

Pelham Park Middle School



Course Selection Guide
2026-2027

Our Mission

The mission of Pelham City Schools is to collaborate with parents and community to inspire and empower students to achieve personal success. INSPIRE. EMPOWER. ACHIEVE.

Our Beliefs

- Every individual has value, talent, and purpose.
- Integrity, responsibility, respect, and citizenship are the foundation of good character.
- Accountability and high expectations encourage achievement.
- Knowledge and opportunities open a world of possibilities.
- A safe environment creates a sense of assurance and well-being.
- Acceptance of diversity promotes appreciation of culture and individuality.
- Collaboration, support, and service build strong communities.

The Pelham City Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. For questions regarding the non-discrimination policies please contact the Pelham City Schools coordinator at 3160 Pelham Parkway, Pelham, AL 35124, (205)-624-3700.

Pelham City Schools

Superintendent

Dr. Keri Johnson

Assistant Superintendents

Mr. Floyd Collins

Ms. Kim Kiel

Dr. Dorann Tanner

Chief Academic Officer

Mrs. Robin Hollingsworth

Director of Special Education

Lana Tew

Pelham Park Middle School

Mr. Ryan Kendall

Principal

Mrs. Regina Dickens

Assistant Principal

Mr. Josef Lauderdale

Assistant Principal

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Pelham City Schools
Board of Education

Mr. Robert Plummer, Board
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Ms. Shannon White
Vice President

Mr. Jeff Adams

Mr. Bob Lavett

Mr. Bob O'Neil

Faculty and Staff

Pelham Park Middle School faculty is composed of highly qualified individuals who are dedicated and passionate about educating young people. An exemplary support staff is in place to complement the services provided by our faculty.

Counseling Department

Ms. Janice Maddox

6th grade; 7th Grade Last Name A- L

Ms. Jessica Gandy

8th grade; 7th Grade Last Name M- Z

Core Academic Course Offerings

English Language Arts (Grades 6,7,8)

Language Arts encompasses all written and spoken language skills, including reading and responding to literature. The course incorporates grammar, vocabulary, and writing with an emphasis upon authentic opportunities for communication. Information retrieval and organization is also a part of the Language Arts curriculum.

Advanced English Language Arts (Grades 6,7,8)

Advanced English Language Arts is an accelerated academic course designed for dedicated students who plan to continue on the advanced track throughout high school. Students will move at a fast pace, requiring an increased expectation of responsibility and independence. Students are expected to display a high level of proficiency in writing, reading, and critical thinking. Additionally, students should be willing to respond to an increased workload, exhibit a strong work ethic, demonstrate a serious attitude toward their studies, and participate consistently in class discussions.

Mathematics (Grades 6 and 7)

The mathematics program requires proficiency in performing the basic operations with whole numbers and decimals. The study of statistics and probability involves conducting surveys and selecting appropriate ways to organize, display, and interpret data. An understanding of mathematics is fostered through the use of instructional strategies in which students apply problem-solving techniques, explore and examine realistic situations, build an understanding of percent and application to sales tax and discounts, and formulate questions to clarify their thinking and level of understanding.

Honors Math (Grade 6) and Accelerated Mathematics (Grade 7)

Honors Mathematics 6 and Accelerated Mathematics 7 are accelerated academic courses designed for dedicated students who plan to continue on the advanced track throughout high school in preparation for college. Students are expected to display a high level of proficiency in mathematical skills and knowledge. Additionally, they should exhibit a strong work ethic, demonstrate a serious attitude toward their studies, and participate consistently in class discussions. Honors Mathematics 6 is not a prerequisite for Accelerated Mathematics 7. **Accelerated Mathematics 7 is a prerequisite course for Accelerated Mathematics 8.**

Mathematics (Grade 8)

Mathematics 8 is a course designed to provide students with a strong foundation in the concepts of Algebra and Geometry. Mathematical procedures are reinforced through expanded use of algebraic methods and complex problem-solving activities. Exploratory opportunities are provided in data analysis and probability. Students are encouraged to think critically about results and implications, consider alternative methods to approach problems, and generalize information properly

Accelerated Mathematics 8

Accelerated Mathematics is an accelerated academic course designed for dedicated students who plan to continue on the advanced track throughout high school. Students are expected to display a high level of proficiency in mathematical skill and knowledge. Additionally, they should exhibit a strong work ethic, demonstrate a serious attitude toward their studies, and participate consistently in class discussions.

Accelerated Math 7 is a prerequisite course.

Science (Grade 6)

The sixth-grade Science curriculum focuses on Earth and Space Science. Content standards challenge students to discover their Earth and its place in the universe. The study of Science is blended with the development of literacy in the content area, mathematical skills such as charting and graphing, and project-based learning.

Life Science (Grade 7)

The seventh-grade Science course covers the life sciences, including Biology. Additionally, the course serves as a bridge for students to connect the concepts and skills learned in the sixth-grade Earth and Space course to the principles of the universe studied in the eighth-grade Physical Science course.

Physical Science (Grade 8)

Content standards in the eighth grade, including Chemistry and Physics, are inquiry-based. In eighth-grade Science, students engage in higher, more abstract thinking processes that combine reasoning skills with scientific knowledge through experimental, manipulative, and laboratory-oriented processes.

Advanced Science (Grades 7 and 8)

Advanced Science is an accelerated academic course designed for dedicated students who plan to continue on the advanced track throughout high school. Students are expected to display a high level of proficiency in science skills and knowledge. Additionally, they should be, exhibit a strong work ethic and demonstrate a serious attitude toward their studies.

Social Studies (Grade 6)

Sixth-grade Social Studies focuses on America from the beginning of the twentieth century. Units of study include: immigration, westward expansion, World War I, the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, World War II, the Fifties, and the Civil Rights Movement. Research, map and globe skills, literacy, and writing are applied throughout the course.

World History/Geography (Grade 7)

Seventh-grade world history and geography focuses on the development of civilizations from approximately 500 A.D. to 1789 (Medieval to Early Modern times). Students examine the social, cultural, and technological changes across Europe, Africa, and Asia, exploring the rise and fall of empires, trade networks, the Renaissance, Reformation, and the Enlightenment.

World History (Grade 8)

Eighth-grade Social Studies is a course blending world history and geography from prehistoric man to the 1500s. Students must think critically about the various forces combined to shape today's world. Emphasis is placed on geographic impact, civic knowledge/ responsibilities development, and emerging economic systems within a chronological context.

Advanced Social Studies (Grades 7 and 8)

Advanced Social Studies is an accelerated academic course designed for dedicated students who plan to continue on the advanced track throughout high school. Students are expected to display a high level of proficiency in reading and writing. Additionally, they should exhibit a strong work ethic, demonstrate a serious attitude toward their studies, and participate consistently in class discussions.

Elective Opportunities

Electives (Grade 6)

Art (semester)

This introductory course content allows students to explore various art media. The seven elements of art, as well as basic color theory, are explored in each major project. Basic drawing, painting, and printmaking skills are introduced. Three-dimensional work and collage may also be introduced. Students will learn how to creatively problem-solve and tackle artistic challenges while learning lifelong skills such as persistence, observation, and self-critique.

Fundamentals of Family and Consumer Sciences (semester)

Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS), formerly known as home economics, equips students with essential life skills and prepares them for careers in nutrition, hospitality, human development, and design. The discipline focuses on strengthening individuals, families, and communities through education in resource management, finance, cooking, and child development.

Band (year-long)

Beginning band is for any student interested in learning to play a musical instrument. Students are taught the basics of how to read music as well as how to play their instruments. No prior musical experience is necessary. There will be an associated cost for the band.

Intro to Theatre (semester)

This introductory course will introduce students to the basic elements of theatre arts and give them the opportunity to discover which part of theatre interests them the most. Students will collaborate and perform in improv, monologue, and duo scenes. Students will also complete projects in playwriting, set, and costume design.

Science Exploration (semester)

Science Exploration is where curiosity comes to life! Students will dive into fascinating scientific texts, investigate big ideas, and turn their research into hands-on labs and experiments every week. From testing theories to making discoveries, this class helps students think, question, and explore like real scientists, while having a blast along the way!

Choir (year-long)

Designed to give students an opportunity to experience the joy of singing together and also to challenge the students to grow as individuals.

Computer Science Endeavors (semester)

Students will be introduced to computer science and will strengthen their coding skills. As a foundational computer science course, students will understand the basics of block coding, coding concepts, algorithms, the Internet of Things (IoT) and ethical computing.

Electives (Grade 7)

Band (year-long)

Intermediate band allows students to develop the technical skills and tone production necessary for individual musical achievement. Instruction includes instrumental proficiency, improving listening skills, and music appreciation. Prior instrumental music experience is preferred. Associated cost.

Computer Science Discoveries (semester)

This course will increase students' understanding of basic computer programming concepts and logic. Students will be introduced to programming through various projects, object-based programming activities, and applications. Students will explore and demonstrate business-related skills such as teamwork, interpersonal skills, and ethics while completing projects.

Art (semester)

This introductory course content allows students to explore various art media. The seven elements of art, as well as basic color theory, are explored in each major project. We will also start to explore the principles of design. Basic drawing, painting, and printmaking skills are introduced. Three-dimensional work and collage may also be introduced. While this is still an introductory course, some concepts will build on those previously introduced.

Exploring Family and Consumer Science (semester)

Exploring Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) involves studying essential life skills and career pathways related to human development, nutrition, interior design, fashion, and personal finance. Formerly known as home economics, this comprehensive field focuses on strengthening individuals, families, and communities through practical, research-based education, preparing students for real-world responsibilities and diverse, people-centered careers.

Digital Technology (semester)

This intermediate course is designed to aid the student in better understanding the function of a computer for school and personal use. Emphasis will be placed on Microsoft Office applications, internet safety, and presentation creation.

Spanish Exploratory (semester)

Intermediate Spanish is designed to teach and build upon students' understanding and use of the language, vocabulary, and Spanish culture.

Theatre (semester)

This intermediate course will increase students' understanding and appreciation of the theatre arts. Students will complete advanced versions of playwriting, set, and costume design projects. Students can also enhance their acting skills and perform a scene at the semester show.

Stage Crew Theatre (semester)

This intermediate course will increase students' understanding and appreciation of design and technical theatre skills. Students will complete advanced versions of the playwriting, set, and costume design projects, as well as projects in stage management, lighting design, sound design, set construction, etc.

Choir (year long)

Designed to give students an opportunity to experience the joy of singing together and also to challenge the students to grow as individuals.

Medical Detectives (Project Lead the Way) (semester)

Medical Detectives is an engaging, hands-on STEM elective for middle schoolers (grades 6-8) where students act as healthcare investigators to solve medical mysteries, diagnose diseases, and study body systems. Using forensic science techniques, students analyze data, test bacteria, monitor vitals, and explore forensics.

Health Science Discoveries (semester)

Health Science Discoveries for middle school is an introductory course designed to expose students to the dynamic healthcare industry, focusing on medical terminology, human body systems, and foundational healthcare skills. Through project-based learning and simulation, students explore health careers, safety protocols, legal/ethical issues, and, in some cases, neuroscience or forensic science.

Performance Theatre (semester) *by audition only

Students will plan and perform an audition for entry into this semester class. All accepted students will participate as actors in a fall play or spring musical production. While the class focuses on acting, students will also have the opportunity to increase their technical skills.

School Publications (semester)

Middle school publication courses teach students the fundamentals of journalism, photography, and graphic design to produce the school yearbook, newspaper, or digital news broadcast. Students develop skills in writing, editing, interviewing, and layout design while working collaboratively to document school events and, often, manage advertising sales.

Electives (Grade 8)

Spanish I (year-long)

This advanced course is designed to teach and build upon students' understanding and use of the language, vocabulary, and Spanish culture. ***Successful completion of Spanish I yields a high school credit and will count toward the high school grade point average (GPA).***

**** Prerequisite- must have a B average in English for teacher to recommend the class***

Band (year-long)

This course encompasses advanced music fundamentals and skills that develop musicianship. Instruction includes instrumental mastery, performance, and evaluation. Prior instrumental instruction is required. Associated costs.

Computer Science and Society (semester)

This course will increase student understanding of basic computer programming concepts and logic. Students will be introduced to programming through a variety of projects and object based programming activities and applications. Students will explore and demonstrate business related skills such as teamwork, interpersonal skills and ethics while completing projects.

- Using code.org curriculum, students will discover how to learn how to code html/css websites in a project-based environment where they can demonstrate the skills they are utilizing. Students will create basic websites and webpages.

Art (year long)

In the year-long 8th grade Visual Arts course, experienced art students will have the opportunity to dive deeper into art content than they have in previous years. Students will learn more about complex and larger scale art processes and mediums, including paper mache, printmaking, weaving, and new drawing techniques. In this course students will also learn about arts and culture, artists and art history, and how to speak about art in an academic setting. Students will work throughout the year to create a portfolio of work to take home with them at the end of the school year and will have the opportunity for their artwork to be put into shows throughout the year.

*** Prerequisite- must have Mrs. Williams sign off on course selection sheet**

Art (semester)

This progressive course builds upon artistic skills and concepts introduced in previous courses to create a foundation for future art studies. Students will explore the 7 elements of art through a variety of projects and different mediums.

Career and Family Consumer Science (semester)

Middle School Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) courses focus on teaching students essential life skills for independent living, personal management, and career exploration through hands-on, project-based learning. Key units often include nutrition and food preparation, basic textile sewing, financial literacy, child development, and interpersonal relationship skills.

Theatre (semester)

This course will increase students' understanding and appreciation of the theatre arts. Students will complete advanced versions of the playwriting, set, and costume design projects. Students can also enhance their acting skills and perform a scene at the semester show.

Stage Crew Theatre (semester)

This intermediate course will increase students' understanding and appreciation of design and technical theatre skills. Students will complete advanced versions of the playwriting, set, and costume design projects, as well as projects in state management, lighting design, sound design, set construction, etc. Students will have the opportunity to participate as stage crew members for the semester show.

Choir (year-long)

Designed to give students an opportunity to experience the joy of singing together and also to challenge the students to grow as individuals.

MIT APP Creator (Project Lead the Way) (semester)

"App Creators" is a Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Gateway middle school computer science course designed for grades 6-8. It introduces students to computational thinking, coding, and the app development lifecycle, challenging them to create their own mobile applications to solve real-world problems.

Creative Writing (semester)

Explores different writing genres through reading and writing. It also explains and helps understand the necessary elements to improve writing and composition skills.

Performance Theatre (semester) *by audition only

Students will plan and perform an audition for entry into this semester class. All accepted students will participate as actors in a fall play or spring musical production. While the class focuses on acting, students will also have the opportunity to increase their technical skills.

School Publications (semester)

Middle school publication courses teach students the fundamentals of journalism, photography, and graphic design to produce the school yearbook, newspaper, or digital news broadcast. Students develop skills in writing, editing, interviewing, and layout design while working collaboratively to document school events and, often, manage advertising sales.

Computer Science and Society (semester)

This course will increase student understanding of basic computer programming concepts and logic. Students will be introduced to programming through a variety of projects and object based programming activities and applications. Students will explore and demonstrate business related skills such as teamwork, interpersonal skills and ethics while completing projects.

Using code.org curriculum, students will discover how to learn how to code html/css websites in a project-based environment where they can demonstrate the skills they are utilizing. Students will create basic websites and webpages.

Health Science Discoveries (semester)

Health Science Discoveries for middle school (typically grades 6–8) introduces students to the healthcare industry, medical terminology, and basic human anatomy. The curriculum focuses on exploring health career pathways, legal/ethical issues, and foundational skills like taking vital signs and, in some cases, basic first aid.

Career Prep A (Semester) * required course

Career Preparedness (often split into A and B semesters) is a required high school, one-credit course designed to equip students with essential knowledge and skills for college and career success. The course focuses on three integrated areas: academic planning and career development, financial literacy, and technology applications.

****If you take 2 year long electives, you may qualify to take Career Prep online***

Course Information

Course Changes

Students and parents should carefully consider student participation in advanced courses. Teacher recommendations and your student's grades and achievement test scores can help you make an informed decision. Course selections are a semester commitment.

Elective and Academy course offerings are subject to change due to enrollment and scheduling needs.

Course Information

Required Academic Courses

Language Arts

6, 7, 8

Math

Math 6, 7, 8

Science

6, 7, 8

Social Studies

6, 7, 8

Physical Education

6, 7, 8

OPTIONAL ADVANCED COURSES

Advanced Language Arts- Grades 6, 7, 8

Honors Math- Grade 6

Accelerated Math- Grades 7, 8

Accelerated Math 7 is a prerequisite course for Accelerated Math 8.

Advanced Science- Grades 7, 8

Advanced Social Studies- Grades 7, 8

Extracurricular Opportunities

Student- Athlete

Pelham Park Middle School offers a structured and well-organized athletic program that supports the development of students by promoting self-expression, mental focus, and physical growth. Participation in athletics is voluntary and reflects a student's commitment to self-discipline. The athletic department may communicate specific expectations and the program's philosophy as needed.

Baseball

Cross Country

Indoor Track

Wrestling

Bowling

Cheerleading

Track and Field

Basketball

Soccer

Golf

Football

Tennis

Volleyball

Softball

THE STATE ELIGIBILITY RULES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Students entering the seventh grade for the first time are eligible. Sixth-grade students are not eligible to participate per AHSAA rules.
2. The maximum age limit for seventh and eighth-grade competitions is 15 years of age on or after August 1 of the current year to be eligible.
3. A student must have passed a minimum of five subjects with a minimum composite numerical average of 70 in those five subjects and must have been promoted to the next grade during the last year in attendance in order to be eligible during the current school year.
4. A player eligible at the beginning of the year is eligible the whole year.
5. To be eligible students must have a current Alabama physical, birth certificate by the State Bureau of Vital Statistics in which the state the student was born, AHSAA Release Form, and AHSAA Concussion form on file in the Director of Athletics office.
6. Any member of a school athletic team who participates in an athletic contest as a member of a similar team during the same season shall be ineligible to compete under these rules for the remainder of the season.
7. A pupil must be legally enrolled in Pelham City Schools.

Optional Student Clubs

Yearbook: The Yearbook Club offers students real-world experience in print media publishing. Members collaborate to create, edit, and sell Pelham Park Middle School's yearbook. Students gain hands-on experience in photography, graphic design, layout, and editorial work. They also help with tasks like announcements, signage, polls, photography, and article writing.

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA): is a nonprofit educational career and technical student organization for young men and women preparing for careers in business and business-related fields.

Dance Team: The PPMS Golden Girls Dance Team performs between quarters and at halftime of the 7th and 8th-grade football games and during several home boys' and girls' basketball games and a local Dance Team Competition (this follows the state eligibility requirements for athletics).

Special Olympic Peer Buddies: This club is an opportunity for typical students to serve alongside a student with special needs during the Special Olympics and other events.

Book Club: This club is open to all grades and meets monthly. Students read a book in the assigned genre and then share about it to the group.

First Priority: This is a student-led Christian organization that seeks to provide middle school students with a club in which Christian students can belong. Students who wish to participate are encouraged to attend weekly meetings where local youth pastors train and equip to share the love of Christ. Student leaders are also coached and trained on how to spread the gospel at school.

National Junior Honor Society (NJHS): NJHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship.

Peer Helpers: The Pelham Park Middle School Peer Helpers are a group of 7th and 8th grade students who work together to promote and encourage a positive school climate. They also have the opportunity to work with the administration and students as a liaison in expressing concerns and suggestions. The students also represent PPMS at parent nights, visitor orientations, 5th grade orientation day, and other community activities.

Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA): Family, Career and Community Leaders of America is a technical student organization for students enrolled in Family and Consumer Sciences education. FCCLA provides opportunities for personal development and will help students become strong leaders, build good relationships, and learn about options for their future.

Math Club: Math Team/Club includes meetings with engaging math activities such as games and explorations, problem sets, and challenges that can be enjoyed by students in grades 7-8. Students build confidence and improve attitudes about math and problem solving. Students apply their skills to participate in a series of competitions.

***** All clubs and organizations are subject to change from year to year.***

