**NORTH SCHUYLKILL**

**Jr./Sr. High School**



**Course Selection Guide**

**2021 – 2022**

**7th and 8th Grades**

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INTRODUCTION

Within this *Course Selection Guide,* you will find information about the curriculum for grades 7 and 8.

Included in this booklet are course descriptions and requirements for promotion. It is imperative for you and your parents to review this information carefully.

If you have specific questions, the guidance department, faculty, and administration of the North Schuylkill Jr./Sr. High School are available to assist you.

***North Schuylkill School District Mission Statement***

The North Schuylkill School District will graduate students who have a respect for learning and are empowered to be self-sufficient and successful problem solvers.

***North Schuylkill Jr/Sr. High School Vision Statement***

The North Schuylkill Jr./Sr. High School will provide a competitive, rigorous, and challenging curriculum supported by advanced technology, thus preparing all student for success in the global society.

***Student Outcomes***

* Identify effort, strengths, and weaknesses that affect them academically.
* Take ownership of their educational learning tools in all subjects collaboratively.
* Apply learning in real-life situations and, at times, take risks and embrace errors.
* Read and analyze critically and independently.
* Be responsible, upstanding, and civic-minded media citizens of the 21st century.
* Develop listening and problem solving skills.
* Develop pride in work and accomplishments.

***Learning Beliefs***

* Students will be actively engaged in a comfortable and positive environment with clear expectations.
* Students will be able to produce quality work that meets high standards, connects to prior knowledge, and applies to real-life situations.
* Students will feel safe and confident that their needs are being met.
* Students will be given opportunities for active involvement in varied learning experiences.
* Students will be encouraged to express themselves individually and creatively while making choices related to their learning using self, peer, and teacher feedback and problem solving techniques.

***Shared Values***

* Our students are our purpose.
* Our district recognizes that each person has the ability to learn.
* Our students are entitled to a safe and caring learning environment.
* All students want to succeed in some way and want to feel good about themselves.
* All students should have the opportunity to learn using the most current material and technology available to compete with the rest of the world.
* All students should be encouraged to discuss their ideas and the ideas of others in the classroom.
* Students will be given the opportunity and resources to develop their talents in order to contribute to the community.
* Our learning environment develops values of service, pride, excellence, and integrity.
* Our district strives for pride, excellence, and integrity.
* Our heritage provides a foundation for good citizenship.
* The role of the school community is to work cooperatively to support the needs of the students.
* The family is the foundation for a successful community.
* Educating youth is the shared responsibility of everyone: the home, the school, and the community.
* Each individual is important and entitled to: respect, understanding, and appreciation of their uniqueness.
* Each person is responsible for his/her own actions.

THE SCHOOL YEAR AND YOUR SCHEDULE

Your schedule will consist of eight (8) – forty-four (44) minute periods each day. You will have three (3) minutes to pass from one class to the next. Lunch will be thirty (30) minutes and is not counted as one of the eight periods described below.

Your schedule will run on a two (2) day cycle. Some of your classes will meet every day. For instance, English 7 is a class that meets on a “2-Day Cycle”. Thus, if you have Science 7 during first period, you will go to Science 7 every day during first period.

Some of your classes will only meet every other day (A or B Cycle). For instance, if you have Physical Education third period on day A, you will go there every other day during third period on day A. On the days you do not go to Physical Education during third period, you will go to another class that meets every other day (on day B), such as an Academic Prep. The daily announcements will inform the student body as to what day it is in the cycle.

**If we miss a day/or days of school for any reason, the cycle picks up right where it left off**. If Monday is Day A, and there is no school on Tuesday and Wednesday, when school resumes on Thursday, it will be Day B.

***7th and 8th Grade Curriculum***

The staff of the North Schuylkill Jr./Sr. High School has determined that in order to help create a smooth and positive transition to a high school scheduling format, 7th and 8th grade students will be offered the opportunity to have classes with several teachers, much like senior high students; but will also follow a more structured curriculum.

7th Grade Students Will Be Required To Take The Following Courses [Total of 7.5 Credits]

* 2.0 Credits English/Language Arts
* 1.5 Credits Math
* 1.0 Credit Science
* 1.0 Credit Geography
* 0.5 Credit Physical Education (PE)
* 0.5 Credit Computers & Technology
* 1.0 Credit Rotation [1 – 0.25 Credit Class during each of the 4 marking periods]
* (no credit) Academic Prep (Study Hall)

8th Grade Students Will Be Required To Take The Following Courses [Total of 7.5 Credits]

* 2.0 Credits English/Language Arts
* 1.5 Credits Math
* 1.0 Credit Science
* 1.0 Credit American History
* 0.5 Credit Physical Education (PE)
* 0.5 Credit Computers & Technology
* 1.0 Credit Rotation [1 – 0.25 Credit Class during each of the 4 marking periods]
* (no credit) Academic Prep (Study Hall)

Students will be exposed to a wide variety of mandatory curriculum offerings. Course descriptions are included in the Course Offerings section which follows.

***Prerequisites – Course Recommendations***

All courses with a prerequisite of “Teacher Recommendation” means that the student is placed into a specific course based on his/her previous teachers’ abilities to witness the student’s classroom work ethic; previous grades earned in that course; and if applicable, PSSA scores from the previous three (3) academic years (PVAAS).

In order for a student to be recommended for, or remain in an Academic or Honor’s Course, the student must have a 90% or higher in their previous or current course. To advance from an Academic to an Honor’s course for the next school year, the student must have a 93% or higher, year average, in their previous Academic course.

***Schedule Changes***

Once a student receives their schedule for the academic year, changes will only be allowed AFTER the student and parent/guardian discuss the issue with the student’s current teacher.

If the teacher determines the change/s will be allowed, the teacher contacts the building principal, who in turn will approve/disapprove the change. If approved, the principal will contact the school counselor to make the schedule change/s. The school counselor is not responsible for making academic placement determinations without the approval of the building principal.

***Band and/or Chorus***

Students have the choice to participate in Band and/or Chorus. This choice must be approved by the current band/choral director before requesting the addition to their schedule. Once the choice is made and the schedule is created, the student will remain in Band/Chorus until the end of the school year.

Because of scheduling restrictions, these students will **not** be able to take Computer Technology and/or Academic Prep under these circumstances:

*Circumstance 1* – Student only in Band **OR** only in Chorus. Student makes the choice to take Computer Tech **OR** Academic Prep, but **cannot** choose both. Once the choice is made, the schedule cannot be changed.

*Circumstance 2* – Student in both Band and Chorus. There is **NO** student choice. These students will have the Computer Technology course waived **AND** they will **NOT** have an Academic Prep. The schedule cannot be changed.

***Promotion To The Next Grade Level***

Students in grade 7 must earn a *minimum* of 5.5 credits for promotion to grade 8.

Students in grade 8 must earn a *minimum* of 5.5 credits (in 8th grade) for promotion to grade 9.

Should a student fail to earn the required 5.5 credits for the academic year, the student will be required to repeat THE ENTIRE grade level the following school year; NOT just the courses he/she failed.

*EXAMPLE* – If an 8th grade student fails Math (1.5 credits) and Science (1.0 credit), that student has only earned 5.0 credits. The student failed 8th grade and will repeat every course in 8th grade, including those previously passed. [ Please refer to page 2 of this guide for all course credit values.]

***Summer School***

Students who have failed to earn the required 5.5 credits for the academic year will be offered an opportunity to make up the failed course(s) (maximum of two) in the online summer school program ***at their own expense***.

In order to be eligible for summer school, a student must have a FINAL YEARLY average of 50% or above, in the failed class/classes. If the student has an average *lower* than 50% in the failed class/classes, he/she will NOT be eligible to make up the course(s) in summer school. Students who do not pass the required course(s) in summer school AND have earned less than 5.5 credits (for that academic year) will NOT be promoted to the next grade level.

**GRADE 7**

COURSE OFFERINGS 2021 – 2022

***English and Language Arts***

**100 ELA 7 2.0 CREDITS**

**2-Day Cycle**

This course is designed to give seventh grade students a solid foundation in areas of grammar/usage; writing techniques; vocabulary development; and research. Modes of writing covered will include persuasive, expository, narrative, and research. The course will focus on PA Common Core standards in language and writing.

**Prerequisite** – Students will be placed in this course based on his/her previous PSSA scores and teacher recommendation.

**101 ADVANCED ELA 7 2.0 CREDITS**

**2-Day Cycle**

This course is a student-centered learning environment where students will analyze text; cite evidence; and respond critically about their learning. Students will take ownership of their learning through goal-setting; reflection; independent text selection; and activities that allow them to collaborate with peers. Students will also focus on the PA Common Core Standards in language and writing with an emphasis on grammar/usage; writing skills; vocabulary development; research; and literature.

**Prerequisite** – Students will be placed in this course based on his/her previous PSSA scores and teacher recommendation.

***Mathematics***

**200 MATH 7 1.5 CREDITS**

**201 ACADEMIC MATH 7**

**2-Day Cycle**

This course is designed for seventh grade students to develop competency in basic mathematical skills and their application in solving practical, real-life problems involving several steps. Topics covered will include operations of fractions, decimals, and integers; the relationship among fractions, decimals, and percentages; ratios and proportions; variables; multi-step equations and inequalities; rational numbers and measurement; as well as geometry. This course will focus on the PA Common Core Standards.

**Prerequisite** – Students will be placed in this course based on his/her previous school year’s course average, previous PSSA scores, and teacher recommendation.

**207 PRE-ALGEBRA 1.5 CREDITS**

**2-Day Cycle**

This course is designed for seventh grade students as solid preparation for later courses in algebra and geometry. Emphasis is placed on the PA Common Core Standards. Algebraic concepts will be connected to arithmetic skills to build a foundation for successive mathematics classes. Topics include rational numbers and exponents; proportionality and linear relationships; statistics and probability; multi-step equations and inequalities; and creating, comparing, and analyzing geometric figures.

**Prerequisite** – Students will be placed in this course based on his/her previous school year’s course average, previous PSSA scores, and teacher recommendation.

***Geography***

**300 GEOGRAPHY 7 1.0 CREDIT**

**2-Day Cycle**

This course is designed for all seventh grade students as the study of the Earth and its people. It is a comprehensive course that focuses on the connections between physical, political, and cultural geography, and emphasizes our role as global citizens. Centered around regional studies, students will explore topics such as map reading; globalization; cultural diffusion; cultural relativism; development; poverty; human rights; international relations; demography; current events; and the environment.

**Prerequisite** – [This course is required by all 7th grade students.]

***Science***

**400 SCIENCE 7 1.0 CREDIT**

**2-Day Cycle**

This course is an introductory level biology course designed for all seventh grade students. Emphasis is placed on the PA Common Core Standards. Studies of the five kingdoms comprise the bulk of this course. Other topics include life characteristics; structures and processes; and the basic principles of taxonomy, genetics, and ecology.

**Prerequisite** – [This course is required by all 7th grade students.]

***Business and Technology***

**280 COMPUTERS AND TECHNOLOGY 7 0.5 CREDIT**

**1-Day Cycle**

This course will focus on developing 21st Century Skills by incorporating technology concepts, systems, and operations. Students will be able to use district provided applications effectively and productively. Throughout the course, students will demonstrate creative thinking; problem solving; and collaboration. Course activities provide a pathway for students to assess and apply new technical knowledge.

**Prerequisite** – [This course is required by all 7th grade students, with the exception of students participating in Band/Chorus.]

***Physical Education & Health***

**800 PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7 & 8 0.5 CREDIT**

**1-Day Cycle**

Physical Education for grades 7 and 8 introduces individual and lead up skills for team sports and fitness activities. Track, soccer, football, basketball, swimming, badminton, dodgeball, kickball, whiffle ball, weight training, organized games, and fitness testing will be offered. The emphasis in grades 7 and 8 is placed on being physically active; learning fundamental skills and strategies for sports; team games; other activities; and developing social skills by communicating as teammates.

**Prerequisite** – [This course is required by all 7th grade students.]

***Foreign Language***

**513 INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH I 0.25 CREDIT**

**2-Day Cycle [9 Weeks]**

This course is designed to expose students to second language acquisition – Spanish. Basic vocabulary dealing with various topics in their environment will be introduced. Cultural aspects of the country’s school life, family life, and other areas will be analyzed and compared with our own country. Listening, reading, writing, and speaking will be integrated throughout this course. Various resources will be used to speak and write in Spanish. The main goal is to foster a desire in students, to continue with second language acquisition into the high school years

**Prerequisite** – [This course is required by all 7th grade students.]

***Health and Wellness***

**828 WELLNESS 0.25 Credit**

**2-Day Cycle [9 weeks]**

Students with an interest in learning more about mental health and enhancing their own mental wellbeing will benefit from this course. Topics will focus on mindfulness, stress management, and social emotional learning (i.e. how to appropriately manage emotions stemming from stressful events.) Throughout the course students will explore different strategies to manage stress such as deep breathing techniques, meditation, guided visualization, yoga, journaling, and music therapy. Students will also analyze and determine their own personal strengths and build resilience through their actions by completing goal setting activities. By the end of the course, all students will have the knowledge, skills, and resources to help maintain a healthy and positive mindset for a lifelong purpose.

**Prerequisite** – [This course is required by all 7th grade students.]

***Fine Arts***

**875 MUSIC 0.25 CREDIT**

**2-Day Cycle [9 Weeks]**

This class is designed to provide seventh grade students with the opportunity to enhance their learning about a variety of music characteristics, as well as to further their enjoyment in all genres of music. Students will be engaged in writing music; learning basic composition techniques; and reading and playing music. All students will be introduced to learning techniques in listening and in using these techniques for our sing off.

**Prerequisite** – [This course is required by all 7th grade students.]

**829 FOUNDATIONS OF ART 0.25 CREDIT**

**2-Day Cycle [9 Weeks]**

This course is designed to provide seventh grade students with creative opportunities to gain new learning experiences in the areas of drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, and design through incorporating Elements and Principles of Art and Design. Work will be done in a variety of media so students learn multiple art techniques and methods. Students will also learn about art history; criticism; aesthetics and interpretation through reading, writing, class discussions; critiques; and assigned projects while using their imagination to create unique works of art.

**Prerequisite** – [This course is required by all 7th grade students.]

**884 JUNIOR HIGH CHORUS 0.5 CREDIT**

**1-Day Cycle**

Students involved in the chorus program should be enrolled in this course. Students will work on reading music; broadening their vocal range; choreography; selections of music specific to the Junior High level; as wells as music for the entire choral program.

**Prerequisite** – Approval required by previous/current choral director.

**888 SYMPHONIC BAND 0.5 CREDIT**

**1-Day Cycle**

Students involved in the band program should be enrolled in this course. Students will be provided the opportunity to perform wind band literature suitable for those at a traditional high school level. Students will be expected to perform Grade 2 & 3 level band works at three (3) concerts per year. Individual instruction will be given to students to help develop and nurture foundation level skills. Each semester, students will be required to learn: selected scales; passages of band literature; technique builders; and percussion rudiments (if applicable). Students must also participate in Full Marching Band.

**Prerequisite** – Approval required by previous/current band director.

***Academic Prep [AC Prep]***

**SH100 0.0 CREDIT**

**1-Day Cycle**

Students in 7th and 8th grades will have the opportunity to work independently in their Academic Prep (study hall) to accomplish recently assignment homework; catch-up on missing assignments; make-up missed PE classes; and/or schedule appointments with their grade-level school counselor. Students are strongly advised to use this time wisely and focus their energy and attention on completing academic assignments. Please be aware that not all AC Prep teachers will allow the use of cell phones. In order for a student to make up a missed PE class the student is responsible for obtaining a pass from his/her PE teacher for the specific time/day and to show up for the class prepared with the appropriate PE clothing.

**GRADE 8**

COURSE OFFERINGS 2021 – 2022

***English and Language Arts***

**105 ELA 8 2.0 CREDITS**

**2-Day Cycle**

This course is designed to build on skills of grammar/usage; vocabulary development; writing modes; and academic research. Modes of writing covered will include persuasive, expository, narrative, and research. The course will focus on PA Common Core standards in language and writing.

**Prerequisite** – Students will be placed in this course based on his/her previous PSSA scores and teacher recommendation.

**106 ADVANCED ELA 8 2.0 CREDITS**

**2-Day Cycle**

This course is a student-centered learning environment where students will analyze text; cite evidence; and respond critically about their learning. Students will take ownership of their learning through goal-setting; reflection; independent text selection; and activities that allow them to collaborate with peers. Students will also focus on the PA Common Core Standards in language and writing with an emphasis on grammar/usage; writing skills; vocabulary development; research; and literature.

**Prerequisite** – Students will be placed in this course based on his/her previous PSSA scores and teacher recommendation.

***Mathematics***

**205 ALGEBRA IA 1.5 CREDITS**

**206 ACADEMIC ALGEBRA IA**

**2-Day Cycle**

This course is designed to give eighth grade students a solid foundation in algebraic concepts as preparation for Algebra IB/Academic Algebra IB in ninth grade. Topics will include estimating; comparing and ordering real numbers; an introduction to the properties of integer exponents; and the Pythagorean Theorem. Students will learn how to write, solve, and graph linear equations in one/two variables. Students will also focus on the PA Common Core Standards.

**Prerequisite** – Students will be placed in this course based on successful completion of Math 7; his/her previous school year’s math average; previous PSSA scores; and teacher recommendation.

**226 HONORS ALGEBRA I 1.5 CREDITS**

**2-Day Cycle**

This course focuses on covering the PA Common Core Standards and the PA Keystone Algebra I exam. Topics to be covered include operating within the real number system; solving equations, inequalities, and systems; operations with polynomials; graphing linear equations and inequalities; and solving absolute value equations.

**Prerequisite** – Students will be placed in this course based on successful completion of Pre-Algebra (grade 7) with a grade of 85% or above; his/her previous PSSA scores; and teacher recommendation.

***American History***

**315 AMERICAN HISTORY I 1.0 CREDIT**

**2-Day Cycle**

This course covers the history of America from the time it was first explored (1492) to the Reconstruction. Detailed treatment will be given to topics such as the making of our new nation; the Constitution; the Bill of Rights and the relevance they have to life today in our country; western expansion; sectionalism; the Civil War; slavery – and race relations in general; the growth of American industry; the Populist movement; and the modernization of American society. Emphasis is also placed on the PA Common Core Standards.

**Prerequisite** – [This course is required by all 8th grade students.]

***Science***

**405 SCIENCE 8 1.0 CREDIT**

**2-Day Cycle**

This course is a study of matter and energy; it emphasizes everyday application of basic physical science principles. Some of the topics covered include the nature of science; force and motion; laws of motion; work and simple machines; properties of matter; and basic chemistry principles. Emphasis is also placed on the PA Common Core Standards.

**Prerequisite** – [This course is required by all 8th grade students.]

***Business and Technology***

**281 COMPUTERS AND TECHNOLOGY 8 0.5 CREDIT**

**2-Day Cycle [9 Weeks]**

This course will focus on developing 21st Century Skills by incorporating technology concepts, systems, and operations. Students will be able to use district provided applications effectively and productively. Throughout the course, students will demonstrate creative thinking; problem solving; and collaboration. Course activities provide a pathway for students to assess and apply new technical knowledge.

**Prerequisite** – [This course is required by all 8th grade students, with the exception of students participating in Band/Chorus.]

***Physical Education***

**800 PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7 & 8 0.5 CREDIT**

**1-Day Cycle**

Physical Education for grades 7 and 8 introduces individual and lead up skills for team sports and fitness activities. Track, soccer, football, basketball, swimming, badminton, dodgeball, kickball, whiffle ball, weight training, organized games, and fitness testing will be offered. The emphasis in grades 7 and 8 is placed on being physically active; learning fundamental skills and strategies for sports; team games; other activities; and developing social skills by communicating as teammates.

**Prerequisite** – [This course is required by all 8th grade students.]

***Foreign Language***

**515 INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH II 0.25 CREDIT**

**2-Day Cycle [9 Weeks]**

This course is designed to further expose students to second language acquisition – Spanish.  Basic vocabulary that was taught in Intro. to Spanish 1 will be expanded upon, dealing with various topics in their environment. Students will also be exposed to basic grammar allowing them to partake in simple writing and conversation in the target language. Cultural aspects of the country’s school life, family life, and other areas will be analyzed and compared with our own country. Listening, reading, writing, and speaking will be integrated throughout this course. Various resources will be used to speak and write in Spanish. The main goal is to foster a desire in students, to continue with second language acquisition into the high school years.

**Prerequisite** – [This course is required by all 8th grade students.]

***Career***

**818 CAREER EXPLORATION 0.25 CREDIT**

**2-Day Cycle [9 Weeks]**

The purpose of this course is to provide students with instruction in the career planning process directly related to the selection of a college major; a specific career; or life in the military. Topics include a comprehensive skills assessment; identification of work and personal values; career interests; as well as work and learning styles. As the course progresses, students will begin to develop areas of interests related to future career paths. This course will focus on the PA Career Education and Work Standards.

**Prerequisite** – [This course is required by all 8th grade students.]

***Industrial Arts***

**702 INDUSTRIAL ARTS 0.25 CREDIT**

**2-Day Cycle [9 Weeks]**

This course introduces SAFETY education to students as they begin to enter into more complex areas of study. Students learn about safety in our school; safety in our shop areas; safety in their homes; hand tools and their use; and simple machines. Students will build a mousetrap car and a bird house using hand tools and drills. Students will see how Computer-Aided Design (CAD) is utilized in our world today through the use of AutoCAD and Revit computer programs.

**Prerequisite** – [This course is required by all 8th grade students.]

**Before students are allowed to use hand tools or power tools in the Industrial Arts class, they must successfully demonstrate their ability to operate safely in a shop environment by scoring an 80% or higher on the “SAFETY CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSE WORKSHEET”.**

***Family and Consumer Science***

**925 FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE 0.25 CREDIT**

**2-Day Cycle [9 Weeks]**

This is an exploratory course which gives students the opportunity to develop basic cooking skills. Emphasis is placed on kitchen safety and sanitation; kitchen equipment; cooking terms; reading and following a recipe; table manners; and basic nutrition. Students will work both independently and cooperatively to complete hands-on cooking labs.

**Prerequisite** – [This course is required by all 8th grade students.]

***Fine Arts***

**884 JUNIOR HIGH CHORUS 0.5 CREDIT**

**1-Day Cycle**

Students involved in the chorus program should be enrolled in this course. Students will work on reading music; broadening their vocal range; choreography; selections of music specific to the Junior High level; as wells as music for the entire choral program.

**\*\*** Because of scheduling restrictions, students involved in Junior High Chorus will have the Computer and Technology 7 course waived.

**Prerequisite** – Approval required by previous/current choral director.

**888 SYMPHONIC BAND 0.5 CREDIT**

**1-Day Cycle**

Students involved in the band program should be enrolled in this course. Students will be provided the opportunity to perform wind band literature suitable for those at a traditional high school level. Students will be expected to perform Grade 2 & 3 level band works at three (3) concerts per year. Individual instruction will be given to students to help develop and nurture foundation level skills. Each semester, students will be required to learn: selected scales; passages of band literature; technique builders; and percussion rudiments (if applicable). Students must also participate in Full Marching Band.

**Prerequisite** – Approval required by previous/current band director.

***Academic Prep [AC Prep]***

**SH100 0.0 CREDIT**

**1-Day Cycle**

Students in 7th and 8th grades will have the opportunity to work independently in their Academic Prep (study hall) to accomplish recently assignment homework; catch-up on missing assignments; make-up missed PE classes; and/or schedule appointments with their grade-level school counselor. Students are strongly advised to use this time wisely and focus their energy and attention on completing academic assignments. Please be aware that not all AC Prep teachers will allow the use of cell phones. In order for a student to make up a missed PE class the student is responsible for obtaining a pass from his/her PE teacher for the specific time/day and to show up for the class prepared with the appropriate PE clothing.