

Mount Pleasant Area Junior High School

2026-2027 Program of Studies

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Forward

This program of studies has been prepared to assist students in planning an effective and realistic secondary program. It provides information about various curricular choices, individual course selection, and guidance services.

In selecting courses, careful thought should be given to ability, past academic achievement, course requirements, course prerequisites, and future educational and career and technical goals. Students and parents are encouraged to discuss questions or concerns with the appropriate teacher or counselor.

Keep this publication so that it may be used as a reference for future planning, graduation requirements and so on.

Students are urged to choose a workload which fits their needs and abilities as well as one which complies with school requirements. Course information is subject to change and availability.

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Philosophy of Education

An essential function of the Mount Pleasant Area School District is to provide educational opportunities that assure success beyond high school. As each student is unique, it is of paramount importance to develop curriculum and activities oriented to meeting student needs, interests, and abilities, both academically and vocationally.

A balance should be achieved between the dissemination of academic skills, career and technical skills, and the development of the thinking process. It is important to bear in mind that the student is not perpetually in school; thus, the best education is that which motivates him/her to think for himself/herself and to act responsibly.

Value systems are relative and come about as an inherent part of family and community development. The school should provide an environment in which the student can analyze and formulate his/her own values compatible with his/her society.

The school, like any other social institution, must have the cooperation of the community. The school and community share the obligation to make every effort necessary to house education in suitable, well-maintained buildings, staffed with competently trained teachers who have the necessary materials and technology to employ best instructional practices.

By applying these beliefs to the educational process, the students will meet the fundamental goals necessary to become productive citizens.

It is necessary to recognize that any philosophy is transient and that it must be adaptable to the changing needs of the community.

The Guidance Department of the Mount Pleasant Area School District is consistent with the philosophy of education of its schools -- which is to develop each pupil intellectually, socially and emotionally in relation to the total school experience. The program should reflect faith in the pupil's potential for growth and ability to shape his/her future.

The Guidance Department is an integral part of the school program and works with teachers, parents, administrators, social service agencies, and community resources as a team to help the pupil develop unique tools to prepare for a successful life.

Guidance Program

Guidance in the Mount Pleasant Area Junior-Senior High School aims to help individual students understand themselves, fulfill their potential, plan realistically, and see themselves in relation to their work. Our students have the same primary psychological needs as do others - security, affection, approval, acceptance, feeling of success, sense of achievement, etc. These needs may vary in degree from one individual to another or from one group to another, but fundamentally they are present and must be met.

These same students have other needs: to secure an education, to prepare for a career, to develop physically and intellectually, to get along with fellow students, to understand their role as citizens. All these needs, together with the increasing complexity of our society, makes careful and intelligent school guidance services more important than ever before. The guidance counselors have the key role in directing and coordinating the guidance program.

In order to achieve the purposes of our guidance program we offer the following services:

1. Individual and Group Counseling - discuss with an individual the alternatives existing in a given situation; disseminate information of a general nature to small groups of students; provide students with professional and confidential counseling in areas such as conflict resolution, study skills, and mental health issues.
2. Testing Program - includes the administration of tests, test interpretation and the maintenance of records for use in understanding pupils and encouraging them to make accurate and reliable assessments of their academic/career and technical skills. Includes: PSSA, Benchmark Tests, PSAT, SAT, and Keystone Examinations.
3. Dissemination of Information
 - A. To students - about colleges, business schools, technical institutes and the like, and information about entrance requirements, military service data, job trends, etc.
 - B. To the teaching staff - regarding individual student interests, aptitudes, test results and other information which might be of help in working with the student.
 - C. To parents - regarding curriculum, scheduling, career information, scholarships and college requirements.
4. Liaison Services - utilization of community and social agencies to provide students/parents and faculty with the appropriate resources.
5. Career Resource Services - providing students with appropriate and occupational information via: Career Cruising, Career/College Reference Material, College and Career Night, Career Day/Field Trip, Financial Aid Night.

Schedule Changes

The courses you select reflect a combination of required and elective choices. Any request for a schedule change must be made in writing and addressed to the Guidance Department before the deadline date. You will receive a verification of your selections at the end of the school year. If grades have dropped necessitating a change or you have “changed your mind,” this verification sheet is signaling your last opportunity to do something to correct next year’s selections before the beginning of the school year.

Schedule changes after the last day of instruction will be limited to the following categories:

- A student fails a subject and must repeat that subject the next year.
- Schedule conflicts occur or errors are made by the school during the scheduling process.
- Students registered for a sequential course during the scheduling process and then performed poorly during the remainder of the year.
- A student desires to drop a study hall to add open elective course offerings. If a student fails to get a request, they will have an opportunity to schedule another class in its place. (This change is limited to the first 5 school days.)
- Late changes requiring specified change procedures.

It is imperative that good judgment be used when selecting courses. If you doubt your choices, we would suggest that you read the course description in the Program of Studies booklet. In addition, talk to students who are currently enrolled in the class, talk to the course instructor or a teacher you currently have for a related class. Choices you make now are what you will be expected to keep next year.

Course offerings are made based on enrollment and the number of students who request courses during the annual scheduling process. Occasionally, it is necessary to not offer a course because of course demand. In that event, students may be reassigned to other courses based on student choice of alternatives or at the discretion of a guidance counselor or principal.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS

Seventh Grade Course Offerings

Students in seventh grade must complete a course of study as indicated by the graphic below. Students will have the opportunity to select elective courses to pursue interests and to receive additional skill building instruction. Following the chart is a description of each course as well as the elective options. As the student progresses through junior high and high school, elective options become more varied.

1. ELA 7
2. Math 7/ Pre-Algebra 7/ Algebra 1
3. Science 7
4. World Geography 7
5. Health and Physical Education 7
6. Practical Applications I
7. Enrichment Core 7
 - a. Art 7
 - b. Exploring Technology 7
 - c. Family & Consumer Science 7
 - d. Music 7
8. Elective Offerings:
 - a. Band
 - b. Chorus
 - c. Band/Chorus
9. Math Concepts Lab 7

Course Descriptions:

ELA 7

Meets: 5 days/week (year)

Prerequisite: None

In alignment with Pennsylvania's ELA Standards, this Grade 7 English Language Arts course fosters critical thinking, creativity, and communication through a focus on reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students will engage with diverse literary and informational texts to analyze themes, infer meaning, and evaluate author techniques. Writing instruction emphasizes narrative, argumentative, and informative compositions, supporting students' abilities to express ideas effectively. Collaborative discussions and presentations strengthen speaking and listening skills, while vocabulary and grammar instruction enhance language proficiency. This course aims to build the foundational skills necessary for academic success and lifelong literacy.

Math 7

Meets: 5 days/week (year)

Prerequisite: None

Math 7 is designed to assist students in mastering the 7th grade PA Core Standards, building a solid math foundation and establishing academic confidence. This class will provide a strong base as students navigate through the secondary math curriculum. Course topics include ratios and proportional relationships, the number system (rational numbers), expressions and equations, statistics and probability, and geometry. Students explore the language of algebra, geometry, and other areas of mathematics in verbal, graphical, and symbolic form. Computation and problem solving are done with rational numbers, and specifically with integers, fractions, decimals, and percentages.

Pre-Algebra 7

Meets: 5 days/week (year)

Prerequisite: Established placement criteria

Pre-Algebra 7 is an advanced course designed to assist students in mastering the 7th grade PA Core Standards and introducing the 8th grade PA Core Standards, building a solid math foundation and establishing academic confidence. This class will provide a strong base as students navigate through the secondary math curriculum. Course topics include ratios and proportional relationships, the number system (rational numbers), expressions and equations, statistics and probability, and geometry. Students explore the language of algebra, geometry, and other areas of mathematics in verbal, graphical, and symbolic form. Computation and problem solving are done with rational numbers, and specifically with integers, fractions, decimals, and percentages. Algebra topics include solving equations and inequalities, functions, and graphing in the coordinate plane.

Placement criteria will include 90% or higher in Math 6, proficient PSSA Math performance, and successful performance on a placement test. Students must meet prerequisite criteria in order to register for the class.

Algebra I

Meets: 5 days/week (year)

Prerequisite: Established placement criteria

Algebra 1 is a fast-paced, advanced course that consists of the traditional Algebra I concepts, with an approach that is consistent with the modern Algebra 1 Keystone standards. In addition to solving symbolic expressions, the student will learn algebra as a means of representation, and as a problem-solving tool. Additionally, connections will be made to geometric transformations, the Pythagorean Theorem, and various volume formulas, in order to enrich the course to meet PA Core Math Standards. Students who successfully complete this course with a "A" or higher will progress to Honors Algebra 2 in 8th grade.

Placement criteria will include 90% or higher in Pre-Algebra, proficient PSSA Math performance, and successful performance on a placement test. Students must meet prerequisite criteria in order to register for the class.

Science 7

Meets: 5 days/week (year)

Prerequisite: none

This course introduces the students to a semester of biological sciences and a semester of earth sciences. The course is designed as two separate disciplines of science within one school year. Science 7 is designed to assist students in mastering the 7th grade PA Core Standards, building a solid science foundation and establishing academic confidence .

One semester will cover such topics as: classification and the 6 kingdoms of living things. The second semester will cover topics such as: minerals, rocks, energy resources, plate tectonics, earthquakes, and volcanoes. The goal is to develop the student's understanding of life processes, and the physical forces and materials that shape the Earth. Students will have a greater appreciation for life and their surroundings.

World Geography 7

Meets: 5 days/week (year)

Prerequisite: none

World Geography 7 is a social studies course that focuses on map and globe skills as well as provides an overview of world geography. The course focuses on developing a "global" mentality among students as our world becomes smaller through the use of modern technologies. Students will be expected to seek the answers to geographic questions and to explain their findings utilizing a variety of assessment methods, including, but not limited to, creating original maps, graphs, and charts.

As part of this course, students will be encouraged to become geographically informed individuals who question the relationship between people and their physical environments. Throughout the course, the world is divided regionally and examined in terms of both physical geography and human geography. World Geography 7 sets a framework upon which future social studies courses build.

Health and Physical Education 7

Meets: One Semester (half-year).

Prerequisite: None

The course focuses on motivating students to move and committing themselves to improving their own health and wellness. Students are assessed by a comprehensive system, guided by heart monitors and a state-of-the-art fitness center. Students are introduced to sports and lifetime activities, and fitness-based games that, when combined with the fitness knowledge, can be used to develop a lifelong fitness program. Students will be introduced to swimming and water safety. Students are required to change into appropriate physical education attire (and swimming attire for the swim unit).

The primary focus of instruction in Health is on the body system's exercise physiology and nutrition and how they relate to lifelong fitness. Students learn the importance of the five health components, cardiovascular endurance, muscle strength, muscle endurance, body composition, and flexibility. They learn how to assess each and use the results to understand their own fitness level. The course also offers instruction on drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and 13 decision-making skills needed to make good choices. The

students are taught how to combat drug use and the pressures they face. In addition, students receive instruction on the transmission and prevention of AIDS and basic sexuality education.

Practical Applications I

Meets: One Semester (half-year)

Prerequisite: none

This course is designed to provide an opportunity to learn to touch type on the computer keyboard using correct techniques as well as the development of speed and accuracy. Students will use computer software as well as teacher led instruction to learn and master the keyboard. Students will then apply their skill to generate documents using the current version of Microsoft Word and Google Docs.

Documents such as reports, letters, and tables, will be properly formatted and produced. Proofreading, composing, and skill development are important aspects of this course. This course begins with lessons on digital citizenship and properly using school technology. Throughout the year, lessons in computer programming and career exploration will also be visited.

Enrichment Core 7

All seventh grade students will complete a rotation in courses that are designed to enhance the junior high experience and to introduce students to new curricular offerings. This battery of courses will expose students to art appreciation, exposure to music concepts, exploring technology, and family and consumer science. Each segment is offered for a nine week period. The following is a brief description of each.

Art 7

Meets: 5 days/week (Nine weeks)

Prerequisite: None

Art 7 is an art appreciation course that focuses on the understanding and use of the Art Elements and Principles of Design. Each project is completed with different techniques and materials. History is also important in this course and each project has an inspirational artist. Some possible topics for this course would be drawing in perspective, color theory and tessellations.

Exploring Technology 7

Meets: 5 days/week (Nine weeks)

Prerequisite: None

Exploring Technology 7 is an Introductory course that introduces students to the fundamentals of technology by examining the basic systems of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Students will study the basics of measurement, drafting, engineering and various problem-solving methods. A central theme approach (Balsa Wood Bridge) will be utilized in the course. The intent is to show the integration of technologies: communication, production, and engineering/architectural principles. Students will brainstorm, research, sketch and draw blueprints, produce the bridge raw material (production), and pressure test their bridges.

Family & Consumer Sciences 7

Meets: 5 days/week (Nine weeks)

Prerequisite: None

Seventh-grade Family and Consumer Sciences is an exploratory course to basic skills in sewing, nutrition, and simple kitchen skills while learning to interact and work with their peers.

Music 7

Meets: 5 days/week (Nine weeks)

Prerequisite: None

Music 7 is a nine (9) week, exploratory course that will highlight many different facets of music education. Students will begin with learning notes and rhythms, and then will ultimately apply that knowledge to make music in both acoustic and digital environments. Students will leave this class with tangible, 21st century music making skills and an appreciation for all that music has to offer. Students will explore units including, but not limited to: Introduction to Musical Notation, Introduction to Rhythmic Notation, Boomwhackers, Genres of Music, Ukuleles, and Digital Music Production.

Elective Options

Concert Band

Meets: 5 days/week (year)

Special Criteria: Previous enrollment in elementary band OR teacher evaluation and recommendation for beginners

The Junior High Concert Band is an ensemble consisting of both 7th and 8th grade band students. This ensemble is open to all students who have previously studied a band instrument. Alternatively, a student may enroll as a beginning band student with consultation and recommendation from the Director of Bands. Music of many styles and genres is rehearsed so that the band student is familiar with a large and varied repertoire. The student is expected to continue their musical development outside of the classroom by practicing at home. Students are responsible for attending a weekly in-school band lesson, which will be taught on a rotating basis. Band students of exceptional ability may audition and be recommended for a variety of interscholastic festival ensembles, such as PMEA and WCMEA Honors Bands. Band members are also eligible for Jazz Band, which is an extra-curricular ensemble. 8th grade students are eligible for participation in the marching band, either as instrumentalists or members of the color guard.

Chorus

Meets: 5 days/week (year)

Prerequisite: Teacher evaluation and recommendation

This course is designed to grow each student as a musician and singer. Students will learn how to sing music with one, two, and three part textures, with proper blend, balance, and intonation. Students will study a diverse repertoire of music throughout the year. This course will focus on preparing students for concerts, as well as teaching them the theory and history behind music. Rhythm activities, sight singing, and composing projects will provide hands-on musical experiences to engage students in becoming

better musicians. Students will be required to attend all Jr High Chorus performances, and these performances will be graded. Exemplary choral students may be nominated for any of the various choral festivals held by the Westmoreland County Music Educators' Association and/or the Pennsylvania Music Educators' Association.

*** Students who have an interest in both vocal and instrumental performance may opt for the combined band/chorus option for exposure to both disciplines. (BC781)**

Math Concepts Lab 7

Meets : Alternating Days (year)

Prerequisites: None

The Spring Math program provides targeted, data-driven interventions to strengthen foundational math skills and support grade 7 achievement. Using a systematic approach, students engage in short, skill-focused activities that build fluency and accuracy in key mathematical concepts, such as fractions, ratios, integers, and equations. Frequent progress monitoring allows teachers to adjust instruction to meet individual student needs, fostering growth and confidence. Designed to complement core math instruction, this program emphasizes practice, feedback, and mastery to prepare students for success in advanced math coursework.

Eighth Grade Course Offerings

Students in eighth grade will take the following courses as depicted in the chart below. Students will have the opportunity to select an elective path based on their interest and preparedness for high school. Following this chart is a description of each course.

1. ELA 8
2. Pre Algebra 8/Algebra 1/Honors Algebra 2
3. Science 8
4. US History 8
5. Health and Physical Education 8
6. Practical Applications II
7. Enrichment Core 8
 - a. Explore French
 - b. Explore Spanish
 - c. Exploring Technology 8
 - d. Young Entrepreneurs
8. Elective Offerings:
 - a. Band
 - b. Chorus
 - c. Band/Chorus
9. Math Concepts Lab 8

Course Descriptions:

ELA 8

Meets: 5 days/week (year)

Prerequisite: None

Aligned with Pennsylvania's ELA Standards, the Grade 8 English Language Arts course prepares students for high school by deepening their abilities to analyze, interpret, and create text. Students will explore complex literary and informational works, examining themes, structure, and rhetorical techniques. Writing instruction emphasizes crafting arguments, informative essays, and narratives with clarity, coherence, and purpose. Vocabulary development and grammar skills are integrated to refine communication. Through collaborative discussions, presentations, and critical media analysis, students strengthen their speaking and listening abilities. This course equips students with the literacy skills essential for academic achievement and real-world application.

Pre-Algebra 8

Meets: 5 days/week (year)

Prerequisite: none

Pre-Algebra 8 is designed to assist students in mastering the 8th Grade PA Core Standards and building a solid math foundation. The topics include the number system, ratios and proportional relationships, expressions and equations, geometry, and statistics and probability. Students will be extensively using algebra, geometry, and other areas of mathematics in verbal, graphical, and symbolic form. Computation and problem solving are done with rational numbers, and specifically with integers, fractions, decimals, and percentages. The course curriculum encompasses functions and graphing in the Cartesian coordinate system, probability, statistics, and data analysis. Students who take the course will advance to Algebra 1 in 9th grade.

Algebra I

Meets: 5 days/week (year)

Prerequisite: Established placement criteria

Grade 8 Algebra 1 is a fast-paced, advanced course that consists of the traditional Algebra I concepts, with an approach that is consistent with the modern Algebra 1 Keystone standards. In addition to solving symbolic expressions, the student will learn algebra as a means of representation, and as a problem-solving tool. Additionally, connections will be made to geometric transformations, the Pythagorean Theorem, and various volume formulas, in order to enrich the course to meet PA Core Math Standards. Students who successfully complete this course with a “B” or higher will advance to Honors Algebra 2 in 9th grade. Students must meet prerequisite criteria in order to register for the class.

Placement criteria will include 90% or higher in Pre-Algebra 7, proficient PSSA Math performance, and successful performance on a placement test. Students must meet prerequisite criteria in order to register for the class.

Honors Algebra 2

Meets: 5 days/week (year)

Prerequisite: Established placement criteria

This course is designed for the accelerated math student who has successfully completed Algebra 1 in 7th grade. In Honors Algebra 2, an emphasis is placed upon the algebraic (symbolic), graphical, and numerical interpretations of the mathematical concepts. The graphing calculator is used for visual analysis of algebraic material to include real-world problem solving applications. The instructional setting will encourage the investigation, cooperation, and written/oral communication of algebra. Some of the topics covered in this course are: Linear Equations, Relations and Functions, Quadratic Functions, Polynomials and Polynomial Functions, Inverses and Radical Functions, Rational Functions and an Introduction to Exponential, Logarithmic, and Trigonometric Functions.

Placement criteria will include 90% or higher in Algebra 1 and proficient Keystone Algebra performance. Students must meet both prerequisite criteria in order to register for this class.

Science 8

Meets: 5 days/week (year)

Prerequisite: None

This course introduces the students to a semester of biological sciences and a semester of earth sciences. This course is designed as two separate disciplines of science within one school year. One semester will cover such topics as: cells, cell organelles and genetics. Evolution and ecology may also be covered. One semester will cover topics such as: oceanography, meteorology, and astronomy. The goal is to develop the student's understanding of living organisms and the physical aspects of the water, air, and space surrounding the Earth. Students will have a greater appreciation for life and their surroundings. This course is designed to cover various state standards and better prepare students for the science PSSA Tests.

US History 8

Meets: 5 days/week (year)

Prerequisite: None

Student learning in this US History course focuses on the major historical events starting with the Age of Discovery through the Civil War Reconstruction including the growth and industrialization of America. The course provides special attention to the creation of our nation's government through the development and application of the Constitution. The class is designed to utilize varied teaching and assessment techniques. Each unit/topic will have a different approach in an attempt to address all student learning styles. Activities are geared toward higher level learning skills to encourage critical thinking and give students the ability to formulate their own general understanding of US History.

Health and Physical Education 8

Meets: One Semester (half-year)

Prerequisite: None

The course focuses on motivating students to move and committing themselves to improving their own health and wellness. Students are assessed by a comprehensive system, guided by heart monitors and a state-of-the-art fitness center. Students are introduced to sports and lifetime activities, and fitness-based games that, when combined with the fitness knowledge, can be used to develop a lifelong fitness program. Students will be introduced to swimming and water safety in one of the PE units. Students are required to change into appropriate physical education attire (and swimming attire for the swim unit).

The primary focus of instruction in Health is on the body system's exercise physiology and nutrition and how they relate to lifelong fitness. Students learn the importance of the five health components: cardiovascular endurance, muscle strength, muscle endurance, body composition, and flexibility. They learn how to assess each and use the results to understand their own fitness level. The course also offers instruction on drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and 13 decision-making skills needed to make good choices. The students are taught how to combat drug use and the pressures they face. In addition, students receive instruction on the transmission and prevention of AIDS and basic sexuality education.

Practical Applications II

Meets: One Semester (half-year)

Prerequisite: Practical Application I

The college and business world today dictates the importance of computer skills for everyone. This course will provide students with computer skills and topics necessary for high school coursework and post-secondary education. This course begins with lessons on digital citizenship and properly using school technology. Then, students create advanced projects using the Google platform and Microsoft Office when possible. Some of these projects include using Google drawings to create JPG images and inserting formulas, functions and charts in Google Sheets. Throughout the year, lessons in computer programming and career exploration will also be visited. Students are exposed to many exciting programs and innovative material in this course.

Enrichment Core 8

All eighth grade students will complete a rotation in courses that are designed to enhance the junior high experience and to introduce students to new curricular offerings. This battery of courses will expose students to foreign languages, technology and design, and entrepreneurship. Each segment is offered for a nine week period. The following is a brief description of each.

Explore French

Meets: 5 days/week (Nine Weeks)

Prerequisite: None

This 9-week course introduces students to the basics of the French language and the cultures of French-speaking communities around the world. Students will build foundational communication skills through simple vocabulary, common phrases, and everyday conversations while exploring cultural traditions, music, food, and geography. Interactive activities and beginner-level speaking and listening tasks help students develop confidence and curiosity as language learners, providing an engaging introduction to French and a pathway to future world language study in high school.

Explore Spanish

Meets: 5 days/week (Nine Weeks)

Prerequisite: None

This 9-week course introduces students to the fundamentals of the Spanish language, essential vocabulary, and diverse cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. Students will develop basic communication skills through essential vocabulary, everyday expressions, and simple conversational practice. Cultural exploration- including traditions, music, food, and language comparisons- helps students appreciate the richness and diversity of the Spanish-speaking world. Through interactive lessons, games, and beginner-level speaking and listening tasks, students build confidence as new language learners and gain a strong foundation for future Spanish study in high school.

Exploring Technology 8

Meets: 5 days/week (Nine weeks)

Prerequisite: None

Exploring Technology is an introductory course that introduces students to woodworking, measurement, and modern fabrication technologies. Students develop skills in accurate measuring, planning, and safe tool use while designing and creating projects. The course also explores laser engraving and introductory 3D printing, helping students understand how digital designs become real-world products. This hands-on, exploratory class builds problem-solving skills and prepares students for future technology and engineering courses.

Young Entrepreneurs

Meets: 5 days/week (Nine weeks)

Prerequisite: None

Young Entrepreneurs introduces students to the exciting world of business, personal finance, and career exploration. Using **JA Financial Park** as a hands-on learning tool, students will explore careers, develop budgeting and banking skills, and learn the basics of starting and managing a business. This course emphasizes practical, real-world experiences, helping students understand how financial decisions impact everyday life and future opportunities. By the end of the course, students will have gained valuable skills in money management, goal setting, and entrepreneurial thinking, preparing them for success both inside and outside the classroom.

Elective Options

Concert Band

Meets: 5 days/ week (year)

Special Criteria: Previous enrollment in concert band or teacher evaluation and recommendation for beginners

The Junior High Concert Band is an ensemble consisting of both 7th and 8th grade band students. This ensemble is open to all students who have previously studied a band instrument. Alternatively, a student may enroll as a beginning band student with consultation and recommendation from the Director of Bands. Music of many styles and genres is rehearsed so that the band student is familiar with a large and varied repertoire. The student is expected to continue their musical development outside of the classroom by practicing at home. Students are responsible for attending a weekly in-school band lesson, which will be taught on a rotating basis. Band students of exceptional ability may audition and be recommended for a variety of interscholastic festival ensembles, such as PMEA and WCMEA Honors Bands. Band members are also eligible for Jazz Band, which is an extra-curricular ensemble. 8th grade students are eligible for participation in the marching band, either as instrumentalists or members of the color guard.

Chorus

Meets: 5 days/week (year)

Prerequisite: Teacher evaluation and recommendation

This course is designed to grow each student as a musician and singer. Students will learn how to sing music with one, two, and three part textures, with proper blend, balance, and intonation. Students will study a diverse repertoire of music throughout the year. This course will focus on preparing students for concerts, as well as teaching them the theory and history behind music. Rhythm activities, sight singing, and composing projects will provide hands-on musical experiences to engage students in becoming better musicians. Students will be required to attend all Jr High Chorus performances, and these performances will be graded. Exemplary choral students may be nominated for any of the various choral festivals held by the Westmoreland County Music Educators' Association and/or the Pennsylvania Music Educators' Association.

*** Students who have an interest in both vocal and instrumental performance may opt for the combined band/chorus option for exposure to both disciplines.**

Math Concepts Lab 8

Meets : Alternating Days (year)

Prerequisites: None

The Spring Math program provides targeted, data-driven interventions to strengthen foundational math skills and support grade 8 achievement. Using a systematic approach, students engage in short, skill-focused activities that build fluency and accuracy in key mathematical concepts, such as fractions, ratios, integers, and equations. Frequent progress monitoring allows teachers to adjust instruction to meet individual student needs, fostering growth and confidence. Designed to complement core math instruction, this program emphasizes practice, feedback, and mastery to prepare students for success in advanced math coursework.

Services for School-age Exceptional Children

The Mount Pleasant Area School District provides a free and appropriate public education to exceptional students. To qualify as an exceptional student the child must be of school age, in need of specially-designed instruction and meet the eligibility criteria for mentally gifted and/or one or more of the following physical or mental disabilities, as set forth in the Pennsylvania State standards: autism/pervasive developmental disorder, blindness/visual impairment, intellectual disability, multi-disability, neurological impairment, other health impairment, physical disability, serious emotional disturbance, specific learning disability and speech/language impairment.

The district engages in identification procedures to ensure that eligible students receive an appropriate educational program consisting of special education and related services, individualized to meet the student needs. At no cost to the parents, these services are provided in compliance with state and federal law and are reasonably calculated to yield meaningful educational benefit and student progress.

To identify students who may be eligible for special education, various screening activities are conducted on an ongoing basis. These screening activities include: review of group-based data, cumulative records, enrollment records, health records, report cards, ability and achievement test scores; hearing, vision, physical and speech/language screening, and review by the instructional support teams. When screening results suggest that a student might be exceptional, the District seeks parental consent to conduct a multidisciplinary evaluation. Parents who suspect their child is exceptional may request a multidisciplinary evaluation at any time through a written request to the building principal.

Services designed to meet the needs of exceptional students include the annual development of the Individualized Educational Program (IEP), bi-annual multidisciplinary re-evaluation, support intervention in the regular class, supplemental intervention in the regular class or in the special education resource program, placement in a part-time or full-time special education class in a regular school or placement in a full-time class in another location other than the regular school. The extent of special education services and the location for the delivery of such services are determined by the IEP team and are based on the student's identified needs and abilities, chronological age and the level of intensity of the specific intervention. The district also provides related services, such as transportation, physical and occupational therapy required for the student to benefit from the special education program.

Parents may obtain additional information regarding special education programs and services and due process rights by contacting the child's school principal or calling the central office at 724-547-4100, extension 6000.

ALMA MATER

May the glory light thy name

Always true we will remain.

Hail to thee, the school we love

And praise thy glorious name.

Memories to us dear

Always linger here;

Loyal to our alma mater,

Red – White – Blue