

8th Grade Course Descriptions for 2018-2019

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 Common 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 performance, learning behaviors, or specific interactions with peers, students without special needs will be randomly assigned sections during the scheduling process.

Required Courses:

Language Arts: The eighth grade curriculum is delivered within a philosophy and model of Balanced Literacy. Reading, writing, speaking, and listening are integrated during the 90-minute block. Both fiction and nonfiction reading are explored with an emphasis on interpretive and evaluative comprehension. Another focus is upon informational and persuasive writing, while effective speaking and listening skills are practiced through student-centered discussions. One important goal of Language Arts instruction is to build a community of lifelong learners.

Math 8 & Algebra I: Students will be assigned to either Math 8, which focuses on the PA Core 8th grade Math Curriculum, or Algebra One. Both classes will use the College Preparatory Math approach for learning. The CPM approach uses a variety of teaching methodologies, including lecture, class discussions, manipulatives, and structured study teams. During class, students are actively working on guided investigations, much like "math labs," to develop mathematical concepts and problem solving skills. Algebra Students will be required to take the Keystone Exam year-end test as per PDE graduation requirements. Students will be considered for the new **Math 8** course by meeting distinct criteria including; previous state testing achievement and growth, quarterly exam scores, Algebra 1 readiness test problems, and teacher feedback and observation of math competencies. *Parents of students who are recommended to take Math 8 will be contacted prior to the end of the current school year.*

Science: Students will use the processes of science including researching, designing investigations, collecting and interpreting data, formulating conclusions, and communicating results for the investigation of the following: Earth processes and materials, oceanography and fresh water environments, astronomy, and meteorology.

Social Studies: Eighth grade students will explore concepts and events in middle European and early American History. Units include: The Middle Ages expansion and innovation, the Renaissance and Reformation, the Age of European Exploration, and Colonial America.

Health, Physical Education & Safety: Middle School Health and Physical Education encourages students to learn about healthy lifestyles through health education and physical activities. Students will begin to explore various lifetime activities and health concepts through leveled instruction and varied cooperative experiences.

World Language: Students will continue their study of German or Spanish as Part B of their 7th grade World Language experience. They will continue to develop language skills based on the five C's of language learning: Communications, cultures, connections, comparisons and communities; and further develop skills within the modalities of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Related Arts:

Animation: This class will teach students what makes a successful cartoon character and how to create one as well as how to make them move in a flipbook. They will spend a full semester using the IStop Motion program on the Mac computers and create a 15-20 second full animated cartoon with sound.

February 19, 2018

Visual Art I: This class is an advanced combination of 2-dimensional, 3-dimensional and recycled art. Students will use numerous materials including clay, colored pencil, paint, pastel, and paper mache.

Visual Art II: This class will be an additional combination of advanced 2-d, 3-d, and recycled art. A recycled fashion project or sculpture will be made from a variety of art materials and everyday "throwaway" materials.

Band & Orchestra: The Band and Orchestra programs offer an exciting opportunity for students to develop their instrumental music skills. Students who will be playing an instrument for the first time in 8th grade will be offered pull-out lessons but will not be included in performances or rehearsals until proficiency with the instrument is attained. A limited number of percussion students will be chosen to participate in band and orchestra ensembles and will be selected by audition. Students not selected for band or orchestra ensembles will have the opportunity to continue pull-out lessons and perform in a percussion ensemble. Band and orchestra are full year courses of study. Concert participation is required. **(Please note: All band ensemble students are required to participate in the Marching Band events.)**

Chorus: 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.

Music & Technology 2: Fundamentals of music composition and production using various software and hardware tools such as Macs, Garage Band, Notation Software. The fundamentals of music will be explored through a variety of projects including free composition, podcasts, and video soundtrack production.

Air & Spaceflight- Students will explore the science and the history of human flight in both the atmosphere and beyond. They will explore how engineers design solutions to solve problems encountered while planning and building air and spacecraft. Activities may include: Building models of a hot air balloon, building a wind tunnel and test airplane designs, build and test a model rocket, and build a "Martian lander" with a test drop-off at roof height.

Automation/Robotics: *This is the 8th Grade "Project Lead The Way"* - This course will give the students an exposure to building with the VEX product. The students will work on various "builds" outlined in this course. This includes areas of mechanical gears, the design and building of a "pull toy" build. The final project is a "Robot/claw" build. This build they will learn basic programming using the RobotC program. All of the build projects are "Activity Based" projects.

Foods Around the World: Students will study and prepare food specialties from various countries around the world. During this process, students will learn about various food and nutrition principles, safety practices, and cooking techniques; as well as international culture and traditions. Prepare to have lots of food fun & fanfare!

Leadership & You: All young adults have the potential to take on leadership roles, but often lack the opportunity. Students will learn about the power of self-efficacy, or the power within themselves to create change in their own school. This course will allow students the opportunity to become leaders in this school while working to develop their own potential and abilities. Throughout the course, students will help create lessons and activities that will benefit the school community and their classmates. They will also look at the different styles and types of leaders, as well as the skills and qualities needed to be an effective leader.

PA Sports History: This course will focus on the Pennsylvania athlete and sports franchises. Focus will begin with Berks and Chester county individuals of note, and then shift to state-wide sports figures who have achieved greatness. Investigation will also be made into PA sports franchises.

Peer Mentoring: This peer tutoring program is designed for 8th grade students to help and support students in 5th, 6th, or 7th grades. Peer tutors will learn basic principles of learning and best instructional practices and will assist other students in various classrooms. The focus for peer tutoring is to utilize unique student abilities and talents to help all students learn better, while developing their own deeper understanding and peer leadership skills.

Strategies in Sport: This course has an underlying emphasis on increasing student movement through participation in team and individual sports and personal fitness challenges with a focus on game strategies and advanced movement skills.

2018-2019: Incoming 8th Grade Course Selection

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	
HPE	2	2	
World Language	2	2	
Section 1 Total			28

Section 2: Music Ensembles: Only students in the music program should select the appropriate Music Ensemble

Course	Course Count	Enter Course Count	TOTAL-Section 2
Music Ensemble <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Band Only (Percussion) • Band and Orchestra • Band and Chorus • Chorus and Orchestra • Band, Orchestra and Chorus • Chorus Only • Orchestra Only 	2		Enter 2 for Music Ensemble
Section 2 Total			

Section 3: Seminar/Career Courses: This course is available for students with a Gifted IEP. *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)	1		Enter 0, 1 or 2 for Gifted Seminar
• Gifted Seminar 2 (second semester)	1		
Section 3 Total			

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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual Art 1 • Visual Art 2 • Animation • Air & Spaceflight • Automation & Robotics • Foods Around the World • Leadership & You • Music and Technology 2 • PA Sports History • Peer Mentoring • Strategy & Sport 	Count "1" for each RA class selected.		
Section 4 Total			
TOTAL OF SHADED BOXES FROM SECTIONS 1 – 4 (Maximum of 32)			

Student Name _____ ID Number _____

Block 1 Teacher _____

Parent Signature _____ Phone _____

Please return this form to your Block 1 teacher by Friday, March 16, 2018.

Student Course Requests Through HAC

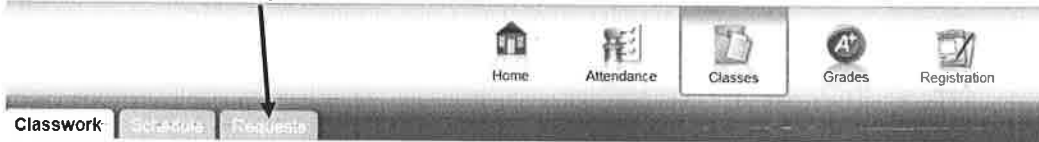
Student/Guardian Log into HAC (<https://homeinfo.berksiu.org/homeaccess>)

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

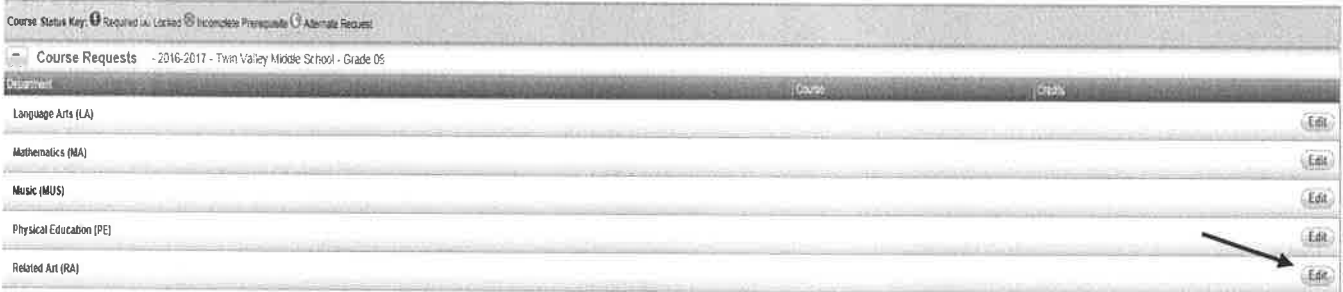


Once you are in HAC go to the Classes Icon

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.