

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. Please complete the course selection sheet attached and return it to your child's Block 1 teacher by Friday, March 16, 2018.

Required Courses:

Language Arts: In Language Arts, student learning is focused on: reading independently, reading critically in all genres, analyzing and interpreting literature, writing using text dependent analysis, Units of Study in Argument, Information and Narrative Writing through the Lucy Calkins Reading and Writing Project, characteristics and functions of the English language, word study, and vocabulary.

Mathematics: The Everyday Math curriculum is structured to provide multiple exposures to topics and frequent opportunities to review and practice skills. These concepts include: ratios and proportional reasoning, the number system, expressions and equations, geometry, and statistics and probability.

Science: 6th grade science will focus on scientific inquiry, chemistry, and physics. In addition to the scientific process, topics will include matter, atomic structure, chemical reactions, electricity, and magnetism. All of the units will be connected through the study of energy-potential, kinetic, heat, light, sound, electrical, and chemical. Students will investigate topics through hands on exploration as well as through research using a variety of media.

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, Europe, South America and Australia. 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, Drug Prevention.

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!

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.

Digital Citizenship (1/2 the year 3 out of 6 cycle days): Digital Citizenship prepares students to use various technology in an effective, positive, and appropriate manner. Students will develop knowledge and skill in the areas of appropriate use of technology, research, analyzing sources, creating online content and communication. Students will develop an understanding of what it means to be a good digital citizen and how to advocate for having a positive online presence in the world.

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)*.

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Completion of this form should be used as a guide when selecting Music Ensembles in Section 2 of the course selection sheet. This form should be returned, along with the course selection sheet to your child's teacher.

If your child will be participating in any of the musical groups listed, your selection on this sheet should match the appropriate selection in Section 2 of the Course Selection Sheet.

If your student will not be participating in Band, Orchestra or Chorus, you should select General Music in Section 2 of the Course Selection Sheet.

**** ONLY Band/Chorus/Orchestra Students – Need to Complete this Portion ****



Students may participate in more than one musical performance group. Musical performance groups are considered a course. Similar to the elementary program, band and orchestra students will also be pulled out for small group lessons. Concert participation is required for performance groups.

Please select the following musical group(s) in which your child would like to participate.

Band

Orchestra

Chorus

Please select the instrument your child **currently** plays in elementary school:

Baritone/Tuba

French Horn

Saxophone

Trumpet

Cello

Oboe

String Bass

Viola

Clarinet

Percussion

Trombone

Violin

Flute

My child would like to take band for the **first time** and learn to play the _____.

My child would like to take orchestra for the **first time** and learn to play the _____.

2018-2019 Incoming 6th Grade Course Selection

Please use this course selection sheet as a guide. All selections should be entered in HAC. Return this completed sheet to your child's Block 1 teacher by March 16, 2018.

Section 1: Core Content/Related Arts - All students have been scheduled for the following courses:

Course	Course Count	Enter Course count	TOTAL-Section 1
Language Arts	8	8	
Math	8	8	
Social Studies	4	4	
Science	4	4	
PE	2	2	
World Language	1	1	
Health	1	1	
Total Section 1			28

Section 2: Music Ensembles/General Music - Students must select **either** a Music Ensemble **or** General Music.

Course	Course Count	Enter Course Count	TOTAL-Section 2
Music Ensemble <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Band Only (6BAND) • Band and Orchestra (6BAOR) • Band and Chorus (6BACS) • Chorus and Orchestra (6CSOR) • Band, Chorus, and Orchestra (6BACSOR) • Chorus Only (6CHOR) • Orchestra Only (6ORCH) 	2		Enter 2 for Music Ensemble or 1 for General Music
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Music (6GM) 	1		
Total Section 2			

Section 3: Related Arts – This course is available for students with a Gifted IEP. It is suggested that students sign up for both semester classes. If student does not have a GIEP, enter '0' in shaded box.

Course	Course Count	Enter Course Count	Total – Section 3
Gifted Seminar 1 - first semester (6GSM) =1	2		Enter 0, 1 or 2 for Gifted Seminar
Gifted Seminar 2 - second semester (6GSM2)=1			
Total Section 3			

Section 4: Related Arts – Select related arts courses from the list below. The total of all numbers entered in the shaded boxes for all 4 sections of this sheet cannot exceed 32.

Course	Course Count	Enter Course Count	Total-Section 4
Check Box next to course, and then enter the total number of boxes checked in the shaded area of Section 4. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art 1 (6ART1) • Art 2 (6ART2) • Exploring Tech Sys (6EXTEC) • Music and Technology (6MT) • Science Investigations (6SI) • Digital Citizenship (6DC) 	Count "1" for each RA class selected.		
Total Section 4			
TOTAL OF SHADED BOXES FROM SECTIONS 1 – 4 (Maximum of 32)			

Student Name _____

ID Number _____

Block 1 Teacher's Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Phone Number _____

Please enter your course requests in HAC and then return this form to your Block 1 teacher by Friday, March 16, 2018.

Student Course Requests Through HAC

Student/Guardian Log into HAC (<https://homeinfo.berksiu.org/homeaccess>)

- Select the school district
- Login with your login and password

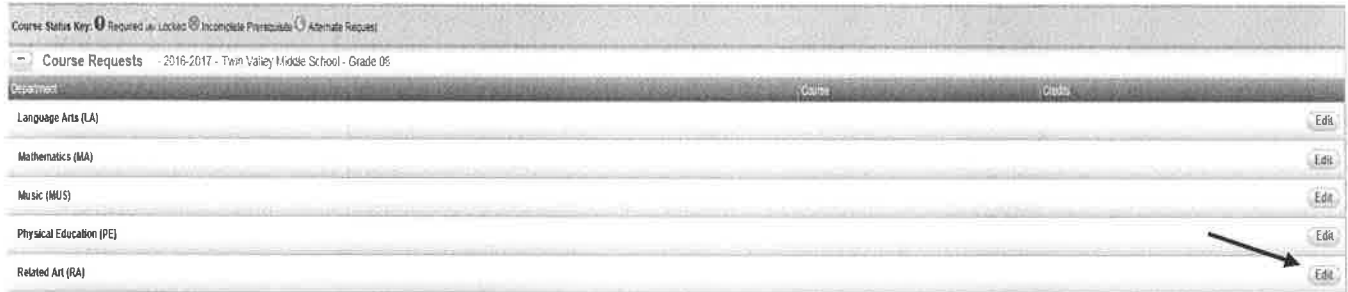
Once you are in HAC go to the Classes Icon



Then click on the **Requests** Tab



Click **Edit** next to Related Arts department to choose courses from:



Select each course you want to choose by clicking in the request box in the left hand column

Once all courses are chosen hit **SAVE** in the upper right hand corner

Request	Description	COURSE	Credit
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8 Gifted Seminar 1	8GSM	0.0000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8 Gifted Seminar 2	8GSM2	0.0000
<input type="checkbox"/>	Animation	8ANI	0.0000
<input type="checkbox"/>	Art	5ART	0.0000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Band	8BAND	0.0000

You are only selecting courses for Related Arts once you are done making your selections and hit save your registration process is complete.