

Middle School

5th Grade Course Guide

2023-2024



Introduction



Students in grades five through eight are offered a number of educational opportunities to extend their learning across multiple disciplines. By the end of their middle school years, students have received the foundational knowledge necessary to successfully tackle high school course work in preparation for their career and college choices. This course guide provides an overview of the middle school course offerings. For questions regarding scheduling or academic planning, please contact your child's school counselor.

Mission

The Teaneck Public School District educates and empowers students by providing a high quality, rigorous educational experience which prepares students for success within a diverse, global society.

Vision:

The Teaneck Advantage: Educational Excellence for All

Courses Offered

Fifth Grade Course Matrix	
Language Arts	*
Mathematics	*
Science	*
Social Studies	*
Phy. Ed. & Health	*
World Language	Both Spanish 5 & French 5 will be offered as semester/half year courses.
Visual and Performing Arts	All fifth grade students will cycle through the following courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Music 5 ● Art 5 ● Drama 5 ● Dance 5

Language Arts 5

Description	<p>Students in fifth grade language arts read a blend of literature and nonfiction texts. Students are exposed to multiple genres of writing including: narrative, persuasive, informational and analytical. By the end of the year, students are able to write arguments to support claims, compose texts that inform, and develop narratives about real or imagined experiences or events.</p> <p>Junior Great Books 5 is an enrichment addition to Language Arts 5 open to invited students who have demonstrated exceptional achievement in reading and writing by the end of grade four. For more information, please visit the district's Teaneck's Academically Gifted (TAG) website.</p>
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Mathematics 5

Description	<p>In grade five, students focus on developing three critical areas: (1) fluency with addition and subtraction of fractions, and understanding of multiplication of fractions and of division of fractions in limited cases; (2) division to 2-digit divisors, integrating decimal fractions into the place value system and fluency with whole number and decimal operations; and (3) understanding of volume. Instruction of the content includes a focus on the Standards of Mathematical Practice.</p>
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Courses Offered

Advanced Mathematics Seminar 5

Description	Advanced mathematics seminar 5 or AMS 5 is an honors-level course designed to challenge students who have demonstrated a strong mastery of the Standards of Mathematical Practice and elementary mathematics content. This course is an accelerated mathematics class where curriculum standards are compacted in order to advance students through an enriched curriculum that includes both fifth grade and sixth grade mathematics standards.
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Science 5

Description	The grade five science curriculum is a hands-on program designed to encourage students in STEM thinking. Students learn about science concepts and principles through experimentation, problem-solving and phenomena-driven instruction. Students study Engineering and Technology, Matter, Energy and Matter in Organisms, Energy and Matter in Ecosystems, Systems in Space, Earth Systems, and Earth and Human Activities.
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Social Studies 5

Description	This grade five social studies course surveys United States History from the arrival of its first peoples through the colonial period. Topics of examination include the themes and skills of geography, the early indigenous peoples of the Americas, exploration and settlement, the establishment of colonies, and the conditions under which our nation's earliest colonies were formed.
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Physical Education & Comprehensive Health 5

Description	Students in the district's comprehensive health and physical education program learn how to engage in a physically active lifestyle, and learn practices for maintaining an awareness of health and wellness.
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Courses Offered

Grade Five Encore Courses

Students in fifth grade will cycle through the following classes over the course of the year. Each of the courses listed below will be offered as a survey opportunity in order to introduce students to the fundamentals of the content. This introduction will help students make informed course selections in sixth, seventh and eighth grade.

Music 5

Description This course is designed to strengthen and develop students' fundamentals in the areas of Rhythm, Reading, Singing, and Listening. Focus on these skills will expand students' understanding of how music is created, performed, and experienced.

Duration Cycle Course

Dance 5

Description This course expands on the concepts of Creative Movement, the Elements of Dance, Storytelling, Contemporary Dance History, and Technique. Dance 5 provides an emphasis on healthy practices for dancers and specific Contemporary Dance choreography.

Duration Cycle Course

Theatre 5

Description This course focuses on foundational materials such as character, plot, basic design and directing principles, elements of scenes and plays as well as physical theater integration. Students will continue to activate and expand their imaginations, and explore the analytical, concentration, and process skills associated with acting.

Duration Cycle Course

Visual Art 5

Description Students will explore different mediums, while learning art history, and core skills in the creation of 2-Dimensional and 3-Dimensional works of art. The course explores a variety of past and current modern artists.

Duration Cycle Course

Courses Offered

Grade Five Encore Courses

Students in fifth grade will cycle through the following classes over the course of the year. Each of the courses listed below will be offered as a survey opportunity in order to introduce students to the fundamentals of the content. This introduction will help students make informed course selections in sixth, seventh and eighth grade.

Spanish 5

Description	The emphasis in Spanish 5 is on the communicative use of language. The goal is to enable students to comprehend natural spoken Spanish. Basic grammar of the language is presented orally, and as the course progresses, students are expected to acquire an ability to write using introductory phrases and sentences.
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Duration	Cycle course
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French 5

Description	In French 5, students engage in meaningful introductory conversations in order to understand and interpret spoken and written French. Students are presented with information, concepts, and ideas while also gaining an understanding of diverse French cultures.
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Duration	Cycle course
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Courses Offered

Middle School Academic Boost Courses

In order to support students in reading and writing, both middle schools offer the following: BSIP-English/Language Arts and Mathematics Lab. Within these classes, learners work in smaller cohorts to sharpen reading or mathematics proficiency. Both the BSIP-English/Language Arts course and Mathematics Lab are by recommendation only.

Middle School

6th Grade Course Guide

2023-2024



Introduction



Students in grades five through eight are offered a number of educational opportunities to extend their learning across multiple disciplines. By the end of their middle school years, students have received the foundational knowledge necessary to successfully tackle high school course work in preparation for their career and college choices. This course guide provides an overview of the middle school course offerings. For questions regarding scheduling or academic planning, please contact your child's school counselor.

Mission

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Vision:

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Courses Offered

Core Courses

Language Arts 6

Description In sixth grade, students study literature and nonfiction to understand and unpack the key attributes and characteristics of both genres. They develop the capacity to build knowledge by responding analytically to literary and informational sources. Students grow in their writing ability by producing numerous pieces over short and extended time frames throughout the year.

Junior Great Books 6 is an enrichment addition to the **Language Arts 6** course. This enrichment opportunity is open to invited students who have demonstrated exceptional achievement in reading and writing by the end of grade five. For more information, please visit the district's [Teaneck's Academically Gifted \(TAG\) website](#).

Mathematics 6

Description In sixth grade, students will deepen their knowledge in four critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking. The Mathematics 6 course is designed to set the groundwork for higher levels of mathematics learning.

Advanced Mathematics Seminar 6

Description Advanced Mathematics Seminar 6 or AMS 6 is an honors-level course designed to challenge students who have demonstrated a strong mastery of the Standards of Mathematical Practice. This course is an accelerated mathematics class where curriculum standards are compacted in order to advance students through an enriched mathematics curriculum including the remainder of the grade 6 and all of the grade 7 curriculum.

Courses Offered

Core Courses

Science 6

Description	The grade six science curriculum is a hands-on program designed to encourage students in STEM thinking. Students learn about science concepts and principles through experimentation, problem-solving and phenomena-driven instruction. Students study Space Science, Earth's Water & Atmosphere, and Ecology & the Environment.
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Social Studies 6 - United States History

Description	This grade six social studies course surveys United States History from the founding of the nation through late Nineteenth-Century Industrialization. Topics of examination include: The American Revolution, The United States Constitution, The Early Republic, United States growth and expansion, The Civil War, Reconstruction, and late Nineteenth-Century Industrialization.
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Physical Education & Comprehensive Health 6

Description	Students in the district's comprehensive health and physical education program learn how to engage in a physically active lifestyle and learn practices for maintaining an awareness of health and wellness.
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Courses Offered

Grade 6 Encore & Exploratory Courses

In sixth grade, students can choose from a variety of courses to focus their learning in different content areas. Please review the course descriptions below which provide useful details for making sixth grade selections.

Grade 6 Encore & Exploratory Courses	
World Language	Choose one: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spanish 6 • French 6
Visual and Performing Arts	Choose one: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music 6 • Art 6 • Dance 6 • Drama 6 • Band 6 • Chorus 6 • Orchestra 6
Exploratory Courses	Choose one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students can take a second Visual and Performing Arts. (See above.) • STEAM 6 • Google Workspace Applications I

Spanish 6	
Description	Students taking Spanish 6 will advance in their ability to use regular verbs, subject pronouns and commonly used irregular verbs. Students will be expected to acquire an ability to write introductory phrases and sentences. Student interaction in the target language of Spanish is encouraged and promoted through the use of dialogues, presentations, and oral practice.
Duration	Semester course

Courses Offered

Grade 6 Encore & Exploratory Courses

French 6	
Description	Students in French 6 will strengthen their knowledge of introductory French greetings, the alphabet, numbers, nursery rhymes and children's songs. Students will advance in speaking about the months and days, and learn longer words, phrases and sentences related to everyday events. By the end of French 6, students will be expected to show a command over everyday gestures, familiar words and phrases and use common gestures and cultural practices.
Duration	Semester course

Art 6	
Description	This course covers different mediums and standards that are developmentally appropriate for the student to grow as an artist and learner. The goal is for students to experience a few mediums available to them by the district while learning art history, and core skills in the creation of 2-Dimensional and 3-Dimensional works of art.
Duration	Semester course

Music 6	
Description	General Music 6 explores music through a variety of interactions, including creating, performing, responding and connecting. Students will explore how historical context and cultural influence affect music and musicians and the forward direction of composition and production through the study of notation. As a result, students will compose, present, and perform their original creations.
Duration	Semester course

Theatre 6	
Description	This course will focus on an overview of each theatrical element and foster a foundation on which students can build over subsequent classes and grades. These include: acting, playwriting, theatrical analysis, self-expression, and critique. Students will delve into each topic over the course of the marking period by reading published script excerpts, creating individual student scenes, evaluating and critiquing professional and student performances, and making real-world, 21st-century connections to professional theater.
Duration	Semester course

Courses Offered

Grade 6 Encore & Exploratory Courses

Dance 6	
Description	This course is designed to give students a general understanding and appreciation of dance and dance practices. Students will explore the history and technique of various dance genres as well as engage in team-building activities by creating, revising, and performing choreography. students will develop lifelong skills such as: stage presence, cultural awareness, creativity, collaboration, healthy and safe movement practices, body coordination, and goal-setting.
Duration	Semester course

Band 6	
Description	Band 6 is designed to provide students with an introductory experience on band instruments. The curriculum for this course is an extension of the skills and concepts introduced in general music classes. Students will understand appropriate tone, articulations, fingerings, sticking, dynamics, major scales, rhythm, staff symbols and notes. Instruments: flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, french horn, baritone, and percussion.
Duration	Semester course

Chorus 6	
Description	Chorus 6 focuses on singing activities and vocal production. It will allow students to develop the skills necessary for ensemble singing and reading music notation. It also provides opportunity for growth in the understanding of musical elements (rhythm, melody, harmony, and expressive elements) as applied to the music performed.
Duration	Semester course

Orchestra 6	
Description	Orchestra 6 is designed to provide students with an introductory experience on orchestra instruments. This course is an extension of the skills and concepts introduced in general music classes. Students will understand appropriate tone, articulations, fingerings, dynamics, major scales, rhythm, staff symbols and notes. Instruments include but are not limited to: violin, viola, cello, and string bass.
Duration	Semester course

Courses Offered

Grade 6 Encore & Exploratory Courses

STEAM 6

Description	Students in STEAM 6 will develop their skills and knowledge in Computer Science & Design Thinking by learning about 3D printing and modeling as a resource for solving real-world problems.
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Duration	Semester course
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Google Workspace Applications I

Description	Google Workspace is Google's flagship Software as a Service and offers a suite of cloud apps and services available through the Google browser. The student will learn the use of the G Suite of apps that include and are not limited to: Gmail, Google Meet, Google Chat, Calendar, Drive, Docs, Sheets, Slides, Forms, Classroom & Assignments, Google Cloud Search and more.
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Duration	Semester course
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Courses Offered

Middle School Academic Boost Courses

In order to support students in reading and writing, both middle schools offer the following: BSIP-English/Language Arts and Mathematics Lab. Within these classes, learners work in smaller cohorts to sharpen reading or mathematics proficiency. Both the BSIP-English/Language Arts course and Mathematics Lab are by recommendation only.

Middle School

7th Grade Course Guide

2023-2024



Introduction



Students in grades five through eight are offered a number of educational opportunities to extend their learning across multiple disciplines. By the end of their middle school years, students have received the foundational knowledge necessary to successfully tackle high school course work in preparation for their career and college choices. This course guide provides an overview of the middle school course offerings. For questions regarding scheduling or academic planning, please contact your child's school counselor.

Mission

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Vision:

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Courses Offered

Core Courses

Language Arts 7

Description	The grade seven language arts curriculum includes a sharper focus on novel studies, author's craft and writing to inform, explain, narrate and persuade. Grade seven students read a number of short stories, books and informational texts in order to deepen their understanding of literature and informational writing. Students are also required to develop detailed written work which exemplifies craft moves and mastery over conventions, organization and written expression.
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Accelerated English/ Language Arts 7

Description	Students invited to participate in the district's Accelerated English/ Language Arts 7 course have demonstrated academic mastery in both reading and writing. Students enrolled in Accelerated English/ Language Arts 7 move through an enriched, rigorous curriculum designed to challenge academically advanced readers and writers. This course is a part of the district's TAG program. For more information, please visit the district's Teaneck's Academically Gifted (TAG) website .
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Mathematics 7

Description	Mathematics learners in grade seven explore the fundamentals of mathematics with a greater focus on pre-algebra topics. In grade 7, instructional time focuses on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.
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Advanced Mathematics Seminar 7

Description	Advanced Mathematics Seminar 7 or AMS 7 is an honors-level course designed to challenge students who have demonstrated a strong mastery of the Standards of Mathematical Practice. This course is an accelerated mathematics class where students complete the grade 8 mathematics curriculum in preparation for Algebra 1 in eighth grade.
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Courses Offered

Core Courses

Science 7

Description	The grade seven science curriculum is a hands-on program designed to encourage students in STEM thinking. Students learn about science concepts and principles through experimentation, problem-solving and phenomena-driven instruction. Students study an Introduction to Matter & Energy, Earth Science, Diversity of Life Science and the Ecology of Earth & Human Impact.
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Accelerated Science 7

Description	Students invited to participate in the district's Accelerated Science 7 course have demonstrated academic mastery on multiple measures and a deep interest in science. Students enrolled move through the Grade 7 Science curriculum at an accelerated rate. Through the course of each unit, students will be provided with enrichment opportunities by way of project-based and problem-based learning opportunities extending from the unit of study. This course is a part of the district's TAG program. For more information, please visit the district's Teaneck's Academically Gifted (TAG) website .
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Social Studies 7 - Civics

Description	This grade seven social studies course is designed to prepare and further advance students as well-informed and active 21st Century citizens by examining concepts such as the consent of the government, the rule of law, civic virtue, the common good, justice, equality and diversity. Students will also develop the civic practices of evaluating sources, seeking diverse perspectives, engaging in civil discourse, and taking informed action.
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Courses Offered

Core Courses

Accelerated Social Studies 7 - Civics

Description	Students invited to participate in the district's Accelerated Social Studies 7 - Civics course have demonstrated academic mastery on multiple measures and a deep interest in social studies. Students enrolled move through the Grade 7 Civics curriculum at an accelerated rate. Through the course of each unit, students will be provided with enrichment opportunities by way of project-based and problem-based learning opportunities extending from the unit of study. This course is a part of the district's TAG program. For more information, please visit the district's Teaneck's Academically Gifted (TAG) website .
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Physical Education & Comprehensive Health 7

Description	Students in the district's comprehensive health and physical education program learn how to engage in a physically active lifestyle and learn practices for maintaining an awareness of health and wellness.
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Courses Offered

Grade 7 Encore & Exploratory Courses

In seventh grade, students can choose from a variety of courses to focus their learning in different content areas. Please review the course descriptions below which provide useful details for making seventh grade selections.

Grade 7	
World Language	Choose one: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spanish 7 Adv. Spanish 7 French 7
Visual and Performing Arts	Choose one: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music Through Technology 7/8 Art 7 Dance 7 Drama 7 Band 7 Chorus 7 Orchestra 7
Exploratory Courses Computer Science & Design Thinking	Choose one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students can take a second Visual and Performing Arts. (See above.) STEAM 7 Google Workspace Applications II Odyssey of the Mind / Global Concerns

Spanish 7

Description	Students taking Spanish 7 will explore the cultures and regions of Spanish-speaking countries. Students will advance in the ability to speak conversational Spanish, and sharpen their ability to read and comprehend shorter Spanish texts.
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Duration	Semester course
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Adv. Spanish 7

Description	This course is presented in the target language of Spanish. Students will learn how to hold fluent conversations about real-life events in the target language language, and students will be required to write longer pieces with precise diction, syntax and grammar. Basic fluency in reading and writing is a prerequisite for this course.
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Duration	Semester course
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Courses Offered

Grade 7 Encore & Exploratory Courses

French 7	
Description	Students in French 7 will sharpen their ability to write and speak in the French language. The domains of speaking, writing, reading and listening will be addressed as students expand their knowledge of French-speaking cultures and regions.
Duration	Semester course

Art 7	
Description	This course covers different mediums and standards that are developmentally appropriate for the student to grow as an artist and learner. The goal is for students to experience a few mediums available to them by the district while learning art history, and core skills in the creation of 2-Dimensional and 3-Dimensional works of art.
Duration	Semester course

Music Through Tech 7/8	
Description	Seventh and eighth grade Music Through Technology is a semester course building on skills and knowledge acquired in previous grades. Students will further explore musical composition and production using technological enhancements.
Duration	Semester course

Theatre 7	
Description	Theatre7 will provide students with the following: the origins of Western theatre, an overview of professional theatre elements and principles, theatrical performance and technologies, and the process of constructive critique. Students will explore themselves and the world around them through performance and acting skills, set and costume design and construction, scene studies, and playwriting.
Duration	Semester course

Courses Offered

Grade 7 Encore & Exploratory Courses

Dance 7

Description Dance 7 is designed to give students an understanding of contemporary dance as well as an overview of choreographic practices. In this course, students will explore the history and technique of contemporary dance which combines ballet, modern, and jazz. Students will focus on healthy dance practices, including nutrition and basic principles of kinesiology.

Duration Semester course

Band 7

Description Band 7 is an extension of the skills and concepts introduced in general music classes and Band 6. Students will understand appropriate tone, articulations, fingerings, sticking, dynamics, major scales, rhythm, staff symbols and notes. Students will be able to understand the elements of rhythm, melody, and harmony. Students will apply expressive qualities in music, understand timbre, and learn about historical and cultural contexts of music. Instruments include but are not limited to: flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, french horn, baritone, and percussion.

Duration Semester course

Chorus 7

Description Students in Chorus 7 will develop into independent singers, striving to achieve the highest level of musicianship in choral music. Students in Chorus 7 will perform in solos and small ensembles, as well as performing with the full chorus.

Duration Semester course

Orchestra 7

Description Orchestra 7 is an extension of the skills and concepts introduced in general music classes and Orchestra 6. Students will understand appropriate tone, articulations, fingerings, dynamics, major scales, rhythm, staff symbols and notes. Students will be able to understand the elements of rhythm, melody, and harmony. Students will apply expressive qualities in music, understand timbre, and learn about historical and cultural contexts in music. Instruments include but are not limited to: violin, viola, cello, and string bass.

Duration Semester course

Courses Offered

Grade 7 Encore & Exploratory Courses

STEAM 7	
Description	Students in STEAM 7 will develop their skills and knowledge in Computer Science & Design Thinking by learning how to use and program an Arduino digital signal processor to control multiple digital devices to solve real world problems.
Duration	Semester course

Google Workspace Applications II:	
Description	Google Workspace is Google's flagship Software as a Service and offers a suite of cloud apps and services available through the Google browser. The students will learn the use of the G Suite of apps that include and are not limited to: Gmail, Google Meet, Google Chat, Calendar, Drive, Docs, Sheets, Slides, Forms, Classroom & Assignments, Google Cloud Search and more.
Duration	Semester course

Odyssey of the Mind / Global Concerns	
Description	This course encourages students to use creative problem solving to explore a variety of scenarios and hands-on activities. In Odyssey of the Mind, the problems are process oriented and students are required to complete a written reflection after each activity. There is an emphasis on cooperative group work. In Global Concerns, learning experiences are designed to investigate the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and the progress being made towards achieving them. Students learn about poverty, education, water scarcity and hunger. Learners investigate the impact each has on human populations around the world. This course is a Middle School Humanities enrichment program and recommended for students with a strong interest in language arts and/or social studies.
Duration	Semester course

Courses Offered

Middle School Academic Boost Courses

In order to support students in reading and writing, both middle schools offer the following: BSIP-English/Language Arts and Mathematics Lab. Within these classes, learners work in smaller cohorts to sharpen reading or mathematics proficiency. Both the BSIP-English/Language Arts course and Mathematics Lab are by recommendation only.

Middle School

8th Grade Course Guide

2023-2024



Introduction



Students in grades five through eight are offered a number of educational opportunities to extend their learning across multiple disciplines. By the end of their middle school years, students have received the foundational knowledge necessary to successfully tackle high school course work in preparation for their career and college choices. This course guide provides an overview of the middle school course offerings. For questions regarding scheduling or academic planning, please contact your child's school counselor.

Mission

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Courses Offered

Core Courses

Language Arts 8

Description	Students in language arts 8 read a number of texts in which they investigate how authors craft stories. During each unit, students identify themes within text as they also learn to unpack craft moves like figurative language, symbolism and allusion. In eighth grade, students are required to produce written pieces that demonstrate command over written expression and organization. By the end of the year, students complete their course of study with Greek Mythology as preparation for high-school level English courses.
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Accelerated ELA 8

Description	Students invited to participate in the district's Accelerated English/ Language Arts 8 course have demonstrated academic mastery in reading and writing on multiple measures. Students enrolled in this course move at an accelerated rate. Through the course of each unit, students are provided with enrichment opportunities by way of project-based and problem-based learning opportunities extending from the unit of study. This course is a part of the district's TAG program. For more information, please visit the district's Teaneck's Academically Gifted (TAG) website .
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Mathematics 8

Description	Mathematics learners in grade eight explore pre-algebra in preparation for taking Algebra 1 the following year. In Grade 8, instructional time focuses on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.
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Advanced Mathematics Seminar 8

Description	Advanced Mathematics Seminar 8 or AMS 8 is an honors-level course designed to challenge students who have demonstrated a strong mastery of the Standards of Mathematical Practice. This course is an accelerated mathematics class where students will complete the Algebra 1 curriculum. Upon successful completion of this course, students are able to enroll in Geometry in ninth grade. Students in AMS 8 will be expected to take the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment for Algebra 1 at the end of the year.
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Courses Offered

Core Courses

Science 8

Description	The grade eight science curriculum is a hands-on program designed to encourage students in STEM thinking. Students learn about science concepts and principles through experimentation, problem-solving and phenomena-driven instruction. Students study Cell Structure & Function, Organisms as Systems, Cells & Heredity, Motion, Forces & Energy and Electromagnetic Spectrum: Sound & Light
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Accelerated Science 8

Description	Students invited to participate in the district's Accelerated Science 8 course have demonstrated academic mastery on multiple measures and a deep interest in science. Students enrolled move through the Grade 8 Science curriculum at an accelerated rate. Through the course of each unit, students will be provided with enrichment opportunities by way of project-based and problem-based learning opportunities extending from the unit of study. This course is a part of the district's TAG program. For more information, please visit the district's Teaneck's Academically Gifted (TAG) website .
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Social Studies 8 - World History

Description	The eighth grade social studies course in world history traces the major patterns of human development and contributions of civilizations from the beginnings of human society until the 15th century. Students will focus on the major historical progressions of world development through the themes of human interaction with the environment, development and interaction of cultures, state-building, expansion, conflict, economic systems and social structures. Through historical documents and real-world texts, students will have the opportunity to analyze, research, interpret, and respond to a variety of primary and secondary sources and situations.
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Courses Offered

Core Courses

Accelerated Social Studies 8 - World History

Description	Students invited to participate in the district's Accelerated Social Studies 8 - World History course have demonstrated academic mastery on multiple measures and a deep interest in social studies. Students enrolled move through the Grade 8 World History curriculum at an accelerated rate. Through the course of each unit, students will be provided with enrichment opportunities by way of project-based and problem-based learning opportunities extending from the unit of study. This course is a part of the district's TAG program. For more information, please visit the district's Teaneck's Academically Gifted (TAG) website .
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Physical Education & Comprehensive Health 8

Description	Students in the district's comprehensive health and physical education program learn how to engage in a physically active lifestyle and learn practices for maintaining an awareness of health and wellness.
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Courses Offered

Grade 8 Encore & Exploratory Courses

In eighth grade, students can choose from a variety of courses to focus their learning in different content areas. Please review the course descriptions below which provide useful details for making eighth grade selections.

Grade 8	
World Language	Choose one: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spanish 8 Adv. Spanish 8 French 8
Visual and	Choose one: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music Through Technology 7/8 Art 8 Dance 8 Drama 8 Band 8 Chorus 8 Orchestra 8
Exploratory Courses Computer Science & Design Thinking	Choose one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students can take a second Visual and Performing Arts. (See above.) STEAM 8 Google Workspace Applications III Forensic Science 8 Public Speaking & Debate Biodiversity / Video Documentary

Spanish 8	
Description	Students taking Spanish 8 will advance their knowledge in the culture of Spanish-speaking peoples. By the end of Spanish 8, students will be able to hold social conversations in Spanish with precision and accuracy. Students will be able to demonstrate mastery in shorter written pieces by the end of the course.
Duration	Semester course

Courses Offered

Grade 8 Encore & Exploratory Courses

Adv. Spanish 8

Description This course is presented in the target language of Spanish. This is the second half of Advance Spanish 7 and is designed to prepare students for taking higher-level assessments to demonstrate Spanish proficiency in reading and writing.

Duration Semester course

French 8

Description This course expands students' proficiency in beginner-level French. By the end of this course, students will study introductory French conversation topics, fundamentals of French Grammar and syntax, and expand their knowledge of French speaking cultures and regions.

Duration Semester course

Art 8

Description The goal of this course is for students to experience every medium available to them by the district while learning art history, contemporary and master artist as well as the core skills needed in the creation of 2-Dimensional and 3-Dimensional works of art. Students will be introduced to a variety of past and current working artists in order to keep up with popular culture and the arts of our time.

Duration Semester course

Music Through Tech 7/8

Description Seventh and eighth grade Music Through Technology is a semester course building on skills and knowledge acquired in previous grades. Students will further explore musical composition and production using technological enhancements.

Duration Semester course

Courses Offered

Grade 8 Encore & Exploratory Courses

Theater 8	
Description	Theatre 8 will provide students with the following: an overview of the art of theatre, self-expression, characterization, and performance. Students will continue to enhance theatrical literacy via readings of various plays, creating theatrical monologues and/or scenes, and viewing diverse theatrical productions for critique. Students will view the world of theatre through the eyes of the playwright, actor, and technical production roles. They will continue to develop theatrical terminology and the vocabulary of a theatrical practitioner.
Duration	Semester course

Dance 8	
Description	Dance 8 is designed to give students an advanced level of understanding in contemporary dance as well as creative movement. In this course, students will: explore the history of contemporary dance, embody beginner to intermediate contemporary dance movements, and vocabulary.
Duration	Semester course

Band 8	
Description	Band 8 is an extension of the skills and concepts introduced in general music classes and Band 7. Students will understand appropriate tone, articulations, fingerings, sticking, dynamics, major scales, rhythm, staff symbols and notes. Students will be able to understand the elements of rhythm, melody, and harmony. Students will apply expressive qualities in music, understand timbre, and learn about historical and cultural contexts in music. Instruments include but are not limited to: flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, french horn, baritone, and percussion.
Duration	Semester course

Courses Offered

Grade 8 Encore & Exploratory Courses

Chorus 8	
Description	Students in Chorus 8 will develop into independent singers, striving to achieve the highest level of musicianship in choral music. Students in Chorus 7 will perform in solos and small ensembles, as well as performing with the full Chorus. They will also learn and improve their music reading and sight-singing ability.
Duration	Semester course

Orchestra 8	
Description	Orchestra 8 is an extension of the skills and concepts introduced in general music classes and Orchestra 7. Students will understand appropriate tone, articulations, fingerings, dynamics, major scales, rhythm, staff symbols and notes. Students will be able to understand the elements of rhythm, melody, and harmony. Students will apply expressive qualities in music, understand timbre, and learn about historical and cultural contexts in music. Instruments include but are not limited to: violin, viola, cello, and string bass.
Duration	Semester course

STEAM 8	
Description	Students in STEAM 8 will develop their skills and knowledge in Computer Science & Design Thinking through the study of Robotics. Students will design, program, and build robots that will stimulate solutions to real world problems.
Duration	Semester course

Google Workspace Applications III	
Description	Google Workspace is Google's flagship Software as a Service and offers a suite of cloud apps and services available through the Google browser. The student will learn the use of the G Suite of apps that include and are not limited to: Gmail, Google Meet, Google Chat, Calendar, Drive, Docs, Sheets, Slides, Forms, Classroom & Assignments, Google Cloud Search and more
Duration	Semester course

Courses Offered

Grade 8 Encore & Exploratory Courses

Public Speaking & Debate

Description	Through the study of Public Speaking & Debate, students will learn effective communication skills as well formulating and constructing opposing arguments in a formal discussion on a particular topic. Emphasis will be placed on student engagement in a variety of learning activities including speech, preparation and presentation, debate, role play, small group work, critical analysis, mock trials and others.
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Duration	Semester course
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Biodiversity / Video Documentary

Description	This course is designed to provide learners with opportunities to investigate the local environment and draw conclusions based on their observations. The students will explore the grounds of the surrounding school buildings and record findings in a field journal. Students will participate in a citizen science project that requires identifying a local environmental problem, recording and analyzing data, and developing a sustainable solution. In Video Documentary, students develop several video production projects that incorporate many valuable academic skills including researching, interviewing, and critical thinking. Students use professional video cameras to record footage, and they edit the videos using Final Cut Pro, which is professional video editing software. This course is a Middle School Humanities enrichment class and is recommended for students with a strong interest in science, language arts and/or social studies.
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Duration	Semester course
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Forensics Science 8

Description	This course uses both life and physical sciences to recreate the events of a crime. The units covered in this course include and are not limited to an introduction of forensic science, fingerprint analysis, serology, ballistics, hair & fiber analysis and forensic document examination.
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Duration	Semester course
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Courses Offered

Middle School Academic Boost Courses

In order to support students in reading and writing, both middle schools offer the following: BSIP-English/Language Arts and Mathematics Lab. Within these classes, learners work in smaller cohorts to sharpen reading or mathematics proficiency. Both the BSIP-English/Language Arts course and Mathematics Lab are by recommendation only.