

SAUCON VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SAUCON VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

2095 Polk Valley Road, Hellertown, PA 18055

Telephone 610 838 7001 Fax 610 838 7473

2009-2010

DESCRIPTION OF REQUIRED COURSES AND EXTENSION PERIOD GUIDE

Please retain for future reference

Ms. Pamela Bernardo

Mr. Thomas Halcisak

Mr. Thomas Baldo (7th grade, 6th grade M-Z)

Mr. Howard Heffelfinger (8th grade, 6th grade A-L)

Mrs. Laura Tooker

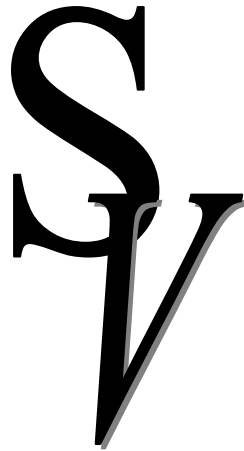
Middle School Principal

Assistant Principal

Counselor

Counselor

Coordinator of Academic Services



Student Name _____

Grade _____

FOREWORD

The Saucon Valley Middle School provides an educational program which meets the needs and characteristics of the early adolescent during the transition from the elementary school to the high school. The middle school and the years in middle school are a place and time for growing. The philosophy of our middle school emphasizes the child and the role the parents and faculty play in the development of the child.

Middle School Philosophy

We believe that the center of the educational process is the CHILD. The educational process is designed to develop the CHILD's ability to make positive choices. The CHILD will be empowered to be a responsible and respectful citizen of the middle school and the community.

We believe that the HOME provides the nurturing atmosphere that allows the child to develop towards his/her fullest potential and is supported by middle school cooperation and communication. The HOME, in concert with the educational process, will foster the desire for life-long learning.

We believe that the middle school TEACHER is a key influence to encourage active student participation, establish high expectations, enable student success, and foster life-long learning. The teacher is most effective when working as an integral member of a small, specialized, and focused TEAM of caring professionals.



Qualities of a Learner



A student who is proud of his/her education strives to produce quality results and improve his/her knowledge at every opportunity by recognizing that learning does not stop when the school day ends; by using tools to organize, plan, and accomplish short and long-term academic tasks; and by taking pride and demonstrating maximum effort.



A Quality Learner...



Uses tools to organize, plan, and accomplish short and long-term academic tasks

- Uses assignment book
- Attends class with assigned or required materials for the day
- Plans for long-term projects by chunking
- Manages his/her time for short-term assignments by prioritizing assignments



Takes pride and demonstrates maximum effort

- Turns in quality work, on time
- Sees teacher when absent to make up missed assignments
- Learns independently, cooperatively, or in diverse groups
- Follows directions
- Engages in active listening
- Provides constructive feedback



Produces quality results and improves his/her knowledge at every opportunity

- Participates in class actively, spontaneously, and productively
- Takes full advantage of all learning opportunities and resources, including study sessions, and remediation
- Produces work that is neat and organized
- Sets, achieves, and re-evaluates personal and group goals
- Maintains a positive attitude



ACTIVITIES and CLUBS

Conducted after the Academic School Day (3:00 p.m. - 4:00 P.M.)

Art Club	- all grades
Cambiata Singers	- all grades; membership by audition
Co-Ed Intramurals	- all grades (example: swimming, rock climbing, etc.)
Jazz Ensemble	- all grades - membership by audition/invitation of director
National Junior Honor Society	- 8 th grade - by academic achievement
Newspaper	- all grades - selection by advisor
Ski Club	- all grades (limited spaces)
Student Council	- all grades - by election
Yearbook	- all grades - selection by advisor

P.I.A.A. INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS

7th & 8th grade

Football, Basketball, Wrestling	- boys
Soccer, Cheerleading	- boys and girls
Field Hockey, Basketball	- girls
Track	- boys and girls

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS EIGHTH GRADE

REQUIRED ACADEMIC COURSES

LANGUAGE ARTS 8

LANGUAGE ARTS 8

Instruction focuses on reading and writing skills. Students may read short stories, novels, poetry, and pieces of nonfiction. Students will be analyzing, interpreting, comparing, and responding to the variety of texts read. In addition, students will develop vocabulary skills through the study of context clues, word roots, and affixes. Students will write various persuasive and informational pieces throughout the year concentrating on the following writing traits: focus, content, organization, style, and conventions. Students will work on editing and revising skills to improve their written expression.

LANGUAGE ARTS 8PLUS

Students placed in the Language Arts Plus class receive additional support while studying the standard Eighth Grade Language Arts curriculum. Students attend an additional 50-minute class period daily to enhance instruction in a small-group setting. Instruction focuses on reading and writing skills. Students may read short stories, novels, poetry, and pieces of nonfiction. Students will be analyzing, interpreting, comparing, and responding to the variety of texts read. In addition, students will develop vocabulary skills through the study of context clues, word roots, and affixes. Students will write various persuasive and informational pieces throughout the year concentrating on the following writing traits: focus, content, organization, style, and conventions. Students will work on editing and revising skills to improve their written expression.

LANGUAGE ARTS 83

Students are identified and placed in this required course for remediation of grade level benchmarks if previous performance and assessment data indicate the need. Students work on skills and concept mastery of identified topics and progress to more difficult concepts and levels. Emphasis is placed on reading comprehension skills and reading strategies, independent reading, and vocabulary development. Students will also write various narrative, persuasive, and informative pieces throughout the year using graphic organizers and concentrating on the writing traits: focus, content, organization, style, and conventions. Students will work on editing and revising skills to improve their written expression.

LANGUAGE ARTS 8HA - HIGH ACHIEVEMENT

This course is designed to be an advanced course which provides an opportunity for students to interpret and critique literature including short stories, poetry, and novels. This course encourages students to think independently, problem solve, master oral and written communication skills, and utilize correct grammar and punctuation on all written materials. **Increases in the rate and mastery of learning will be expected. Students will be expected to assume more responsibility for independent learning, participate willingly in class activities and discussions, do homework and complete assignments in a consistent, conscientious and timely manner.**

Requirements:

- 87% yearly grade average in Language Arts 7HA – High Achievement
OR
- A 96% yearly grade average for Language Arts 7
AND
- advanced category on PSSA reading (administered in 6th and 7th grade)

MATHEMATICS 8

MATH - PRE-ALGEBRA 8

This course is designed to focus on the basic skills needed to develop a sound foundation for success in Algebra and other higher level mathematics courses. Students will enhance their skills of working with integers, decimals, fractions, percents, and exponents. Students will also refine their problem solving skills, working with unknowns in solving equations, proportions and ratios, inequalities, linear equations, and graphing linear equations and inequalities. In addition, students will apply geometry concepts of area, volume and right triangles as well as data analysis and probability.

MATH - ALGEBRA 8

Topics include the following: properties of real numbers, equations, problem solving, inequalities, fractional equations, linear graphing, polynomials, and linear equations.

Requirements:

- A 83% yearly grade average for Pre Algebra 7
OR
- A 96% yearly grade average for Math 7
AND
- 91st percentile on the Algebra Prognosis Test
AND
- Advanced category on PSSA math (administered in 6th **and** 7th grades)

SOCIAL STUDIES

SOCIAL STUDIES 8

This class begins with the causes of the American Revolution and continue through the of 1860. The course covers topics such as the American Revolution, origins of the American nation, the Constitution, the Industrial Revolution, westward expansion, and the causes of the Civil War. Throughout the course, students will develop and utilize organizational skills, identify physical and political geography, examine government and political systems, study economic factors and characteristics, describe life during various historical time periods, and examine the influence of the United States in relationship to the world.

SOCIAL STUDIES 8HA - HIGH ACHIEVEMENT

The same major units are studied in Social Studies High Achievement as are studied in Social Studies 8, but the approach of topics includes an emphasis on higher level thinking skills. The course is designed to be more challenging than the regular program. In addition to examining content in greater depth, students are required to do a variety of historical reading and writing projects. A historical research project, combined with an oral report, is a requirement of the course. The research includes the use of secondary, and when available, primary resources. Students will be expected to participate willingly in class activities and discussions, and consistently complete all assignments and homework in a conscientious and timely manner.

Requirements:

- 87% yearly grade average in Social Studies 7HA – High Achievement
OR
- A 96% yearly grade average for Social Studies 7
AND
- Advanced category on PSSA reading (administered in 6th **and** 7th grade)

SCIENCE

SCIENCE 8

This class explores the topics of earth and space science, focusing on weather, water, the solid earth, and planetary science as 4 different units. The class is inquiry-based and develops scientific process skills and problem-solving techniques. By the end of the year, students will have a solid understanding of how the earth around them works and how their interactions with their local surroundings affect the health of their environment.

SCIENCE 8HA - HIGH ACHIEVEMENT

This class explores the topics of earth and space science, focusing on weather, water, the solid earth, and planetary science as 4 different units. Scientific concepts, processes, higher-level terminology, and critical thinking skills are expanded. The class is designed to be more challenging than the regular program with more in-depth content, abstract concepts, and expanded laboratory experiences. A higher level of writing skills is required, and students will be doing more research-based projects. Students will be expected to participate willingly in class activities and discussions, and consistently complete all assignments and homework in a conscientious and timely manner.

Requirements:

- 87% yearly grade average in Science 7HA – High Achievement
- OR
- A 96% yearly grade average for Science 7
- AND
- Advanced category on PSSA reading **and** math (administered in 6th **and** 7th grade)

WORLD LANGUAGE 8

FRENCH 8 - Continuation of French 7. The development of language skills will continue.

SPANISH 8 – Continuation of Spanish 7. The development of language skills will continue.

REQUIRED RELATED ARTS COURSES

ART 8

Students culminate their Art experience by using their prior knowledge of art techniques and styles learned in the past and use that knowledge as a basis for their maximum potential and growth in Art. Students will continue to learn about new ideas, techniques, artists, and designs in Art. They will be introduced to sculpture, perspective, advanced painting, and a clay mask design that demonstrates a comprehensive knowledge about clay.

CAREER EDUCATION

The 8th grade students at the middle school will begin to explore and have an understanding of the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Career Education and Work during their Related Arts period. The established standards outline what the students should know in four areas: Career Awareness and Preparation, Career Acquisition (Getting a Job), Career Retention and Advancement, and Entrepreneurship. The students will become familiar with the career and work standards. Student and instructor led discussions, as well as the use of technology to augment understanding of the topics presented will be strategies used.

COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN 8

CAD allows students to make the transition from traditional drafting to Computer Aided Design through the extended use of AutoCAD software. Students start with the basics, learning how to use drawing tools, editing commands, and modifiers.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE 8

The 8th grade consumer awareness course will focus on teens as consumers. Topics to be studied are factors that influence buying decisions, types of messages advertisers use, types of media, advertising techniques, and skillful shopping. Each student will use the computer to create a product and design its marketing campaign. The Food Guide Pyramid will be explored and students will prepare food to develop their cooking skills.

HEALTH 8

Topics include human development, male and female anatomy, pregnancy/childbirth, abstinence, contraception, AIDS, and sexually transmitted diseases. Also, the course includes decision-making skills, drug and alcohol awareness, motivation, goal setting, and self-awareness.

MATERIALS HANDLING 8

Transportation – Students will explore different areas of transportation including water, air, land, and rail. Students will design and build at least one transport vehicle. Other experiences include safety procedures and hand and power safety. Occupations related to transportation, mathematics, and materials used in construction of transportation vehicles.

MUSIC 8

The course is designed to teach beginning guitar. All students will learn basic notes and 2-3 chords. There is a continuation of learning the concepts of music as related to the guitar, plus awareness of the voice as it related to singing and speaking.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8

The course includes supervised instruction in various sports, games, swimming, and dance. It aims to foster sportsmanship, knowledge of sports (participant and spectator), develop cooperation, leadership skills, and the concept of lifelong fitness. A Physical Education outfit is required.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS SEVENTH GRADE

REQUIRED ACADEMIC COURSES

LANGUAGE ARTS

LANGUAGE ARTS 7

Instruction focuses on reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Students will read short stories, dramas, novels, poetry, and pieces of nonfiction. Literature circle discussions and individual activities are used to assist students in analyzing, interpreting, comparing, and responding to the variety of texts read. Students will write various persuasive, informative, and narrative pieces throughout the year concentrating on the following writing traits: focus, content, organization, style, and conventions. In addition, students will develop vocabulary skills and language mechanic skills.

LANGUAGE ARTS 7PLUS

Students who qualify for the Plus class are placed in a regular 7th grade language arts class as well as an additional class period (Plus) which provides the students with additional and expanded skill instruction and practice. The class is often smaller in size to allow for more individual attention. Some of the benefits include extra time as needed, additional clarification of directions and tasks, PSSA prep and practice, reading and writing conferences and goal-setting focused on assessment anchors.

LANGUAGE ARTS 73

Students are identified and placed in this required course for remediation of grade level benchmarks if previous performance and assessment data indicate the need. Students work on skill and concept mastery of identified topics and progress to more difficult concepts and levels. Topics include comprehension skills and strategies, independent reading, and vocabulary development; the class utilizes a reading intervention program with flexible pacing that allows for focus on individual student needs. Students will conduct research and write various narrative, persuasive, and informative pieces throughout the year concentrating on the following writing traits: focus, content, organization, style and conventions.

LANGUAGE ARTS 7HA - HIGH ACHIEVEMENT

This course is designed to provide an opportunity for students to interpret and critique a higher level of literature, including short stories, poetry, novels, and drama. This course encourages students to think independently, problem solve, master oral and written communication skills, and utilize correct grammar and punctuation on all written materials. The seventh grade high achievement program uses the regular program as a foundation; however, the high achievement program is different in some of the content, resources, processes and products of this course. **Increases in the rate and mastery of learning will be expected. Students will be expected to assume more responsibility for independent learning, participate willingly in class activities and discussions, do the homework and complete assignments in a consistent, conscientious and timely manner.**

Requirements:

- 96% yearly grade average for Language Arts 6
AND
- Advanced category on PSSA Reading (administered in 5th **and** 6th grades)

MATHEMATICS 7

MATH 7

This course is designed for students to successfully develop the skills and mathematical understanding that will become a good foundation for future mathematics courses, such as Pre-Algebra, Algebra and Geometry. Students will expand upon their computational skills and carry those concepts as they begin working with unknowns. Mathematical topics covered in seventh grade include: Computation skills with decimals, fractions and mixed numbers, and integers; Ratios, Rates and Proportions; Algebra concepts with patterns, expressions, equations, inequalities, linear relationships and graphing on a coordinate plane; Probability and statistics; basic Geometry and measurements; and Data Analysis.

MATH - PRE ALGEBRA 7

This course is designed to focus on the basic skills needed to develop a sound foundation for success in Algebra and other higher level mathematics courses. Students will enhance their skills of working with integers, decimals, fractions, percents, and exponents. Students will also refine their problem solving skills, working with unknowns in solving equations, proportions and ratios, inequalities, linear equations, and graphing linear equations and inequalities. In addition, students will also apply geometry concepts of area, volume and right triangles as well as data analysis and probability.

Requirements:

- 96% yearly grade average for Math 6 or 93% yearly grade average for Math 61
AND
- 90% or better on 3rd & 4th quarterly 6th grade math assessments
AND
- 87th percentile on Algebra Prognosis Test
AND
- Advanced category on PSSA Math (administered in 5th **and** 6th grades)

SOCIAL STUDIES

SOCIAL STUDIES 7

This course will begin with a geography unit focusing on map components and themes.

These geography skills will be used to explore the Latin America Region. Major topics will include indigenous cultures, climate, natural resources, and how this region is adapting to become a modern society. We will continue an exploration of the Western Hemisphere by studying Canada and United States. Major topics will include climate, and the influence of immigrants on our culture and our natural resources. The study of the United States will continue through a more historical perspective starting with indigenous cultures and continue through exploration and colonization.

SOCIAL STUDIES 7 HA - HIGH ACHIEVEMENT

The same units are studied in Social Studies High Achievement as are studied in Social Studies 7, but the approach of topics includes an emphasis on higher level thinking skills. This course is designed to be more challenging than the regular program. In addition to examining the content in greater depth, students in Social Studies 7 High Achievement are required to do a variety of reading and writing projects.

Requirements:

- 96% yearly grade average for Social Studies 6
AND
- Advanced category on PSSA reading (administered in 5th **and** 6th grades)

SCIENCE

SCIENCE 7

This class explores the topic of life science. Students will develop an understanding of living organisms through studying structure, function, adaptations and diversity. In addition, this course will provide students with the first steps along the path of ecological understanding. The class is inquiry-based and develops scientific process skills and problem-solving techniques.

SCIENCE 7 - HIGH ACHIEVEMENT

This class explores the topics of life science. Students will develop an understanding of living organisms through studying structure, function, adaptations and diversity. In addition, this course will provide students with the first steps along the path of ecological understanding. Scientific concepts, processes, higher-level terminology, and critical thinking skills are expanded. The class is designed to be more challenging than the regular program with more in-depth content, abstract concepts, and expanded laboratory experiences. A higher level of writing skills is required and students will be doing more research-based projects. Students will be expected to participate willingly in class activities and discussions, and consistently complete all assignments and homework in a conscientious and timely manner.

Requirements:

- A 96% yearly grade average for Science 6
AND
- Advanced category on PSSA reading **and** math (administered in 5th **and** 6th grade)

WORLD LANGUAGE 7

FRENCH 7

Students are presented grammar and vocabulary through everyday situational contexts-based instruction. They develop the ability to listen, speak, read, and write the language within the framework of the target culture. Upon demonstrating proficiency in the world language standards in 7th and 8th grade courses, students may be recommended to continue with Level II at the high school. There is an expectation for willing participation from ALL students in the class.

SPANISH 7

Students are presented grammar and vocabulary through everyday situational contexts-based instruction. They develop the ability to listen, speak, read, and write the language within the framework of the target culture. Upon demonstrating proficiency in the world language standards in 7th and 8th grade courses, students may be recommended to continue with Level II at the high school. There is an expectation for willing participation from ALL students in the class.

REQUIRED RELATED ARTS COURSES

ART 7

Students are introduced to even more ideas, techniques, and designs in Art. They will be introduced to the quill pen, watercolor techniques, the coiling technique with clay, perspective, and printmaking. They will also learn about new art styles and artists that relate to their projects. Students are continually building upon their art skills in 7th grade that they will use in 8th grade Art.

COMPUTER SKILLS 7

This course is designed to review proper touch-typing keyboarding techniques and build on previous learned skills in Microsoft Word. Students will be introduced to more advance concepts for editing and formatting documents in Microsoft Word.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE 7

This course includes a preparation for babysitting – including caring for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers; child safety; and learning through play. Students will create a babysitting project and report on the computer. Students will also sew a safe toy on the sewing machine.

HEALTH 7

Basic instruction in physical fitness components includes the following: flexibility, body composition, cardio-respiratory endurance, muscle strength, and muscle endurance. It also includes drug, tobacco and alcohol education, friendship making, decision-making skills, and self-esteem building.

MATERIALS HANDLING 7

Manufacturing/Mass Production – This course is designed for a hands-on approach to industry. Instruction includes following the exploration of different areas of industry, exploration of a corporation, use and care of equipment, safety procedures, and setting up a company in order to mass produce a product agreed on by students.

INTRO TO TV STUDIO 7

In this class, students will create their own script, capture video, and edit their footage into a high quality video production. Students will assume the roles of many video production personnel and experience all the stages of video production as they produce their final video.

MUSIC 7

This course teaches the fundamentals of music through singing, playing, and performing with the hand bells in a cooperative grouping environment, and learning the music concepts of melody, harmony, rhythm, tone color and form.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7

This course is a supervised instruction in various sports, games, swimming and dance. It develops cooperation, fitness, and leadership abilities. The course fosters sportsmanship and sports knowledge from a participants' and spectators' point of view. The course requires a regulation physical education outfit.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS SIXTH GRADE

REQUIRED ACADEMIC COURSES

LANGUAGE ARTS

LANGUAGE ARTS 6

Instruction is based upon a comprehensive literacy approach focusing on reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. The reading component is divided into two main categories: read aloud and independent reading. Read aloud is the foundation of literacy providing a forum for conversation. The strategies used and modeled through read aloud become the focus for independent reading fostering the student's ability to analyze, interpret, compare and respond to the variety of texts. Students write various persuasive, informative, and research pieces concentrating on the writing traits and grammar. The writing process, conferring and other individual/group activities are used to improve written expression.

LANGUAGE ARTS 63

Students are identified and placed in this required course for remediation of grade level benchmarks if previous performance and assessment data indicate the need. This course gives students the confidence and skills to achieve their maximum potential. Strategies are introduced in a way that will result in the quickest student gains within a framework that includes vocabulary and fluency. Modeling, scaffolding and direct instruction are the basis of the instructional design.

MATHEMATICS

MATH 6

Students will investigate, analyze, and apply mathematical relationships. They will develop understandings and applications of how to use math in their world. In addition, students will continue developing their computation skills. Mathematical topics covered in sixth grade are numbers sense, data and statistics, geometry, and algebraic concepts.

MATH 61

This course follows the same progression as Math 6 with additional in-depth exploration of numbers sense, data and statistics, geometry, and algebraic concepts. This course will include additional projects and requires a highly, motivated learner.

Requirements:

- Advanced category on PSSA Mathematics (administered in 4th **and** 5th grades)
AND
- A 95% on math 2nd **and** 4th quarterly assessments (administered in 5th grade)
AND
- 5TH grade quarterly grades of "A" in math (all 4 quarters)

SOCIAL STUDIES

SOCIAL STUDIES 6 (90 days)

Social Studies 6 is a continuation of the thematic units begun in fifth grade. The units concentrated on in sixth grade will be the Ancient World through Medieval Times. Students develop an awareness and understanding of the social, political, economic, and geographical forces that affect their lives. The study provides an awareness of cultures throughout the world and how these civilizations have influenced modern cultures.

SCIENCE

SCIENCE 6 (90 days)

Sixth grade science will encompass the physical sciences with an emphasis on science processes and methods. Students will explore variables that impact scientific experimentation along with exploring and conducting controlled experiments.

REQUIRED RELATED ARTS COURSES

ART 6

Students are immersed into new ideas, techniques, and designs in Art. They will be introduced to color, painting, perspective, the pinching technique with clay, and other drawing and design projects. They will also learn about different art styles and artists. They will be taught a basic foundation in Art that will help them develop skills they can expand on in 7th and 8th grade.

COMPUTER SKILLS 6

This course is designed to introduce correct touch-typing keyboarding techniques and to provide hands on experience using Microsoft Word. Students will learn to format, edit, save, and retrieve documents in Microsoft Word.

HEALTH 6

Topics will include wellness and the human body systems.

MATERIALS HANDLING 6

Introduction to Wood Technology – Instruction includes an introduction to different kinds of wood and working with wood. Students will design a drawing of a product and will use various hand and power tools to construct the product.

MODULAR TECHNOLOGY 6

Students in Modular Technology will be exposed to a broad variety of technologies. A few examples include fiber optics, pneumatics, robotics, and desktop publishing. Students will spend approximately 5-7 days exploring each module. Each module will include basic computer skills and hands-on problem solving.

MUSIC 6

The course includes participation in listening, singing, and instrumental activities, particularly the handbells, to learn the various elements of music.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 6

There is supervised instruction in various activities including games, dance, swimming, and activities involving development of body and body awareness. The class fosters sportsmanship, self-motivation, self-esteem, knowledge of sports, and develops cooperation, fitness, and leadership abilities. A Physical Education outfit is required.

RESEARCH/STUDY SKILLS

This course will build on the foundation of library skills learned in elementary school. In this course, students will have the opportunity to further develop and refine their research skills. Students will be using on-line and print resources available in the Middle School library. Students will also learn strategies to improve their study skills in areas such as goal setting, brainstorming, following directions, making predictions and time management.

EXTENSION PERIOD COURSES

BAND

BAND provides an opportunity in full band setting for students to develop their musical potential through performance on a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument. Emphasis is placed on appropriate rehearsal and performance expectations.

PREREQUISITES: At least one year of in-school or private band instrumental music lessons.

BANDGROUPS, part of the BAND course, places an emphasis on individual playing skills, attainment of rhythmic precision, development of performance skills, care of the instrument, and correct interpretation of the music. Students are required to do a performance assessment, one-on-one with the instructor, each marking period.

BAND GROUPS FOR BEGINNERS - NOTE: Not offered during Extension Period

This is an opportunity for students with little or no previous musical experience to learn a band instrument. Instruments offered include: flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone horn and tuba. Please be advised that piano, drums, guitar and string instruments will not be offered.

Delivery: After obtaining an instrument, students will be enrolled in weekly Band Groups where specialized instruction will be given. Band Groups will be scheduled on a rotating basis during the regular academic school day. Once a student has attained the necessary level of proficiency, he/she may be invited to join the SVMS Concert Band at the discretion of the band director. This class is open to students that have never played an instrument before, or may have tried to play in elementary school and would like to give it another try.

CHORUS

This course provides an opportunity for students in grades 6-8 to develop their singing potential above and beyond the normal classroom singing. This will be accomplished through varied choral music chosen for the appropriate grade level. Strong emphasis will be placed on posture, breathing, tone production, balance and blending, and diction suited to the style of music. This course is performance based and students are expected to work effectively as a team member by singing and studying their music. There are two concerts throughout the year and attendance is mandatory at each performance. Chorus meets on a daily basis during extension time.

EXTENSION PERIOD COURSES

(Students enrolled in Band and/or Chorus do not select extension Courses)

2 required Extension Courses for students not in Band or Chorus will be scheduled based on Language Arts standards and skills.

2 additional Extension Courses will be elected by students not in Band or Chorus.

***During the school year, proficiency in academics takes precedence over extension period. Courses in Language Arts and Math proficiency will be assigned throughout the year in place of extension courses.**

BECOMING AN AUTHOR 6,7 8

Do you have creativity? If so, this extension is for you! In this extension you can develop your hidden talents by learning what it takes to write your own story. Then in cooperation with a student illustrator, you will publish your own book!

BOOK CLUBS 7,8

This course is designed for students who love to read and discuss books. Students will share their books in discussions groups, but they will also be responsible for a power point and/or poster. Students will concentrate on a different genre in each quarter. The first quarter will be devoted to mystery, suspense or coming of age novels. The second quarter will be devoted to science fiction, fantasy and/or adventure books. Students will be able to select their books from the school library, the classroom, or bring them in from home.

BOOK REVIEW CREW 6,7,8

Read your favorite books and share them with the world! Students will read books of their choice and then write book reviews to publish on the World Wide Web.

CREATIVE WRITING 7,8

Are you one of those students who loves to write, but only when you get to write what YOU want to? Are you looking for new ways to express yourself - ways to get out your thoughts, ideas, and feelings? If so, then this may be the course for you. Students will work independently and in writing groups to create poetry, flash fiction, short stories, creative non-fiction, and more. Come and find your muse!

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION 7,8

This extension period will provide opportunities to improve communication skills of researching, writing, and speaking. Students will research a topic of interest, determine the best format for presentation, and produce a final product. Finished projects may include the creation of picture books, poems, and multimedia presentations. These skills will include researching, writing, and speaking.

EXPLORATORY FRENCH – 6th grade

Sixth grade students participate in one quarter of introductory French language instruction. Students become familiar with French language and culture by learning basic vocabulary through a conversational approach. Topics may include the alphabet, numbers, introductions, days of the week, months, colors, weather phrases and parts of the body.

EXPLORATORY SPANISH – 6th grade

Students are introduced to the basics of everyday Spanish through a conversational approach to the languages. Topics include the alphabet, numbers, introductions, days of the week, months, colors, weather phrases and foods. Students also explore a variety of cultural topics. Students are made aware of how knowledge of a foreign language can enrich a person's life through travel, career opportunities, and personal contact.

FUN IN THE LIBRARY 6,7,8

Do you have creativity? If so, this extension is for you! In this extension you can develop your hidden talents by researching information, writing stories and creating exciting pieces of art.

FROM SMALL PRINT TO BIG SCREEN 7,8

How many times have you heard someone say "The book is SO much better than the movie"? Here's your chance to find out! We'll be reading interesting books (and maybe a few stories) and comparing and contrasting the books to the movie versions.

NEWSPAPER/JOURNALISM 7,8

In this course, students will examine the kind of writing that is done in a newspaper, including the inverted pyramid style of news writing. Students will examine the newspaper daily to read editorials, feature stories, hard news, sports, etc. Many activities will be done to introduce students to the newspaper and to the many roles it plays in our society.

POSITIVELY POETRY 6,7,8

This group will examine the different ways to express your thoughts and feelings. We will examine the different forms of poetry, learn how to read poetry and learn how to write poetry. At the completion of the quarter, we will compile an anthology of our poetry.

PSSA WRITING REVIEW 8

In preparation for the PSSA writing assessment, this course will give students practice in editing, revising, and responding to persuasive and informational writing prompts. The course will include review of test-taking strategies for standardized tests and strategies for reducing test anxiety. If writing is not your strength, then consider this opportunity to get additional help to strengthen your skills.

READING IN EVERYDAY LIFE 6,7,8

Students who take this course will not only have the opportunity to learn how to read a menu, but will also make their own menus. There will be a unit on sports statistics where students will work in pairs to compare the statistics of their favorite athletes. Students will also learn how to read the television guide. In addition, they will create advertisements for their favorite television shows. They will also participate in projects that involve bus schedules, mall directories, and food store advertisements. Finally, they will work in groups to use travel brochures and a variety of websites to choose a cruise destination. Once they have selected a destination, they will plan a vacation by creating an itinerary for the trip. Take this course to practice reading in everyday life!

SPORTS RESEARCHING 7,8

The students will focus on researching about their favorite sports team and athletes, and the various forms the media utilized to share that information, such as newspapers, magazines, interviews, TV and radio shows and internet sites. The students will then share their information using those methods. Some examples would be to create a newspaper that could be distributed to the students. Another would be to create a power point that shares information and questions that perhaps could be used on the morning announcements.

TEAM NEWSLETTER 6,7,8

Students will write informative newsletters using Microsoft Publisher for their individual teams that will serve as a communication piece between school and home. Students will work on editing, grammar, and publishing to improve their writing and communication skills.

WHAT'S BLACK AND WHITE AND READ ALL OVER? 6,7,8

Using the newspaper as a primary resource, students will examine world, national and local news events and engage in topical discussions based on current events. Students will enhance their reading comprehension, vocabulary, and knowledge of geography.

AEROBICS 6,7,8

Students will actively participate in various types of aerobic activity including but not limited to Tae Bo, Pilates, steps, bands, and walking. Students will be expected to lead the class in warm-

ups and various activities throughout the quarter. The culminating activity is a student planned and led aerobics class. Sneakers and appropriate, comfortable clothing is necessary.

ADVANCED WOODWORKING 8

Students taking this course will be able to expand on and improve their woodworking skills. Students will design and build at least one project during the allotted time. Other experiences include general classroom as well as hand and power tool safety. Students taking this course will be charged a monetary fee for materials used. This course is limited to 12 students. Any student who had this course may not select it as their first choice.

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE BASICS 6,7,8

Language and basic techniques of signing. The manual alphabet will be taught along with signs for general conversation. The course will culminate with a song, poem or story signed by the students.

BICYCLING 6,7,8

Students will ride their bicycle around the campus. Students will need to supply their own bike. Bikes can be stored in our storage area. Students should be interested in riding for an aerobic workout. Students should not be timid about going outside in damp or cool weather. Students are required to have the proper safety gear (helmet).

BRAIN TWISTERS 6,7,8

Bend, twist, and stretch your brain! Do you enjoy a challenge? Do you like to flex your brain to solve mathematical logic puzzles? This exciting extension period is directed at all students who are interested in logical problem solving! Students will take part in games, puzzles, problem solving, and hands-on activities that challenge their analytical thinking.

CREATIVE SEWING 6,7,8

Small classes of 8 to 10 students will work on enhancing their “creative” stitching skills. Students will be involved with hands-on activities which may include, but are not limited to, quilting basics (machine and fused techniques); hand stitching (including counted cross stitch), weaving, and no sew applications. The class will choose from a variety of projects and will have the opportunity to create functional as well as decorative items. Pre-requisites: patience, creativity, and basic sewing machine skills. Students may need to supply some materials.

DESIGN 6,7,8

Attention all artists! Join this extension to discover a world of art. You will learn about different artworks, artists, and cultures from around the world. We will also explore using different materials in art to create designs and artwork that reflect what we learned about different cultures throughout the world.

DRAMA 6,7,8

Calling all students that enjoy acting and dancing! In this extension you will learn about improvisation through games from “Whose Line Is It Anyway?” You will act out shorts scenes from plays, learn about the many styles of dance, and how to choreograph a unique dance to a piece of music. You will be encouraged to think “out of the box” with your choreography.

GAME PLAY 6,7,8

Students will make and market games. They will research and evaluate existing family and educational games. Working in teams the students will create their own educational games. The class will play the prototype games, review them, and make recommendations for improvements. Prototypes will be refined and the games will be manually produced and distributed to the

appropriate audience such as the elementary school classrooms or the local community center or daycares.

GIRLS, GIRLS, GIRLS 6,7,8

Friendships are very important to girls, so why are friendships so painful? Learn ways to develop positive relationship skills while participating in fun activities. Be ready to become a pro at resolving hurtful situations and making good decisions.

HOOKED ON BOOKS 6

Is your imagination running wild and looking for a new place to visit? Do you feel like there isn't enough time in the day to enjoy reading just for pleasure? Do you wish you could have the opportunity to journey through the pages of a good book of your choice? Here is your chance. Become a member of the book club. Together we will explore new horizons in the world of reading through read aloud, discussion and book reviews. Take the opportunity to read without the pressure of a deadline or written assignment.

INLINE SKATING 7,8

An aerobic activity to enhance cardiovascular endurance and strength, as well as balance, agility, and coordination. Class will take place outside on various paths around campus.

Students must provide inline skates, wrist, elbow, and knee pads, and a helmet. All equipment is mandatory and must be worn during class. Students must label all equipment with their names. Students are also responsible for appropriate dress in conjunction with the weather.

MARINE BIOLOGY AND AQUARIUMS 6,7,8

Salt water aquariums are beautiful to look at and rewarding to maintain. This extension is dedicated to creating and supplementing two spectacular aquariums in the Saucon Valley Middle School. Find out why damsel fish and clown fish (think Nemo) are good starter fish to keep in the aquarium. Learn what type of lighting sea anemones require. Learn more about which marine organisms can be added safely to the aquarium while you become knowledgeable about the equipment and supplies used to maintain a healthy environment for these salt water organisms. Is a live rock really a living organism? Join us to find out.

MATH SUPPORT - REQUIRED 6,7,8

Students will have an opportunity to preview and review topics covered in their math class. This class allows for additional time for questions and individual support that students may need to be successful in their regular math class. Students identified as Basic and Below Basic in the area of Math may be assigned to this course.

4 SIGHT MATH PREP 8

Students will be selected based on 7th grade math PSSA results by reporting category. First quarter focus will be on Numbers and Operations and Measurement. Second quarter focus will be on Geometry and Algebraic Concepts. Third quarter focus will be on Data Analysis and Probability and Open Ended Responses.

ORIENTEERING 6,7,8

Anyone interested in camping and/or hiking? Orienteering is a fun and adventurous way to explore the outdoors and be physically active. Students will learn how to read a map and a compass. They will be able to plot points on a map using the compass to find those points on a course outdoors. We will be outdoors, so dress accordingly and wear sneakers or boots.

PAWS: (Peers Actively Working in Service) 6,7,8

Students have a chance to improve the quality of life in our community and the world through their actions. Additionally, students will develop leadership qualities through their experiences. Students will research community service opportunities, democratically choose who to serve, create an action plan, and complete the service project. Service projects could include volunteerism (in or outside the school), or raising money or awareness of a particular issue.

PERSONAL FINANCE 7,8

This course has been designed for students to learn important life skills involving financial matters. Students will be involved with hands-on activities which may include, but are not limited to, resume writing, job applications, mock interviews, budgeting, checkbook reconciliation, comparison shopping, savings plans, and consumer loans.

P.E. GAMES 6,7,8

Students will participate in a variety of activities to improve individual skills that will be most beneficial to the group. This class is an extension of Physical Education class with a focus on a higher skill level activity and because of this, a student must have an A/B grade average in Physical Education.

QUILTING 6,7,8

Come join our quilting group. We will be hand stitching personal quilts. You will need to provide your own fabric to stitch. As we work we will discuss different stitches and patterns which may be created.

SCIENCE IN YOUR WORLD 6,7,8

Explore the exciting science of criminal investigation. Students will learn to analyze a crime scene, collect physical evidence, and use science to interpret evidence such as fingerprints, blood analysis, ballistics, skeletal remains, and chromatography. This course is ideal for students who are interested in forensics, law enforcement, or simply have an interest in C.S.I. Course materials funded through a grant from the Saucon Valley Foundation for Educational Innovation

SCRAPBOOKING 6,7,8

Turn your pictures and memorabilia into a beautiful scrapbook that you'll treasure! Great club for students who have tons of pictures and creative ideas!

STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING/SAC 7,8

2 Days of Agility & Coordination training in the gym, 2 Days of Strength training in the weight room & 1 Day of Live Game Play per week. This year I will focus on using training devices (Cones, Hurdles & Hoops)

TENNIS 7,8

A life-time activity to enhance cardiovascular endurance and strength, as well as hand/eye coordination, agility, and power. Class will take place outside on the high school tennis courts. Students must provide tennis racquet and a can of balls. Students must label all equipment with their names. Students are also responsible for appropriate dress in conjunction with the weather.

THE STOCK MARKET GAME 7,8

If you are interested in stocks and the economy of our country, you will enjoy playing The Stock Market Game. This extension will run for two marking periods each (1&2 and 3&4). Those students interested **MUST** enroll for **2 marking periods**.

The extension will consist of three parts:

- An I-Search project which will require the students to research the stock market itself as well as a variety of companies in which they want to invest.
- The Stock Market Game where the students will work in teams of four buying and selling shares of stock over a ten-week period of time
- Invest Write which is a writing portion of the SMG where students write to a prompt about investing and economics.

VIEW THROUGH THE SHUTTER 6,7,8

The focus of this extension class will be specific skills relating to photography. These skills will include subject matter, lighting, focus, black and white photography, framing; and candid photographs. Students will also be engaged in discussion and critique of others work. The students will be utilizing digital as well as standard cameras to practice skills learned. I will try to have guest speakers come into class to show students techniques and their results.

WAKE UP AND WALK 6,7,8

Do you feel drowsy when you come to school? Want to get your brain thinking better? The “wake up and walk” extension class will give you a gentle wake up for the day. You will be walking with other students and a teacher. You will enjoy a 25 minute walk. But beware, you will have to keep up the pace after warming up inside. The walk will take place every extension class, inside or outside (jackets may be needed).

WALKING FOR FITNESS 6,7,8

Walking for Fitness is an aerobic activity designed to enhance and improve the cardiovascular system. Fitness walking will entail many different routes around campus that will challenge and invigorate the body and mind. Over the course of the quarter the class will consistently increase the distance and intensity of walking. Comfortable clothing and *SNEAKERS THAT TIE TIGHT* are a requirement. We will walk in cool weather as well as warm so appropriate dress is a must. If the weather is uncooperative, we will walk inside.

WHAT’S THE WEATHER? 7,8

Students will learn how to use models and multiple sources of information to forecast the weather, then create animations and graphics for a weather report, and finally create the script for a weather reporter. They will film the report on a daily basis for use in the TV studio.

WOODWORKING 7

Students taking this course will be able to expand on and improve their woodworking skills. Students will design and build at least one project during the allotted time. Other experiences include general classroom as well as hand and power tool safety. Students taking this course will be charged a monetary fee for materials used. This course is limited to 12 students. Any student who had this course may not select it as their first choice.