental instrumental band methods to develop the elementary players' skills and abilities. The class meets all 6 days of the 6-day cycle as a full-ensemble rehearsal and includes two formal performances at the end of the first and second semesters. Additional performance opportunities including, but limited to, the Homecoming parade, pep rallies, etc. vary from year to year.

Students of all ability levels are welcome.

4126 Strings 6

Students will continue developing instrumental technique and musical skills through the rehearsal of a variety of string orchestra repertoire. Students are graded on participation, performance tests, and written assignments. Two major concerts, as well as several other performance opportunities(including trips), are held each year. Participation in the concerts is mandatory. Prior playing experience is recommended, however, beginner students are welcome.

4136 Chorus 6



Chorus is offered to students who love to sing. In this class, students will learn to develop a healthy vocal technique, while singing a diverse and varied repertoire including current, classical and multicultural music. Chorus members will take part in a number of performances throughout the year. Participation in these events is required. No prior singing experience is necessary to join chorus; only the willingness to work hard and to be part of a team.

7th Grade

3170 Language Arts 7

Through short stories, media, and drama, this course follows the PA Common Core Standards to produce readers and writers that love literature and are able to respond to it analytically through respectful discussion and eloquent writing. Writing will be evaluated using specific traits such as: ideas and content, organization, sentence fluency, word choice, voice and conventions. Grammar and mechanics are studied formally to provide students with a common vocabulary with which to discuss their writing with teachers and peers.

Collaboration with the seventh grade reading curriculum ties in with all of the above skills.

Students will be exposed to different genres and text types as well as various works of literature, poetry, short stories and novels. The class will study the literary elements and implement other reading strategies to aide in comprehension. In order to do this, students will construct meaning through interaction with the text, shared reading and academic discussion.

3017 ELA Extension 7

ELA extension is scheduled in addition to the students regular ELA course. Students who qualify will strengthen skills in reading and writing. The course will focus on the development of skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. This course incorporates reading comprehension skills, vocabulary development, the writing process, and grammar skills. Throughout the year, students will read and investigate a variety of text structures in order to strengthen background knowledge and develop skills in the area of literacy.

3175 Advanced Language Arts 7

In addition to grade level expectations, this class is intended to challenge students by accelerating pace and varying assignments. The expectation is that the student will also be able to complete tasks and assignments thoughtfully and independently.

Through short stories, media, and drama, this course follows the PA Common Core Standards to produce readers and writers that love literature and are able to respond to it analytically through respectful discussion and eloquent writing. Writing will be evaluated using specific traits such as: ideas and content, organization, sentence fluency, word choice, voice and conventions. Grammar and mechanics are studied formally to provide students with a common vocabulary.

In addition to grade level expectations, this class is intended to challenge students with higher reading levels using



spacing, depth, and complexity. If deemed necessary, the curriculum is accelerated to Meet individual student's needs.

3370 Math 7

This year-long course will help students build, strengthen, and apply skills in real-world and problem-solving situations. This course's instructional time will focus on these critical areas: proportional relationships, operations with rational numbers, working with expressions and linear equations, scale drawings, angle relationships, triangles and their characteristics, two- and three-dimensional shapes with problems involving area, surface area, and volume, probability and exploring data with a focus on statistics and their visual representations.

3027 Math Extension 7

This course is scheduled in addition to Math 7. Students who qualify will strengthen their skills in all five domains; the number system, ratios and proportions, expressions & equations, geometry and statistics & probability to support regular Math coursework.

3375 Advanced Math 7

This year-long course is designed to challenge the skilled math student. This course is "fast paced" and will enrich and expand the general math curriculum. It gives the student the skills necessary to follow an accelerated math program. This course's instructional time will focus on these critical areas: proportional relationships, operations with rational numbers, working with expressions and linear equations, scale drawings, angle relationships, triangles and their characteristics, two- and three-dimensional shapes with problems involving area, surface area, and volume, probability and exploring data with a focus on statistics and their visual representations. In addition to delving deeper into these topics, we will start to explore topics in Pre-Algebra as well. We will complete an entire unit on Algebra basics to prepare for the Algebra curriculum in 8th grade.

3570 Science 7

Science 7 is an integrated course aligned to the Pennsylvania State Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards. It is designed to give students a significant introduction to four separate units: Chemistry (matter, elements and the periodic table, chemical bonding, and chemical reactions); Cells and Cell Processes; Astronomy and Space (solar system, stars, and galaxies) and Physics (motion, forces, work and machines, energy, magnetism, and electricity). Students will use various problem solving strategies, independent and group activities, laboratory experiments, and online resources to enhance student learning.

3470 US History 1600-1865

Students in US History 7 will explore the period of American colonial times through the end of the American Civil War. An emphasis on historical events, their location, as well as economic motivations and government policies will be our focus. Topics included in this course of study will be: Native Americans; European Settlement; The 13 Colonies; The French and Indian War; The American Revolution; Louisiana Purchase; Daily life; Historical Documents of the Nation; Federalism; The War of 1812; Westward Expansion; Slavery; State's rights and the Civil War. This program will integrate and infuse information on local, state and national topics. The role of women, immigrants, African-Americans, Native Americans and the diverse racial, religious, and ethnic groups of America will be highlighted throughout the course of study.

The curriculum is aligned with the Pennsylvania State System of Standards as well as the Common Core standards. Students will work to develop better writing and reading skills as they "think like a historian."



Short and long term projects will be assigned throughout the year including projects, research papers, and presentations. Grades are determined by the completion accuracy, and quality of work on homework, papers, projects, presentations, quizzes, and tests.

7th Grade Unified Arts

3671 Wellness Education 7

Wellness education focuses on being WELL and understanding WHY it is important to be well. Our curriculum consists of four main components: physical (confident movers), social/emotional (composed/Kind people), nutrition (knowledgeable eaters), and understanding the human body (body wise). DLMS Wellness Education students will have the learning opportunities within these four components while also demonstrating how they are applying their new knowledge to their everyday lives.

What is wellness? Wellness is becoming aware of and making choices toward a healthy and fulfilling life. So, the student can be the best they can be in life. Wellness Education at DLMS is being confident movers, knowledgeable eaters, body-wise, and composed/kind people.

How will we do this? This will be accomplished through lots of fun physical and mental activities that will help you discover how you will start, continue or maybe for some contemplate how you are going to keep yourself “well”.

4372 Design Thinking for Creative Problem Solving (STEM) 7

In this course students will begin exploring Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) through a hands-on and project based approach. Students will have many opportunities to show creativity and critical thinking when posed with problems in a collaborative environment. Throughout the course students will become familiar with the Engineering Design Process and how to use the process to become engineers themselves. Cross curricular topics, as well as current events will be explored more deeply, in addition to the different occupational opportunities in STEM.

4471 Art 7

Art 7 will experience different facets of art from production, historical and aesthetic aspects. Each year, students will build upon the skills and knowledge gained the year before. Students will create various projects via drawing, painting, and sculpture. Some Artists we touch upon: Andy Warhol, Georgia O'Keeffe, Pablo Picasso, Vincent Van Gogh, and many others.

4571 Computers 7

Students in Computers 7 will continue learning programming fundamentals through advanced Scratch projects and hands-on robotics activities. Additionally, students will be introduced to text-based programming languages (i.e. Javascript and Python). They will also be involved in a series of lessons entitled “Delete Digital Drama” which will address online behaviors and teenagers. Students will work independently on reinforcing their keyboarding skills using EduTyping, a web based keyboarding program.

4371 Technology Education 7



Technology Education explores various technology systems including communication, transportation, construction, manufacturing, power and energy, and bio-/enviro-technology. The course is intended to introduce students to the specific characteristics of each system and helps them to recognize the impacts they have on industry, society, and the environment and daily life.

Students learn about technology systems while working at multimedia computer modules. Students will work with a different partner at each module.

Each module has a different technology theme. This course will be enhanced with additional assignments and presentations.

4210 Spanish/French Exploratory

This introductory course is designed to stimulate learning and to excite students in various aspects of French and Spanish language and culture. Learning the many valuable uses for French and Spanish in the global world is essential. Our studies will include the culture of France and Spain and conversation focusing on basic French and Spanish grammar and vocabulary. We will introduce: greetings, emotions, colors, the alphabet, family, body parts, weather, foods, French and Spanish holidays and celebrations.

7th Grade Performing Arts

4127 Strings 7

Students will continue developing instrumental technique and musical skills through the rehearsal of a variety of string orchestra repertoire. Students are graded on participation, performance tests, and written assignments. Two major concerts, as well as several other performance opportunities(including trips), are held each year. Participation in the concerts is mandatory. Prior playing experience is recommended, however, beginner students are welcome.

4117 Band 7

Band 7 is a performance-based class that focuses on the development of basic fundamental instrumental band methods to develop the intermediate players' skills and abilities. The class meets all 6 days of the 6-day cycle as a full-ensemble rehearsal and includes two performances at the end of the first and second semesters. Additional performance opportunities including, but limited to, the Homecoming parade, pep rallies, etc. vary from year to year.

Students of all ability levels are welcome.

4137 Chorus 7

Chorus is offered to students who love to sing. In this class, students will learn to develop a healthy vocal technique, while singing a diverse and varied repertoire including current, classical and multicultural music. Chorus members will take part in a number of performances throughout the year. Participation in these events is required. No prior singing experience is necessary to join chorus; only the willingness to work hard and to be part of a team.



8th Grade

3180 Language Arts 8

Language Arts 8 is an intensive and comprehensive course which focuses on classic works of fiction, nonfiction, drama and poetry. Students will engage with new vocabulary pulled from the texts being covered in class. Writing is a major component of this course, and students should expect to write on a regular basis for a variety of purposes under the guidance of the instructor. Writing will be done across curricular areas and supported within the ELA (English Language Arts) classroom. Students will be expected to read and analyze independently throughout the school year. Students should be prepared for the following:

- Regular interaction with complex texts and their academic language.
- Reading and writing grounded in evidence from texts, both literary and informational.
- Building knowledge through sound research and through content rich non-fiction.

3018 ELA Extension 8

ELA extension is scheduled in addition to the students regular ELA course. Students who qualify will strengthen skills in reading and writing. The course will focus on the development of skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. This course incorporates reading comprehension skills, vocabulary development, the writing process, and grammar skills. Throughout the year, students will read and investigate a variety of text structures in order to strengthen background knowledge and develop skills in the area of literacy.

3185 Advanced Language Arts 8

Advanced Language Arts 8 is an intensive and comprehensive course which focuses on classic works of fiction, nonfiction, drama and poetry. Students will engage with new vocabulary pulled from the texts being covered in class. In addition, students will be covering common prefixes, suffixes, and Greek and Latin roots in preparation for future PSAT and SAT testing. Writing is a major component of this course, and students should expect to write on a regular basis for a variety of purposes under the guidance of the instructor. Writing will be done across curricular areas and supported within the ELA (English Language Arts) classroom. Students in the advanced course should expect analytical writing on a more frequent basis than in Language Arts. Students in the advanced class should also expect two additional novels over that of the regular language arts course. In addition, students will be expected to read and analyze independently throughout the school year. Students should be prepared for the following:

- Regular interaction with complex texts and their academic language.
- Reading and writing grounded in evidence from texts, both literary and informational.
- Building knowledge through sound research and through content rich non-fiction.

Since the ultimate goal of an honors class is to better prepare students for Pre-AP and AP courses at the high school level, students will be expected to read a novel from the middle school AP “recommended reading” list.

3381 Fundamentals of Algebra



Fundamentals of Algebra builds on the mathematical concepts addressed by the PA Core Standards at the 7th-grade level. This course is fully aligned to the PA Core Standards for grade 8. Concepts include the further investigation of the different types of numbers, the order of operations, geometry concepts, and solving more complex Algebraic problems. There is special emphasis on collaborative work, concept development by creating multiple visual representations, and reading and interpreting information in a mathematical sense. Students will use scientific calculators and other current technology when appropriate. It is strongly encouraged that students have their own Texas Instrument calculator model TI30XIIS. Performance in this course is one of the factors used to determine appropriate high school math placement: Algebra I or Honors Algebra.

3380 Pre Algebra

This course is fully aligned to the Pennsylvania Core Standards for grade 8. It is designed to strengthen students' algorithmic skills, while introducing more complex thinking and real world problem solving applications. There is special emphasis on collaborative work, concept development by creating multiple visual representations, and reading and interpreting information in a mathematical sense. Students will use scientific calculators and other current technology when appropriate. It is strongly encouraged that students have their own Texas Instrument calculator model TI30XIIS. Performance in this course is one of the factors used to determine appropriate high school math placement: Algebra I or Algebra IA.

3028 Pre-Algebra Extension 8

This course is scheduled in addition to Pre-Algebra. Students who qualify will strengthen their skills in all five domains; the number system, functions, expressions & equations, geometry and statistics & probability to support regular Math coursework.

3385 Algebra I

In this course, students will become acquainted with the functional use and importance of Algebra in higher mathematics and science. This course also emphasizes the importance of Algebra in everyday life and allows students to appreciate the deductive nature of mathematics. Topics to be discussed will include symbols and sets, variable and open sentences, axioms, equations, linear equations dealing with slope and intercepts, negative numbers and inequalities, polynomials, special products and factoring, algebraic fractions, graphs, equations with two variables and the real number system.

3387 Geometry

The student enrolled in this class will gain experience with integrated solids and coordinate geometry. The use of Algebra skills in this class is very vital to the student's success. The student will develop logical thought patterns in relation to real life applications. Topics in this course include elements of geometry, inductive and deductive reasoning along with proof relationships. The study of various one and two- dimensional polygons is also an important part of this class. The use of the Pythagorean Theorem, circles, arcs, constructions, loci and the study of volume all play an important part in the student's development and enhancement of skills.

3580 Science 8

Science 8 is an integrated science course aligned to the Pennsylvania State and Next Generation Science Standards. It is designed to give students a significant introduction to Earth, Life, and Environmental Science topics including: Earth (layers of Earth, rocks, minerals, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, and geologic time); Life (genetics, inheritance, and evolution) and Environmental Science (human impact on Earth's systems and climate change). Students will use various problem solving strategies, independent and group activities, laboratory experiments and online resources to enhance student learning.



3480 Principles of Government and Economics

Civics provides a basis for understanding the rights and responsibilities for being an American citizen. The focus of this course is to prepare students to participate in exercising their political responsibilities as thoughtful and informed citizens. Emphasis is placed on the historical development of government and political systems, and the importance of the rule of law; the United States Constitution; Federal, State and local government structure; and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. The course will also provide an understanding of economic systems, goods and services, and economic challenges facing the United States. Students will complete the Keystone equivalent for American Government and Economics at the conclusion of this course.

8th Grade Unified Arts

3681 Wellness Education 8

Wellness education focuses on being WELL and understanding WHY it is important to be well. Our curriculum consists of four main components: physical (confident movers), social/emotional (composed/Kind people), nutrition (knowledgeable eaters), and understanding the human body (body wise). DLMS Wellness Education students will have the learning opportunities within these four components while also demonstrating how they are applying their new knowledge to their everyday lives.

What is wellness? Wellness is becoming aware of and making choices toward a healthy and fulfilling life. So, the student can be the best they can be in life. Wellness Education at DLMS is being confident movers, knowledgeable eaters, body-wise, and composed/kind people.

How will we do this? This will be accomplished through lots of fun physical and mental activities that will help you discover how you will start, continue or maybe for some contemplate how you are going to keep yourself “well”.

4382 STEM Tech 8

In this course students will be exploring Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) more deeply through a hands-on and project based approach. Students will have many opportunities to show creativity and critical thinking when posed with problems. Throughout the course students will continue to use the Engineering Design process to dive deeper into current events topics and real-world projects. Students will accentuate their technology knowledge through collaborative class projects and participation in STEM related contests and competitions. General examples of content, contests, and competitions include, but are not limited to, Robotics, Engineering, Eco-friendly technology, Biotechnology, Electronics, and physics.

4481 Art 8

Art 8 will experience different facets of art from production, historical and aesthetic aspects. Each year, students will build upon the skills and knowledge gained the year before. Students will create various projects via drawing, painting, and sculpture. Some Artists we touch upon: Andy Warhol, Georgia O'Keeffe, Pablo Picasso, Vincent Van Gogh, and many others.



4381 Technology Education 8

Technology Education in 8th grade continues to expose students to the various Technology Systems with an emphasis on manufacturing. The course will formally introduce common woodworking tools along with manual and programmable machines. A series of hands-on activities will be completed during this 12 week course in order to process materials, assemble parts and apply finishes to class projects.

Students learn about technology systems while working at multimedia computer modules. Students will work with a different partner at each module. Each module has a different technology theme. This course will be enhanced with hands-on woodworking manufacturing class projects.

4581 Computers 8

Students in Computers 8 will continue learning programming concepts through advanced Javascript and Python applications. Additionally, students will utilize the Engineering Design Process to create and then print out 3D models.

World Language

World Language

The world language courses at the middle school are taught as a level I high school course. They do not receive high school credit. There are a limited number of seats available for this course.

GUIDELINES TO TAKE A WORLD LANGUAGE COURSE:

- academic performance at a level of 90% or better if in an ACADEMIC ELA course for the first 3 nine weeks / 85% performance level for students in ADVANCED course for the first 3 nine weeks.
 - Students should be either PROFICIENT or ADVANCED on the 2022 PSSA test in ELA.
 - Students should be recommended by the current ELA teacher for advanced courses.
 - Students should be recommended by the current World Language teacher
- Students must meet 3 out of the 4 criteria in order to be an advanced coursework candidate.
- If a student does not meet this criteria and would still like to be in an advanced course, the student and guardian will need to complete a waiver form found on the middle school page of the district website.

4211 Spanish I

Students will begin their journey into the study of a world language. Students will learn greetings, numbers, telling time, dates, weather expressions, school supplies and classes, likes and dislikes, express basic needs and wants, and describe daily activities and routines through the use of oral and written activities in the language. Students will also be introduced to the culture of the Spanish speaking world through a variety of media and activities.



4221 French I

Students will begin their journey into the study of a world language. Students will learn greetings and introductions, numbers, family members, dates and seasons, weather expressions, telling time, likes and dislikes, activities, interrogatives, and how to order in a cafe through the use of oral and written activities in the language. Students will also be introduced to the culture of the French speaking world through a variety of media and activities.

8th Grade Performing Arts

4128 Strings 8

Students will continue developing instrumental technique and musical skills through the rehearsal of a variety of string orchestra repertoire. Students are graded on participation, performance tests, and written assignments. Two major concerts, as well as several other performance opportunities(including trips), are held each year. Participation in the concerts is mandatory. Prior playing experience is recommended, however, beginner students are welcome.

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Students of all ability levels are welcome.

Course offerings listed in this guide are tentative and subject to change, depending upon enrollment, general student interest, and available staffing and other resources. All students are therefore advised that registration for a course does not guarantee placement in that course or that the course will be offered. The district will attempt to limit changes in the course selection guide and will notify affected students promptly in the event of a change in the availability of a course for which he or she has registered.

