Twin Valley Middle School

770 Clymer Hill Road, Elverson, PA 19520

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Course registration for the next school year will take place shortly. The middle school curriculum is designed to meet State and PA Core Standards, and the teaching staff is dedicated to instructional practices that promote challenge and successful achievement for all students. Please be aware that the middle school does not accept specific teacher or team requests. Parents are welcome to discuss specific student needs with a counselor or administrator prior to July 1st. Students with an IEP, GIEP, or other legally documented needs, will be scheduled to receive direct support (such as a learning support or gifted support teachers) in classrooms. This support within our inclusionary model may also benefit other students in those classrooms. Although some intentional teaming will take place due to past experience, learning behaviors or specific interactions with peers, students without special needs will most often be randomly assigned sections during the scheduling process.

Required Courses:

Language Arts: In Language Arts, student learning is focused on: reading independently, reading critically in all genres, analyzing and interpreting literature, the writing process, characteristics and functions of the English language, word study, and vocabulary.

Mathematics: The Everyday Math curriculum is structured to provide multiple exposure to topics and frequent opportunities to review and practice skills. These concepts include: operations and computation, numeration, patterns, functions & algebra, data & chance, measurement & reference frames, and geometry.

Science: 6th grade science will focus on the "physical sciences". Topics will include energy sources, electricity and magnetism, chemistry, and forces in motion. Students will investigate how developments in these areas of science have affected technology and our culture. In addition students will learn and apply research skills as they investigate topics.

Social Studies: The 6th grade social studies curriculum centers on geography. Students will learn about the five themes of geography (location, place, human environment interaction, movement, and regions). These five themes are applied in the study of Africa, Asia, China and the Middle East. Research skills will be incorporated throughout the course.

General Music (1/2 the year 3 out of 6 cycle days): In 6th grade general music class, the students learn new skills to better their understanding of music and what it means to be a musician. Students will experience music through the following: singing, playing instruments, movement, theory, listening, creating and composing. All students not registered for band, chorus, or orchestra will be registered for this course.

Physical Education (all year 3 out of 6 cycle days): Middle School Physical Education encourages students to learn about healthy lifestyles through fitness education and physical activities. Students will begin to explore lifetime activities and fitness concepts through leveled instruction and varied cooperative experiences.

Health (1/2 the year 3 out of 6 cycle days): 6th Grade Health is a comprehensive curriculum based on state and national standards. Topics include but are not limited to Body Systems, Growth and Development, Personal and Social Health, and Safety.

World Language (1/2 the year 3 out of 6 cycle days): In World Language, students will explore both Spanish and German.

Related Arts:

Art Exploration 1 (1/2 the year 3 out of 6 cycle days): This class is a combination of 2-dimensional, 3-dimensional and recycled art. We will create many projects throughout the semester with various materials including tempera paint, chalk pastel, clay, paper mache and throw-away materials.

Art Exploration 2 (1/2 the year 3 out of 6 cycle days): This class is an additional art class for students who want to have art all year long. It will also be a combination of 2-d, 3-d and recycled art. The projects will be different from ART 1 but just as much fun!

Exploring Technology Systems (1/2 the year 3 out of 6 cycle days): The students will use power tools, materials, equipment and processes while developing concepts through project based assignments. Hands on activities will focus on construction and manufacturing. *(Limited enrollment)*

Music and Technology (1/2 the year 3 out of 6 cycle days): This course will introduce students to the theory and fundamentals of music composition using various software and hardware tools for producing music (including Mac computers, and Garage Band). The fundamentals of music, such as tone, timbre, pitch, rhythm, harmony, form, and melody will be explored. *(Limited enrollment)*

Science Investigation: (***1/2 the year 3 out of 6 cycle days***) This course is designed for students who are interested in a deeper exploration of science topics. Students will investigate, design, construct, and test a variety of projects within the STEM field (*Limited enrollment).*

Band & Orchestra (all year 3 out of 6 cycle days): The band and strings programs are an exciting program of studies for any student who enjoys playing an instrument. Band and orchestra are full year courses of study. Concert participation is required. Students who will be playing an instrument for the first time in 6th grade will be offered pull-out lessons but will not be included in performances or rehearsals until proficiency with the instrument is attained

Chorus (all year 3 out of 6 cycle days): Students will meet to develop vocal and choral skills. Along with the rehearsal and preparation of music for the winter and spring concerts, areas such as voice training, ear training, music reading and sight reading skills will be included in the class instruction. Chorus is a full year course of study. Concert participation is required.