

MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL



2024-2025 PROGRAM OF STUDIES

Respect Responsibility Kindness Character
MMS Roars with Panther Pride!

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POINT PLEASANT BOROUGH SCHOOLS**CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION**

Dr. Adam L. Angelozzi, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Christina Fessler, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Dr. Christine McCoid, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. Robert Dunn, Supervisor of Pupil Personnel Services
Ms. Heather Karagias, Supervisor of Humanities K-12
Mr. John McAllen, Supervisor of STEAM K-12
Ms. Nicole Hankins, Director of School Counseling Services K-12

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Mr. Michael Sullivan, Vice President
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Ms. Natalie Gagliardi-Levine
Mr. Stephen Henry
Ms. Cheryl Salway
Mr. Lawrence Williams
Ms. Mary Cook, Student Representative

The Board of Education is responsible for establishing the quality of education in the district. As elected officials, they represent the public by:

- Defining the philosophy of the district
- Establishing policies for the operation of the school district
- Developing a budget consistent with educational needs and community resources
- Setting goals and objectives to achieve education progress
- Evaluating the effectiveness of district programs and services
- Communicating the needs and progress of the district to the community, educational governing boards and legislators

Memorial Middle School
Laura Herbert Drive
Point Pleasant, NJ 08742
(732) 701-1900

Principal — Gary A. Floyd, ext. 2300

Assistant Principal — Kevin McDermitt, ext. 2301

School Counseling Services:

Grade 6—Megan Schultz—ext. 2312

Grade 7—Jennifer Kelly—ext. 2312

Grade 8—Jaylin Burzon—ext. 2312

Child Study Team:

Jordan Carroll, Social Worker— ext. 2328

Kelly Faxon, School Psychologist— ext. 2313

Jan Weaner, School Psychologist—ext. 2328

Nurse:

Jackelynn Stempora —ext. 2303

School Hours: 7:30 AM – 2:15 PM

Point Pleasant
Mission Statement

Hub of the Community in the
Borough of Point Pleasant

Supporting Students in Safe, Nurturing,
and Inclusive Schools

Promoting Passion and Resilience
through Diverse and Challenging
Learning Opportunities

Guiding Students Towards Developing
Leadership and Interpersonal Skills while
Achieving Their Full Potential

Helping Students Find and Navigate
Their Panther Paths

Memorial Middle School Priorities:

- Safe, Secure and Orderly Environment
- Academic, Social and Emotional Growth
 - Sense of Community/School Spirit

Principal's Message

Greetings from Memorial Middle School! Our "Program of Studies" has been prepared to give students and parents an opportunity to review the academic offerings at each grade level. It was developed with input from the teaching staff and content area supervisors to provide descriptions of courses currently offered here at Memorial Middle School.

This document is a valuable resource and I encourage you to review it regularly. Keep in mind this is just one of many helpful resources at your disposal here at Memorial. Our student agenda book, district calendar, district and school web pages, parent portal and teacher websites/Google Classroom are just some of the options available to you for staying informed about the world of Memorial Middle School. Please remember though, your best resources are the incredible human resources available to you each day in our school. The professional and dedicated staff of teachers, counselors, supervisors, and administrators are here to make this a challenging, rewarding, and enjoyable academic experience for all. Stay in touch with them regularly to promote success. And, as always, be comfortable reaching out to me personally with feedback or concerns.

I am looking forward to a fantastic school year. Together we can make it happen.

Go Panthers!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gary A. Floyd". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary Floyd
Principal

Respect Responsibility Kindness Character
MM5 Roars With Panther Pride!

OVERVIEW OF MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

Memorial Middle School is a thriving educational institution located in beautiful Point Pleasant, New Jersey. Our school is populated by approximately 630 students in grades 6, 7, and 8. The professional staff of highly qualified teachers is organized into six academic teams (two per grade level) comprised of 100-125 students each. Each team includes content specialists in Mathematics, Language Arts Literacy, Science and Social Studies, as well as a Special Education teacher to provide in-class support for students with special needs. Team Leaders work with their colleagues to monitor individual student progress and maintain communication with parents. In addition, a school counselor is assigned to each grade level and travels with students as they move through our school.

Memorial Middle School utilizes a block schedule model. Core academic courses are taught in 78 minute blocks. Mathematics and Language Arts Literacy classes meet daily, with Science and Social Studies classes meeting every other marking period. This format allows for expanded opportunities for hands-on, student centered instruction. In addition, students attend a variety of Related Arts programs including: Health and Physical Education, World Languages, Civics, Art, Family & Consumer Science, Instrumental and Vocal Music, Character Education, Financial Literacy and S.T.E.M.

Memorial Middle School operates on the philosophy that all students can and will learn. We also use our district mission statement, which promotes the use of “diverse and challenging learning opportunities.”

Differentiated instruction is a hallmark in our classrooms and is evident in programs such as: sections of Academically Talented classes at all three grade levels, special education inclusion, and a comprehensive Life Skills program for a population of students with special needs. Our dedicated staff models the idea of “passion and resilience” through rigorous and on-going professional development opportunities. Best practices and current research from across our state and nation are presented via our district Teacher Induction Program for novice teachers and experienced teachers new to our district, the annual “Panther Academy” staff development courses, and during monthly faculty/departmental presentations. Our students also benefit from the availability of educational technologies such as i-Ready and Newsela, at school and at home, to promote the achievement of the demanding New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

The students, staff, community and administration of Memorial Middle School take great pride in our programs and accomplishments. However, we continue to work together to meet the new and varied challenges we face on a daily basis. To learn more about our school and its programs, please find us at www.pointpleasant.k12.nj.us.

Thank you for your continued support and Go Panthers!

Grade Six

Hypothetical Student Schedule

| <i>H.R.</i> | <i>7:37-8:55</i> | | <i>8:57-10:15</i> | | <i>10:17-10:55</i> | <i>10:57-12:15</i> | | <i>12:17-12:55</i> | <i>12:57-1:35</i> | <i>1:37-2:15</i> |
|----------------|------------------------------|----------|--|----------|--------------------|--------------------|----------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <i>PER</i> | <i>1</i> | <i>2</i> | <i>3</i> | <i>4</i> | <i>5</i> | <i>6</i> | <i>7</i> | <i>8</i> | <i>9</i> | <i>10</i> |
| <i>Subject</i> | <i>English Language Arts</i> | | <i>Science-MP 1 & 3 Soc Studies-MP 2 & 4</i> | | <i>Lunch</i> | <i>Math</i> | | <i>Phys. Ed</i> | <i>Italian</i> | <i>Art</i> |

Grade 6 English Language Arts

This course is designed to cultivate an appreciation of reading and writing across multiple genres. Students will gain an appreciation of prose, poetry, fiction and nonfiction works through the Readers Workshop approach and book club opportunities. Writing will be incorporated throughout the year with an introduction to argumentative, informative, and narrative essays through the Writer's Workshop Units of Study. Instructional technology will be infused where appropriate to meet the needs of the 21st century learner. This course is aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in English Language Arts and the National Council of Teachers of English.

Grade 6 Math

In the Grade 6 Math class, curriculum is aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. Instructional time is focused upon 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. Student experiences will include hands-on activities, collaborative discussions, technology applications and meaningful connections to real world problems.

Grade 6 Science

Grade 6 Science is a student-centered, phenomenon-based course that will take students on an exploration of Light and Matter, Thermal Energy, Weather, Climate and Water Cycling, Plate Tectonics, and Natural Hazards. In our classrooms, we believe in learning through an iterative process that builds on new understandings and knowledge. Our students will discover, investigate, and construct meaning with their peers, all while developing important problem-solving skills, asking questions, interpreting data, and arguing from evidence. Our teachers are passionate about facilitating the learning process using a storyline model that immerses students in phenomenon-based lessons firsthand.

Ultimately, our goal is to help students form a coherent and scientific view of the world. Through a variety of fun and engaging activities, our students will learn to think like scientists as they question, investigate, observe, gather data, and build models and theories about the natural world. They will even get to design and build their own models and systems to solve real-world problems using engineering practices! Our course is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards and infused with the skills and concepts from the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Literacy and Mathematics.

Grade 6 Social Studies (World History, Part I)

The Grade 6 Social Studies course is a survey course covering material from “Early Man” to the Roman Empire. This course begins with human origins and migration throughout the world. Students will follow human evolution, including adaption to changing environments, and the development of civilization. They will assess how archaeology provides historical and scientific information to how these people lived and continue studying the ensuing civilizations and societies that develop in areas such as Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, Greece, India, and Rome. The course ends with students making predictions about the fall of the Roman Empire which is where the seventh grade course begins.

As students study these areas, they will not focus on the memorization of names and dates, but rather the understanding of how these people and events influenced their own worlds and ultimately, our own. Students will analyze what causes a civilization to rise and fall through the careful study of several ancient peoples. They will compare and contrast their similarities and differences as well as analyze and evaluate the successes and failures of their respective societies based on many influences including but not limited to: geography, key people, technology, civics, philosophies and beliefs, achievements, education, and in some instances, simply timing and luck.

This course will also include an emphasis on world geography as it relates to each civilization of study as well as the modern political map. The major themes of geography (Location, Place, Regions, Human-Environment Interactions, and Movement) will be incorporated into each unit.

This course also incorporates skills including, but not limited to:

- Outlining
- Creating/utilizing graphic organizers
- Interpreting charts, graphs, maps, and timelines
- Debating
- Essay writing
- Analyzing primary sources
- Applications of prior knowledge to predict future events

This course infuses the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Literacy Skills in conjunction with the New Jersey Social Studies Standards.

Grade Seven

Hypothetical Student Schedule

| H.R. | 7:37-8:55 | | 8:57-9:35 | 9:37-10:15 | 10:17-10:55 | 10:57-11:35 | 11:37-12:15 | 12:17-12:55 | 12:57-1:35 | 1:37-2:15 |
|---------|-----------------------|---|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|---|-------------|------------|-----------|
| PER | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Subject | English Language Arts | | Spanish | Phys. Ed | Char Ed | Lunch | Science-MP 1&3 Social Studies-MP 2&4 | | Math | |

Grade 7 English Language Arts

This course is designed to cultivate an appreciation of reading and writing across multiple genres. Students will gain an appreciation of prose, poetry, fiction and nonfiction works through the Readers Workshop approach and book club opportunities. Writing will be incorporated throughout the year with a focus on argumentative, informative, and narrative essays through the Writer's Workshop Units of Study. Instructional technology will be infused where appropriate to meet the needs of the 21st century learner. This course is aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in English Language Arts and the National Council of Teachers of English.

Grade 7 Math

In the Grade 7 Math class, curriculum is aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. Instructional time is focused upon 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. Student experiences will include hands-on activities, collaborative discussions, technology applications and meaningful connections to real world problems.

Grade 7 Pre Algebra

In the Grade 7 Pre Algebra class, curriculum is aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for 7th grade math while infusing necessary 8th grade skills in preparation for Algebra 1. Students in Grade 7 Pre Algebra will receive instruction in all four critical areas identified in the previous course description for Grade 7 Math. In addition, instruction will be provided in the following areas: (1) developing understanding of irrational numbers, radicals and integer exponents; (2) developing understanding of the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations; (3) analyzing and solving linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations; (4) understanding congruence and similarity with respect to two-dimensional objects. Student experiences will include hands-on activities, collaborative discussions, technology applications and meaningful connections to real world problems.

Grade 7 Pre Algebra is an accelerated math course designed to prepare students for high school Algebra 1 as 8th graders. This challenging, fast-paced course is intended for the student that is independently motivated and academically well-prepared for an advanced math experience. Demonstrated performance in 6th grade is used as criteria for placement, including:

1. 90% average or higher in Grade 6 Math each marking period
2. Mastery of 6th grade skills on quarterly benchmark tests
3. Teacher recommendation based on attendance, participation, completion of required work and performance on major and minor assessments

Grade 7 Science

Grade 7 Science is a student-centered, phenomenon-based course that will take students on an exploration of Cells and Systems, Chemical Reactions and Matter, Metabolic Reactions, Chemical Reactions and Energy, Matter Cycling and Photosynthesis, and Ecosystem Dynamics and Biodiversity. In our classrooms, we believe in learning through an iterative process that builds on new understandings and knowledge. Our students will discover, investigate, and construct meaning with their peers, all while developing important problem-solving skills, asking questions, interpreting data, and arguing from evidence. Our teachers are passionate about facilitating the learning process using a storyline model that immerses students in phenomenon-based lessons firsthand.

Ultimately, our goal is to help students form a coherent and scientific view of the world. Through a variety of fun and engaging activities, our students will learn to think like scientists as they question, investigate, observe, gather data, and build models and theories about the natural world. They will even get to design and build their own models and systems to solve real-world problems using engineering practices! Our course is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards and infused with the skills and concepts from the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Literacy and Mathematics.

Grade 7 Social Studies (World History, Part II)

The Grade 7 Social Studies course is a survey course covering material from the Roman Empire to the Age of Enlightenment and Revolution. Topics cover the rise and fall of ancient civilizations, world religions and cultures of people throughout the world. These include: China, India, African kingdoms, Islam, the Middle East, the Crusades, the Renaissance & Reformation, the Mayans, Inca, and Aztecs, and much more! The course also takes a focus on the theme of dramatic change throughout the world that will lay the foundations for science, exploration, enlightenment and revolution in the modern world. The course concludes with the colonization of the western hemisphere as well as the era of revolution, thus setting the transition for the United States History course in the 8th Grade.

This course will also include an emphasis on world geography as it relates to each civilization of study as well as the modern political map. The major themes of geography (Location, Place, Regions, Human-Environment Interactions, and Movement) will be incorporated into each unit.

This class also incorporates skills including, but not limited to:

- Outlining
- Creating/utilizing graphic organizers
- Interpreting charts, graphs, maps, and timelines
- Debating
- Essay writing
- Analyzing primary sources
- Applications of prior knowledge to predict future events

This course infuses the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Literacy Skills in conjunction with the New Jersey Social Studies Standards.

Grade Eight

Hypothetical Student Schedule

| <i>H.R.</i> | <i>7:37-8:15</i> | <i>8:17-8:55</i> | <i>8:57-10:15</i> | | <i>10:17-11:35</i> | | <i>11:37-12:15</i> | <i>12:17-12:55 12:57-1:35</i> | | <i>1:37-2:15</i> |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------------|----------|---|----------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|------------------|
| <i>PER</i> | <i>1</i> | <i>2</i> | <i>3</i> | <i>4</i> | <i>5</i> | <i>6</i> | <i>7</i> | <i>8</i> | <i>9</i> | <i>10</i> |
| <i>Subject</i> | <i>Italian I</i> | <i>Phys. Ed</i> | <i>English Language Arts</i> | | <i>Science-MP 1&3 Social Studies-MP 2&4</i> | | <i>Lunch</i> | <i>Math</i> | | <i>Careers</i> |

Grade 8 English Language Arts

This course is designed to cultivate an appreciation of reading and writing across multiple genres. Students will gain an appreciation of prose, poetry, fiction and nonfiction works through the Readers Workshop approach and book club opportunities. Writing will be incorporated throughout the year with a focus on argumentative, informative, and narrative essays through the Writer's Workshop Units of Study. Students will be exposed to a variety of informational texts to gain knowledge about the world around them. Instructional technology will be infused where appropriate to meet the needs of the 21st century learner. Students will engage in Socratic Seminars to become effective communicators in both written and spoken English. This course is aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in English Language Arts and the National Council of Teachers of English.

Grade 8 Pre Algebra

In the Grade 8 Pre Algebra class, curriculum is aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for 8th grade math. Instructional time is focused upon three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear 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. Student experiences will include hands-on activities, collaborative discussions, technology applications and meaningful connections to real world problems.

Grade 8 Algebra 1

In the Grade 8 Algebra 1 class, curriculum is aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Algebra 1 while infusing necessary 8th grade skills in preparation for further study of mathematics at the high school. Instructional time is focused upon five critical areas: (1) expressing relationships between quantities and reasoning with equations; (2) understanding linear and exponential relationships; (3) applying descriptive statistics to summarize, represent and interpret data; (4) working fluently with expressions and equations; (5) understanding quadratic functions and modeling with different functions. Select topics in functions and statistics and probability from the 8th grade Student Learning Standards are infused to prepare students for success in each of the critical areas. In addition, instruction on the Pythagorean Theorem is included, aligned with expectations for all 8th graders. Student experiences will include hands-on activities, collaborative discussions, technology applications and meaningful connections to real world problems.

Grade 8 Algebra 1 is an accelerated math course. Placement is based in large part upon student performance in Grade 7 and successful completion of Pre-Algebra. This challenging, fast-paced course is intended for the student that is independently motivated and academically well-prepared for an advanced math experience. The NJ Department of Education will require students in Grade 8 Algebra 1 to take the NJSLA assessment for high school Algebra 1.

Grade 8 Science

Grade 8 Science is a student-centered, phenomenon-based course that will take students on an exploration of Thermal Energy, Contact Forces, Sound Waves, Forces at a Distance, Earth in Space, Genetics, and Natural Selection and Common Ancestry. In our classrooms, we believe in learning through an iterative process that builds on new understandings and knowledge. Our students will discover, investigate, and construct meaning with their peers, all while developing important problem-solving skills, asking questions, interpreting data, and arguing from evidence. Our teachers are passionate about facilitating the learning process using a storyline model that immerses students in phenomenon-based lessons firsthand.

Ultimately, our goal is to help students form a coherent and scientific view of the world. Through a variety of fun and engaging activities, our students will learn to think like scientists as they question, investigate, observe, gather data, and build models and theories about the natural world. They will even get to design and build their own models and systems to solve real-world problems using engineering practices! Our course is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards and infused with the skills and concepts from the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Literacy and Mathematics.

Grade 8 Social Studies (United States History)

Grade 8 Social Studies is a survey course of United States History beginning with the colonial era and concluding with the period following the Civil War known as Reconstruction. Students will study units covering the American Revolution, the Constitutional Convention, the founding of the Republic, Westward Expansion, the sectionalism that divide North & South, and ultimately the American Civil War. Major historical documents will be examined such as the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and a major emphasis on the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The organization of the Federal government as well as the system of checks and balances will be covered in detail. The impact of these topics on modern America will be an ongoing theme. In addition, New Jersey history is infused throughout the year as it connects to the growth of the nation. In particular, the key role of our state in the American Revolution and the origins of the national government is emphasized.

The 8th grade Washington, D.C. Trip supports the content covered in this United States History course. Locations typically visited on the trip that connect to this curriculum include: Mount Vernon, the Jefferson & Lincoln Memorials, Arlington National Cemetery, the United States Capitol, the Museum of American History, and much more!

This course will also include an emphasis on United States geography as it relates to each unit of study as well as the modern political map. The major themes of geography (Location, Place, Regions, Human-Environment Interactions, and Movement) will be incorporated into each unit.

This course also incorporates skills including, but not limited to:

- Outlining
- Creating/utilizing graphic organizers
- Interpreting charts, graphs, maps, and timelines
- Debating
- Essay writing
- Analyzing primary sources
- Applications of prior knowledge to predict future events

This course infuses the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Literacy Skills in conjunction with the New Jersey Social Studies Standards.

RELATED ARTS GRADES 6-7-8

Art

This course is a marking period, or quarter course for students in all grade levels.

Grade 6 Art

In grade 6 ART each project is designed to connect with the New Jersey New Jersey Student Learning Standards or Visual Arts by developing skills in the use of the elements of art, (line, shape, color, texture, value and space,) through the creation of two and three dimensional works of art that encompass a wide variety of art media and tools. Art history and art criticism are woven into each project to develop higher level thinking and an awareness of how art is a part of world cultures. Instruction is provided to improve the incorporation of the principles of design, (proportion, balance, emphasis, contrast, and repetition,) imagination, and craftsmanship. Some project examples include, but are not limited to: medieval manuscript illustration, clay sculpture, pastel self portraits, charcoal still life and papermaking.

Grade 7 Art

Grade 7 ART is structured to build on and enhance skills introduced in Grade 6 ART. Analysis of historical styles of art and biographies of project related artists are emphasized. Grade 7 ART delves deeper into new processes for creation art in different media while maintaining an adherence to the New Jersey New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Visual Art. Students will solve hands-on visual problems using a variety of artistic styles. Some project examples include, but are not limited to: Paper Mache sculpture, metal tooling, Henri Matisse inspired collage, kinetic art, pencil drawing and relief printmaking.

Grade 8 Art

Grade 8 ART provides a wider range and greater depth in art to increase skills and techniques. This course builds upon skills introduced in Grade 6 ART and Grade 7 ART and allows for the increasing of skill and the development of creativity and imagination which promote critical and creative thinking. Students will define applicable vocabulary, complete comprehension activities and self evaluate each of the projects they complete. Grade 8 ART focuses on the principles of design and how they are used to compose a work of art. Various art styles and techniques and cultures are explored in keeping with the New Jersey New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Visual Arts. Some project examples include, but are not limited to: Cultural mask making, one point linear perspective, graphic design tessellations, impressionist painting, surrealist collage and Middle Eastern henna design.

Grade 6-7-8- Band

Beethoven and Lady Gaga. Puccini and Katy Perry. Saint-Seans and Coldplay. What do these artists and composers have in common? The answer is 7th and 8th Grade Band concerts. All these groups, composers, and performers' music have been featured in recent band concerts at Memorial Middle school. From jazz to opera, from classical to pop, all genres of music are available to our musicians in our school band.

Band rehearses everyday during regular school hours. Students that participate in our band and choir, alternate every other day with our chorus teacher. We also provide students with one group lesson per week with varied times to minimize class work disruption.

Careers:

This course is a marking period, or quarter, course for students in the 8th grade. The purpose of this class is the help students gain insight about new and exciting careers. Topics covered include: personal goal setting, organizational skills, personality inventories, multiple intelligence surveys, career interest assessments, and much more. Students will learn about entrepreneurship and be exposed to personal finance planning. A variety of guest speakers will enlighten students with their first hand knowledge about their respective careers and the means to achieve desired success. Students will also learn the value of hard work, and the amount of effort it takes to achieve their goals. At the end of this course, students will be expected to research a desired career and present it to the class.

Character Education

Character Education classes are offered at every grade level for one full marking period, or quarter. Students are offered a wide array of valuable middle school lessons in character education to help promote a positive and safe learning environment at Memorial Middle School. Although several different character traits are discussed in character education including respect, responsibility, empathy, and trustworthiness, students in this class are also exposed to other important topics including lessons on decision making skills, bullying, how to be assertive, conflict resolution skills, anger management, adolescent brain development, and active listening and social skills.

During their middle school years, students are developing into young adolescents as they are trying to figure out who they are and want to be as a person. Individuals who take this course are able to learn important life skills while exploring through various topics and discussions that allow them to grow as a person. Character education lessons supplement the New Jersey New Jersey Student Learning Standards for health education.

Chorus

This is a full year course. Middle School Chorus in 6th, 7th and 8th grades teaches students the basics of musicianship, sight-reading, music theory, and history in a performance setting. Chorus students meet daily by grade level and combine with all three grades to perform in two required public concerts a year. Students interested in choir and band can be involved in both on alternating days.

Fundamental note reading, basic vocal techniques of diaphragmatic breathing, vowel modification, diction, pitch, rhythm, and intonation as well as examination of music theory and exposure to various musical styles are some of the core content areas covered in middle school choir. Non-academic goals include promotion of self discipline and motivation, aesthetic awareness, cultural exposure, social harmony, creativity, emotional expression and appreciation of diversity. Chorus is a graded class. Learning occurs through concentration and cooperative participation during rehearsal and performance.

Civics I - Grade 6

This course will focus on the fundamental principles of United States government, including separation of powers, checks and balances, federalism, individual rights and due process. These principles will be examined as they relate to the philosophical and historical foundations of the American political system, the creation of the Constitution, the shaping of American institutions and practice, the development, expansion and protection of the Bill of Rights and the role of the citizen in American democracy. This course is aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards and follow the principles outlined through the “Laura Wooten Law.”

Civics II – Grade 7

Students will build upon the knowledge of government and the values that shape our constitutional democracy. Through the exploration of their role as a citizen coupled with our democratic ideals that shape American society, students will explore how they can impact their communities and embrace active citizenship. This course is aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards and follow the principles outlined through the “Laura Wooten Law.”

Contemporary Issues

Contemporary Issues is a 6th grade related arts course taught in a single marking period. Students will have the opportunity to explore current events on a local, state, national and international level. Students will examine multiple print and electronic sources and emphasis will be placed on viewing issues from multiple perspectives. Dynamic class discussions, including elements of debate, will be utilized to encourage thorough evaluation of major events. Students will also speculate as to how these events may effect them on a local level.

Family Consumer Science

This course is a marking period, or quarter, course for students in all grades. The Family and Consumer Science Related Arts program enhances the Academic program of study offered at Memorial Middle School by engaging students in a variety of hands-on activities.

Family Consumer Science Sixth Grade

Curriculum centers on Clothing Construction. Students enjoy an enriching opportunity that introduces them to the basics of clothing construction that can include both hand and machine sewing techniques. Skills learned provide students with the satisfaction of seeing a project through from preparation of fabric to decoration of the finished project. Opportunities exist throughout the course to expand their knowledge and explore additional creative opportunities. The program teaches practical consumer skills, in addition to utilizing fine motor skills, basic Math, Language Arts, and reasoning concepts. Discussion includes industry trends and potential careers within the field. Students learn to self-monitor their progress as they plan and organize their work while constructing and finishing a unique, custom, one-of-a-kind creation.

Family Consumer Science Seventh Grade

Curriculum introduces students to basic Culinary Arts skills and the basics for healthy eating. Utilizing common Culinary Arts terms, preparation and serving equipment, food preparation techniques and nutrition principles, students learn to successfully plan, organize and create basic food items and explore the nutritional aspects of the food they consume. There is an emphasis on kitchen safety and sanitation while students experience hands-on practical skills that incorporate many academic subjects, including Math and Language Arts as applied to individual and group assignments. Careers within the Food Service Industry are discussed, as well as opportunities for personal and educational enrichment.

Family Consumer Science Eighth Grade

Foods and Nutrition II expands upon the knowledge base of the Seventh Grade course and introduces students to more complex Culinary Arts activities while broadening their knowledge of healthy and personally appropriate, individual nutrition choices. Students learn to design personal menus and select personally satisfying foods as well as budget for the foods selected via a virtual grocery shopping trip. A focus on individual as well as group activities emphasizes personal management, self-direction, cooperation, and time management. Students express their ideas through verbal and written means while incorporating basic Math, Language Arts and Financial Management concepts throughout the coursework.

Financial Literacy

Financial Literacy provides an overview of personal finance including topics such as money management, spending and credit, as well as saving and investing. Students will design budgets utilizing checking and saving accounts, gain knowledge in finance, debt and credit management, and evaluate and understand economic trends. This course will provide a foundational understanding for making informed personal financial decisions.

Health

Students take Health at each grade level in the middle school. This course meets for a full marking period or quarter. The health program is designed to broaden student knowledge and awareness of a multitude of topics affecting their personal well-being as well as the human condition.

In Grade 6 topics include: Self-Esteem, Growth/Development, Wellness, Drugs, Nutrition and Family Life.

In Grade 7 topics include: Substance Abuse and Awareness, Decision-Making Skills/Avoiding Peer Pressure, and First Aid concepts.

In Grade 8 topics include: Character Development, Healthy Eating Habits, Human Relationships, Reproductive System and Sexuality.

6th Grade Music/Music Appreciation

Have you ever wondered how music began and how it has progressed over the years? This quarterly Sixth Grade Music Class can answer that! This class starts at the very beginnings of music and proceeds through the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Modern Era's. Various composers, their cultures, their history, and their music will be studied and analyzed- Johann Sebastian Bach, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Scott Joplin and John Williams to name a few.

Along with the composers, students will have the opportunity to compose their own short piece of music and perform it for the class. Sixth Grade Music will build upon the Music Theory knowledge gained in preceding grades and continue with their basics.

7th Grade Music

The 7th Music Appreciation Class is like a musical buffet, filled with a variety of lessons and activities that will appeal to a great variety of students. We start with a review of notation, which is the theory of note names and values. We learn how to read basic notes and rhythms. Next, we learn how to play those same notes and rhythms on percussion instruments including xylophones and keyboards.

In addition to the mechanics of music, we learn about music history. We study the story of the National Anthem. We study Broadway musicals. And of course, in our music class, we sing! We learn old favorites, new songs and many other songs that are popular with the students.

With this wide variety of activities, we cover many of the academic standards, as well as music standards. Science, because playing music is exact and specific. Written music is a chart, a graph which indicates frequencies, volume changes, melody, harmony, all at once with the most exact control of time. Music is mathematical, as it is rhythmically based on the subdivisions of time into fractions which must be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper. Music is like a foreign language, using terms from Italian, German and French. Notation is like a kind of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas. It is a universal language. Music is also history, as it reflects the feelings and emotions of the time, the environment, and the country. Music can also be like physical education as it requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lips, cheek and facial muscles, in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragm, back, stomach and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sound the ear hears and the mind interprets. Music is all of these things and more. It most of all, is art. It allows a person to take all of these elements and techniques and put them together to create a masterpiece. Hence, in Memorial School Music Class, we try to put together all of the above into a fun, entertaining learning opportunity for the student. And hopefully, they will come away with a sense of music that will become a part of the rest of their lives.

Through music students will gain the understanding and awareness that music of today as well as yesterday is alive, all around us, and that music brings function, purpose, and value to life.

Physical Education

This course is taught to all students in Grades 6, 7, and 8. Students will take three full marking periods, or quarters, of Physical Education. Physical Education in the Middle School years is designed to expose students to a variety of activities that help them understand and value physical activity and its contribution toward a healthy lifestyle. The curriculum includes a program of comprehensive and physiologically sound activities oriented toward personal wellness. It is varied in scope with opportunities for students to participate in areas of physical fitness, team sports, lifetime activities, and challenge pursuits. Activities are chosen to encourage students to sequentially develop skills appropriate to their ability and confidence level in an appropriate learning environment. Students participate in activities in which the major focus is to develop personal wellness and basic movement skills. Students are required to wear an athletic attire for Physical Education Class (rubber sole sneakers, T-shirt and sweatpants (shorts)).

STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics

STEM is a marking period course for students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade. The purpose of this course is to ignite students' passion for problem solving through the integration of science, technology, engineering and mathematics concepts. This project-based course allows students to delve into real world issues via a hands-on, collaborative format incorporating a variety of multimedia materials. Activities are designed to emphasize collaborative learning, critical and analytical thinking, problem solving, creativity and effective experimental design. Students are guided to produce original ideas, objects, and structures according to certain specifications using concepts and skills from math, science, and technology. The mission of the course is to grow students' capacity for creativity, fun, and learning in a STEM context..

WORLD LANGUAGE

Introduction to Italian

This Related Arts course is offered at both the 6th and 7th grade levels. The 6th grade course is conducted during one marking period, or quarter. This course is designed for students with little or no knowledge of the language to begin their study of Italian. The course emphasizes a communicative approach to acquiring written and oral language skills. A variety of learning activities are included, with emphasis on a creative approach to generating authentic written and oral communication in Italian. A combination of reading, writing, viewing, listening, and speaking enables our students to acquire a basic knowledge of Italian quickly and effectively. The course also introduces students to the positive influence of Italian culture throughout the world. The 7th grade course is conducted over two marking periods, or a semester. It expands upon the foundation laid in 6th grade and prepares students for the full year 8th grade program.

Italian I

This course is a full year World Language High School Program and is offered during the Related Arts periods to students in the 8th grade. This rigorous academic course introduces the fundamental elements of the Italian language within a cultural context. Emphasis is on the development of basic listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Upon completion, students should be able to comprehend and respond with grammatical accuracy to basic conversational and written Italian as well as demonstrate cultural awareness.

Introduction to Spanish

This Related Arts course is offered at both the 6th and 7th grade levels. The 6th grade course is conducted during one marking period, or quarter. This course is designed for students with little or no knowledge of the language to begin their study of Spanish. The course emphasizes a communicative approach to acquiring written and oral language skills. A variety of learning activities are included, with emphasis on a creative approach to generating authentic written and oral communication in Spanish. A combination of reading, writing, viewing, listening, and speaking enables our students to acquire a basic knowledge of Spanish quickly and effectively. The course also introduces students to the diverse cultural contexts in which Spanish is spoken and emphasizes the cultural differences among Spain, Central America, and South America. The 7th grade course is conducted over two marking periods, or a semester. It expands upon the foundation laid in 6th grade and prepares students for the full year 8th grade program.

Spanish I

This course is a full year World Language High School Program and is offered during the Related Arts periods to students in the 8th grade. This rigorous academic course introduces the fundamental elements of the Spanish language within a cultural context. Emphasis is on the development of basic listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Upon completion, students should be able to comprehend and respond with grammatical accuracy to basic conversational and written Spanish as well as demonstrate cultural awareness.