

SPRINGTON LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Pennsylvania School to Watch

Every Student. Every Day. No Matter What



Guide to Academic Programs 2020-2021

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A STATEMENT OF CORE BELIEFS & VISION

ROSE TREE MEDIA SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Students are the focus of the Rose Tree Media School District learning community. All students will reach their intellectual, emotional, social, and physical potential in a safe environment that celebrates diversity, individual talents and efforts, and promotes collaboration, caring, respect, and leadership. Students will be well-prepared to create meaningful and productive lives in a global society.

SPRINGTON LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

The Springton Lake Middle School, in partnership with the community, is committed to serving the unique needs of emerging adolescents by promoting a school culture that is grounded in high standards and academic excellence, is developmentally appropriate and responsive to the needs of our students, and that supports the success of each individual.

As a school community, we commit ourselves to the following core beliefs that demonstrate our

SPARTAN PRIDE

BE READY

I will come to school each day ready to learn.

I will embrace new challenges.

I will have a positive attitude and always put forth my very best effort.

BE RESPECTFUL

I will treat others as I wish to be treated.

I will honor perspectives, opinions, and cultures that differ from my own.

I will stand up for what is right.

BE RESPONSIBLE

I will ask for help when I need it.

I will be accountable for my words and actions.

I will work to my highest potential and strive to produce quality work.

BE RESILIENT

I will set high and attainable goals for myself.

I will persevere when the activity is challenging or requires additional effort.

I will learn from my mistakes.



I will work to make every day a great day.
STATEMENT OF BELIEFS - ASSESSMENT



Springton Lake Middle School recognizes that effective and ongoing assessment is an essential element of the teaching and learning process. When teachers embed assessment within their regular instructional practice, they gain valuable information about the progress that their students have made and how they may need to tailor their lessons so that all students are able to be successful. For our students, ongoing assessment serves as a means to receive feedback from teachers that ultimately will allow them to achieve mastery. With this in mind, we commit to the following:

Grades will reflect and communicate a student's mastery of the standards and specific learning objectives. To the greatest extent possible, student work habits such as participation, homework completion, and effort will be excluded as a factor in grade calculation. While these work habits are extremely important, and we will work to report progress to students and parents separately, they will not be a factor in determining a student's grade.

We will work to ensure greater consistency in our grading practices so that the teacher to which a student is assigned will not influence how the child is assessed.

Additional work and practice outside of the school day may be required as part of the teaching and learning process. While this work is an expectation, it will not necessarily be a factor in the student's grade. The final achievement of learning is far more important than the steps that it took to get there.

Teachers will provide students with meaningful and timely feedback that is designed to help them to achieve mastery in the subject area.

Behind every piece of work is a valued young person who is a part of our Springton Lake school community. Assessment and grading will be instructive so that our students feel empowered rather than diminished.

Students learn at different rates and in different ways. Some students may master a concept quickly, while others may need additional instruction, practice, and feedback. Because our ultimate goal is mastery for all, teachers may give students an opportunity for a second chance. Because assessments vary widely among classes, the process and types of assessments that may be re-done will be at teacher discretion. In order to be eligible for this opportunity, students will need to document their additional efforts and remediation plans as required by the teacher.

Students who fail to complete major assignments as defined by the teacher may receive an incomplete until such time as the work is submitted. Because we believe that all assignments contribute in a meaningful way to the learning, students should not have the option to "opt" out.

8th GRADE PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION

CORE AREA REQUIRED COURSES – FULL YEAR

Language Arts
Social Studies
Mathematics
Earth and Environmental Science

SPECIAL AREA ROTATION – QUARTERLY

Media Studies
Health
Family & Consumer Science
STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics)

SPECIAL AREA ROTATION – FULL YEAR

Art and Visual & Graphic Design
Music (Band, Chorus, Orchestra, Music Lab)
Physical Education

CORE EXTENSION

Academic Workshop
AGP Seminar
Resource
Team Time

LANGUAGE ARTS

Course Code: 108H

Language Arts 8

This course develops the eighth-grade student's literacy habits and skills through a blend of workshop and traditional instructional approaches, as the students prepare for the transition to high school.

Students engage in ongoing reading work and literature analysis using selected mentor texts, including novels, short stories, poetry, and drama. Students study the elements of literature, analyze text structure, author's use of language and literary devices, and author's purpose while participating in an intense study of memoir, historical fiction, and the hero's journey with a strong focus on archetypes.

Writing instruction in this course focuses on using the writing process to develop fictional narratives with historical accuracy and personal memoirs. Writing instruction takes place through teacher modeling, writing workshop, and teacher conferring. Poetry and literary analyses are also written throughout the year. Lessons on grammar and mechanics will be integrated within each unit.

Instruction will be differentiated based upon each child's strengths, interests, and progress at the time. The lessons and units are aligned to the PA Core Standards for English Language Arts.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Course Code: 308H

Social Studies 8

The Eighth Grade United States History course explores themes in American history from the late nineteenth century to modern times. There are eight major units of study including Big Business, Immigration, American Global Influence, the Changing Nation, Cooperation and Conflict, Equality, Political Polarization and Modern Hot Topics. These units touch on American history and link those events to 21st century topics. Students use inquiry and research to create activities and projects that develop their curiosity and critical thinking abilities. Primary source materials from the Gilded Era, the Wall Street Journal, World War II and the Persian Gulf Conflicts will help students understand how the past impacts the present, and how they may influence their future. In addition, the building of the skyscrapers, the development of future cities and the nation's continuing path to a working democracy "with equality and justice for all" are some of the topics that students will explore in this course. The development of research, writing, and study skills, as well as an understanding of American history are an integral part of the program.

MATHEMATICS

The Mathematics curriculum in the Rose Tree Media School District follows a progression of courses that carefully build upon one another. Movement from one course to the next in the sequence requires satisfactory mastery of the applicable concepts and Pennsylvania Academic Standards.

Course Code: 0809

Algebra II

This advanced course includes the study of linear equations and inequalities, systems of linear open sentences (algebraic and graphing solutions), linear functions and relations, product and factors of polynomials, rational expressions, irrational and complex numbers, quadratic equations and functions, variation and polynomial equations, matrices, sequences, series, selected probability and statistical topics, and conic sections. Students will utilize a graphing calculator to explore the course content. Placement in this course is contingent upon successful completion of Geometry with a final course average of 80% or better. Starting with Algebra I, students in all higher-level mathematics courses would benefit from having access to a graphing calculator.

Course Code: 0807

Geometry

In this advanced course, students will study deductive reasoning and its application through the study of plane and spatial figures. Students will expand their knowledge of mathematical terms and ideas and will apply algebraic concepts and skills. Topics of study include: parallel lines, perpendicular lines, circles, congruent and similar figures, (triangles, quadrilaterals, and other closed figures), transformations, area, volume, and constructions. Placement in this course is contingent upon successful completion of Algebra I with a final course average of 80% or better AND a passing score on the Algebra I Keystone Examination. Starting with Algebra I, students in all higher-level mathematics courses would benefit from having access to a graphing calculator.

Course Code: 208AA

Algebra 1

Algebra is a language used to extend the ideas of arithmetic. Variables are used to represent numbers and these variables are combined according to the rules of algebra. Students learn to simplify expressions with variables, to solve systems of equations and inequalities, as well as addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of polynomials along with square roots and the solution of quadratic equations. Exponents, radicals, and operations with rational expressions are also explored. A primary goal of algebra is the use of mathematical ideas in solving a wide variety of real-world problems. Students are required to take and pass the Algebra I Keystone Examination at the conclusion of the course. Placement in this course is based upon multiple criteria, included MAP and PSSA scores, performance in the previous year's mathematics course, qualifying score on the IOWA Algebra Readiness Assessment, and teacher recommendation. Starting with Algebra I, students in all higher-level mathematics courses would benefit from having access to a graphing calculator.

Course Code: 208H
Mathematics 8

This course will place a strong emphasis on the continued study of integers, order of operations, variables, expressions, and equations. Students will solve and graph equations and inequalities, write and solve proportions, and explore geometry, statistics, and graphing concepts. Problem solving will be emphasized throughout the course. Instruction will be carefully aligned with the grade level standards in mathematics. Students who successfully complete this course will have an opportunity to begin the formal study of Algebra I the following year.

SCIENCE

Course Code: 408H

Science 8

The eighth-grade science curriculum utilizes a real-world, inquiry-based approach to learning earth science, environmental science, and chemistry. The topics of study include: density, chemical properties and changes, phase changes and states of matter, conservation of matter, plate tectonics, weather, heat transfer, biogeochemical cycles, and applications of the scientific method. Students learn the content in the context of exploring and answering several broad, meaningful questions about the world around us. For example, students grapple with questions such as, “What is air?” or “What processes within Earth cause geologic activity?”

7th GRADE PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION

CORE AREA REQUIRED COURSES – FULL YEAR

Language Arts
Mathematics
Physical Science
Social Studies

SPECIAL AREA ROTATION – QUARTERLY

Media Studies
Health
Family & Consumer Science
STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics)

SPECIAL AREA ROTATION – FULL YEAR

Art and Visual & Graphic Design
Music (Band, Chorus, Orchestra, Music Lab)
Physical Education

CORE EXTENSION

Academic Workshop
AGP Seminar
Resource
Team Time

LANGUAGE ARTS

Course Code: 107H

Language Arts 7

This course continues to develop the seventh-grade student's literacy habits and skills through a reading and writing workshop model. The workshop model incorporates mini-lessons, small group work, conferring, writing and reading response, as well as a high volume of daily, independent reading to improve student learning.

Students engage in ongoing reading work and literature analysis utilizing selected mentor texts, including novels, short stories, non-fiction articles, poetry, and drama, as well as student-selected texts to study the elements of literature (plot, character, conflict, theme and setting.) Seventh grade students also analyze text structure and author's use of language, and participate in an intense book study of the dystopian genre. Students also develop their non-fiction reading skills in longer non-fiction text.

Writing instruction in this course focuses on using the writing process to develop fictional narratives and non-fiction pieces. Reading response, poetry, and literary analyses are also written throughout the year. Lessons on grammar, mechanics, speaking, and listening will be integrated into each unit.

Instruction will be differentiated based upon each child's strengths, interests, and progress at the time. The lessons and units are aligned to the PA Core Standards for English Language Arts.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Course Code: 307H

Social Studies 7

This course will emphasize the formation and growth of the United States of America as the new country developed into a world power. There are four major units of study incorporated into the course. These units include the creation and analysis of the United States Constitution from its inception to the current day, the challenges (both foreign and domestic) facing the new government established by the Constitution, the political, economic, and social impact of the expansion of the United States during Manifest Destiny, and the sectional differences on slavery and the American Civil War. Students have an opportunity to use and analyze primary source material in the context of the course.

MATHEMATICS

The Mathematics curriculum in the Rose Tree Media School District follows a progression of courses that carefully build upon one another. Movement from one course to the next course in the sequence requires satisfactory mastery of the applicable concepts and Pennsylvania Academic Standards.

Course Code: 0807

Geometry

In this advanced course, students will study deductive reasoning and its application through the study of plane and spatial figures. Students will expand their knowledge of mathematical terms and ideas and will apply algebraic concepts and skills. Topics of study include: parallel lines, perpendicular lines, circles, congruent and similar figures, (triangles, quadrilaterals, and other closed figures), transformations, area, volume, and constructions. Placement in this course is contingent upon successful completion of Algebra I with a final course average of 80% or better AND a passing score on the Algebra I Keystone Examination. Starting with Algebra I, students in all higher-level mathematics courses would benefit from having access to a graphing calculator.

Course Code: 207AA

Algebra 1

Algebra is a language used to extend the ideas of arithmetic. Variables are used to represent numbers and these variables are combined according to the rules of algebra. Students learn to simplify expressions with variables, to solve systems of equations and inequalities, as well as addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of polynomials along with square roots and the solution of quadratic equations. Exponents, radicals, and operations with rational expressions are also explored. A primary goal of algebra is the use of mathematical ideas in solving a wide variety of real-world problems. Students are required to take and pass the Algebra I Keystone Examination at the conclusion of the course. Placement in this course is based upon multiple criteria, included MAP and PSSA scores, performance in the previous year's mathematics course, qualifying score on the IOWA Algebra Readiness Assessment, and teacher recommendation. Starting with Algebra I, students in all higher-level mathematics courses would benefit from having access to a graphing calculator.

Course Code: 207A

Accelerated Mathematics 7

This course will place a strong emphasis on the continued study of integers, order of operations, variables, expressions, and equations. Students will solve and graph equations and inequalities, write and solve proportions, and explore geometry, statistics, and graphing concepts. Problem solving will be emphasized throughout the course. Instruction in this accelerated course will be carefully aligned with the 8th grade standards in mathematics. Students who successfully complete this course will have an opportunity to begin the formal study of Algebra I the following year.

Course Code: 207H
Mathematics 7

This grade level course will focus on the 7th grade Pennsylvania Academic Standards for mathematics. The course will place a strong emphasis on the continued study of integers, order of operations, variables, expressions, and equations. Students will solve and graph equations and inequalities, write and solve proportions, and explore geometry, statistics, and graphing concepts. Problem solving will be emphasized throughout the course.

SCIENCE

Course Code: 407H

Science 7

The seventh-grade science curriculum utilizes a hands-on, inquiry approach to learning. This course begins with the scientific method, later following with basic principles of physics. Topics of study throughout the year include basic atomic theory, motion, force, energy, simple machines and astronomy. Students will complete laboratory activities as they engage in the process of science to answer questions such as, “How do we use machines to move large heavy objects?”, “How do I harness energy to do work for me?”, “How do we create a vehicle that will go fast, far, straight and carry a load?”, and “How does gravity affect the universe?”

6th GRADE PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION

CORE AREA REQUIRED COURSES – FULL YEAR

Language Arts
Mathematics
Life Science
Social Studies

SPECIAL AREA ROTATION – QUARTERLY

Media Studies
Health
Family & Consumer Science
STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics)

SPECIAL AREA ROTATION – FULL YEAR

Art and Visual & Graphic Design
Music (Band, Chorus, Orchestra, Music Lab)
Physical Education

CORE EXTENSION

Academic Workshop
AGP Seminar
Resource
Team Time

LANGUAGE ARTS

Course Code: 106H

Language Arts 6

This course develops the sixth-grade student's literacy habits and skills through a reading and writing workshop model. The workshop model incorporates mini lessons, small group work, and conferring to improve student learning. In addition, the workshop model is based on a high volume of daily, independent reading and writing.

Students engage in ongoing reading work and literature analysis using selected mentor texts, including novels, short stories, poetry, and drama, as well as student-selected texts to study of the elements of literature (plot, character, conflict, theme and setting). Sixth grade students also analyze narrative techniques, and participate in in-depth studies of how authors develop characters, use perspective, convey theme, and address social issues.

Writing instruction in this course focuses on writing personal narratives and literary analysis essays linked to texts of the students' choice. Poetry and responses to reading are also written throughout the year. Lessons on grammar and mechanics will be integrated in all units.

The lessons and units are aligned to the PA Core Standards for English Language Arts.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Course Code: 306H

Social Studies 6

This course emphasizes the development of fundamental geographic and historical literacy skills incorporated into the study of modern Europe, Asia, and Africa. These skills are infused throughout the curriculum-based study of modern history, economics, government, and physical, political, and cultural geography. The units of study include general geography and map skills, European geography, World War II and the Holocaust, Post-WWII Europe and the Cold War, East Asian geography, the atomic bombing of Japan, Post-WWII East Asia and the Cold War, Middle East geography, religion, history, and conflict, African geography, the European colonization of Africa and its effects, and a literature unit using the text, *A Long Walk to Water*.

MATHEMATICS

The Mathematics curriculum in the Rose Tree Media School District follows a progression of courses that carefully build upon one another. Movement from one course to the next course in the sequence requires satisfactory mastery of the applicable concepts and Pennsylvania Academic Standards.

Course Code: 206A

Accelerated Mathematics 6

This course serves as a continuation of the elementary AMP program and provides students with a foundation for algebraic reasoning and process. Topics of study include operations with integers, fractions, decimals, and percentages; applications of these arithmetic skills to problems involving measurement, percent, ratio, and proportion; and math study skills. Students will also explore concepts of two- and three-dimensional geometry. The introduction to algebra consists of operations on signed numbers, algebraic expressions, solving linear equations and an introduction to graphing. Placement in this course is based upon multiple criteria, included MAP and PSSA scores, performance in the previous year's mathematics course, and teacher recommendation.

Course Code: 206H

Mathematics 6

Students in this grade-level course begin the study of more abstract mathematical concepts. Students will learn ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning for problem solving; perform fraction and decimal operations and study rational numbers; write, interpret and use expressions, equations and inequalities; solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; summarize and describe distributions and understand variability. This course specifically focuses on the grade six Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Mathematics.

SCIENCE

Course Code: 406H

Science 6

The sixth-grade science curriculum emphasizes the nature of science and the scientific method. The principles of life science are taught and the topics include: cells, six kingdoms of living things, genetics, natural selection, environment and ecology. This course utilizes guided inquiry laboratory activities and projects to provide students with an understanding about our living world and the process of science. Students learn the content in the context of exploring and answering several broad, meaningful questions about the world around us. For example, students grapple with questions such as, “How does our knowledge of genetics impact our lives and the world?”, “How can our knowledge of diseases and their transmission help to identify and prevent outbreaks?” and “How does water quality affect the ecology of a community?”

WORLD LANGUAGE

Many students will have an opportunity to begin the study of a World Language during middle school. The World Language program at Springton Lake includes both French and Spanish.

Eligible students who begin the formal study of a World Language with the exploratory program in 6th grade (one semester of Spanish and one semester of French) will continue their study of the language of their choice for their 7th and 8th grade years.

Eligible students who did not begin the study of a World Language in 6th grade will be placed in Spanish 1A or French 1A regardless of their current grade level.

Upon successful completion of Spanish 1A or French 1A (7th grade course) and Spanish 1B or French 1B (8th grade course), students will have completed the first year of their high school graduation requirement for World Language.

Please note: Students wishing to switch the language that they are studying may do so in the ninth grade. Also, students who did not begin the study of a world language at the Middle School may do so at the High School.

Course Code: 506H

Introduction to French

In this half of the exploratory program, students begin developing the linguistic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in French. Emphasis is placed on basic introductory and conversational vocabulary as well as cultural aspects of the past and contemporary Francophone world.

Course Code: 516H

Introduction to Spanish

In this half of the exploratory program, students begin developing the linguistic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in Spanish. Emphasis is placed on basic introductory and conversational vocabulary as well as cultural aspects of the past and contemporary Spanish-speaking world.

Course Code: 507H

French 1A

In this first full year of language study, students who have completed the exploratory program and who have chosen French for their middle school language of study, will continue developing the linguistic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in French. Emphasis is placed on basic grammatical structures and vocabulary development as well as cultural aspects of the past and contemporary Francophone world.

Course Code: 517H

Spanish 1A

In this first full year of language study, students who have completed the exploratory program and who have chosen Spanish for their middle school language of study, will continue developing the linguistic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in Spanish. Emphasis is placed on basic grammatical structures and vocabulary development as well as cultural aspects of the past and contemporary Spanish-speaking world.

Course Code: 508H

French 1B

In this second full year of language study, students who have completed both beginner courses will continue developing the linguistic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in French. Emphasis is placed on more advanced grammatical structures and vocabulary development as well as cultural aspects of the past and contemporary Francophone world.

Course Code: 518H

Spanish 1B

In this second full year of language study, students who have completed both beginner courses will continue developing the linguistic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in Spanish. Emphasis is placed on more advanced grammatical structures and vocabulary development as well as cultural aspects of the past and contemporary Spanish-speaking world.

SPECIAL AREA COURSES

Course Code: 836, 837, & 838

6th Grade Health

Students will learn all about the structure and function of the nervous system as it relates to their developing brain. Students will investigate the different parts of the brain and explore ways to develop and keep it safe and healthy. Through this, students will expand on their executive functioning and intrapersonal skills. Students will practice stress management, decision making, and conflict resolution. Students will also explore their senses and how messages are interpreted in the brain, helping to understand disabilities such as visual and auditory impairments. Students will learn about the peripheral nervous system and the complex communication system that takes place between the brain and the body to create movement and interpret pain. Finally, students will examine the effects of drugs and alcohol on the developing brain and how addiction occurs.

7th Grade Health

Students will analyze the interdependence among the body systems, analyze factors that impact nutritional choices and understand the consequences of their choices, such as obesity and eating disorders. Students will explore the risk factors that impact growth and development between adolescence and adulthood, specifically alcohol and opioids. Additionally, students will analyze and apply a decision-making process to health and safety issues.

8th Grade Health

Students will begin the semester by understanding how they learn and they will focus on their positive quality traits, as well as how to build up self-esteem of both themselves and others. Over the course of the semester, the following units are discussed and studied; stress, bullying/suicide, drugs (vaping/juuling, opioids, prescription drugs, and alcohol), dating/relationships/communication, and finally STIs/reproductive systems/HIV/AIDS. The major, underlying theme of the eighth-grade health program is smart social choices. Students are asked to learn about, brainstorm, discuss, and analyze ways to make smart social choices in many different life contexts.

This class meets 3x/cycle for one marking period each year.

Course Code: 806, 807, & 808

6, 7, 8th Grade Physical Education

Physical Education provides students with a variety of opportunities to participate in activities that promote lifelong fitness practices and will stress physical, social, and intellectual development. The diverse capabilities and social needs of individual students are addressed in the physical education program. Students are given opportunities to develop leadership and social skills with work in small groups to solve problems or accomplish tasks. Through purposeful learning activities, students are guided to refine motor, social, and intellectual skills, which promote a fit and active lifestyle through adventure education, aquatics, cooperative, field, fitness and weight training, individual, invasion, group, multicultural, net, and recreational activities. This course will take place and utilize the weight room/fitness center, cardio/exergaming room, natatorium, gymnasium (equipped with a climbing wall, ropes and elements), auxiliary gym, quarter mile track, 1.2-mile biking/ hiking trail, and field facilities. Effective with the 2020-2021 school year, all classes will be co-education.

This class will meet every other day for the entire school year.

Course Code: 826, 827, & 828

8th Grade Family & Consumer Sciences

In 8th Grade, students will explore activities related to purchasing homes, personal finance, job interviews, and food preparation. When studying food preparation, students will utilize different leavening ingredients and learn how they react when preparing food.

7th Grade Family & Consumer Sciences

In 7th Grade, students will learn basic food preparation including proper measuring, food safety and sanitation, and following a recipe. They also explore the importance of manners, consumerism, and nutrition.

6th Grade Family & Consumer Sciences

The main focus for students in 6th grade is learning how to sew. Students learn the parts of the sewing machine, sewing machine safety, and how to operate the sewing machine. Each student will construct a multi-purpose bag during this course. The basics of childcare are also discussed throughout the marking period.

This class meets 3x/cycle for one marking period each year.

Course Code: 726, 727, & 728
6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Media Studies

Media Studies provides students an opportunity to examine, analyze, and evaluate different forms of media that they use or are exposed to everyday. Students will gain valuable technology skills through this project-based learning class.

6th grade – This course begins with an introduction to the core concepts of media literacy and the idea of “digital citizenship” in which students consider how to respectfully and responsibly use their digital technology and social media. Next, students will become reporters as they explore the news. They will learn how to determine what is news and will learn how to spot fake news.

7th grade - Students will go behind the scenes and explore how movies are made. They will analyze the various shots used in film composition and the meaning behind them. The entire process of a film from start to finish will be explored and students will have the opportunity to work together in film crews to produce their own scenes.

8th grade - Students will examine advertisements and the various techniques used to persuade consumers. They will analyze commercials, social media advertising, and print media. Students will work to create a product and film a commercial using persuasive advertising techniques.

This class meets 3x/cycle for one marking period each year.

Course Code: 786, 787, & 788
6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Visual & Graphic Design

Visual & Graphic Design will provide students with an opportunity to explore the digital world of desktop publishing. Students will also develop some computer skills with each project and assignment.

6th Grade - Students will study composition in photography. Students will learn how to compose better photographs and will be introduced to photo editing with the use of the Pixlr app in Chrome.

7th Grade - Students will study the elements of art and typography and how they incorporated in graphic art. The students will continue with Pixlr app and creating graphic art along with Google slide and Google drawing.

8th Grade - Students will study the principles of design and learn how to create advertisements, logos, magazine covers, and packaging in graphic design.

This class will meet 3x/cycle for one marking period each year.

Course Code: 716, 717, & 718
Art

Students will rotate each marking period through a series of experiences in the visual arts. Each marking period will have a specific focus and medium – Color & Design, Drawing, and Mixed Media. The art program is scheduled in conjunction with the Visual & Graphic Design course to provide students with a full-year art experience. Each component within this yearlong program will meet 3x/cycle and will be taught by a different teacher who specializes in the designated area. All courses will provide an opportunity for students to showcase and display their work.

Color & Design:

6th Grade - This course provides a foundation for sixth-grade students to be successful throughout their Springton Lake Middle School art career. Exposure to works of art, artists and basics of color and design will be emphasized through different subject matter, processes, painting techniques and materials. Students will develop skills in visual self-expression, problem solving and analysis as stated in the Pennsylvania Art Standards in Education. The assignments are thought provoking, engaging and provide hands-on experience.

7th Grade - Seventh grade Color & Design class continues to engage students in the visual arts. Experiences include further investigation of color and design concepts through a variety of subject matter, processes, painting techniques and materials. Art appreciation could include an exposure to art forms from different cultures as well as individual artists. Students continue to develop skills in visual self-expression, problem solving and analysis, which are aligned to the Pennsylvania Art Standards in Education.

8th Grade - This culminating year for eighth grade students will showcase their skills and knowledge of the visual arts. Students will continue to work towards mastery of using color and design concepts through a variety of subject matter, processes, painting techniques and materials. Exploration of art appreciation and skills in visual self-expression, problem solving and analysis will continue in this Pennsylvania Art Standards based curriculum.

Drawing:

6th Grade - This course provides a foundation for sixth-grade students to be successful throughout their Springton Lake Middle School art career. Exposure to works of art, artists and the basics of drawing will be emphasized through different subject matter, processes, techniques and materials. Students will develop skills in visual self-expression, problem solving and analysis as stated in the Pennsylvania Art Standards in Education. The assignments are thought provoking, engaging and provide hands-on experience.

7th Grade - Drawing class continues to engage students in the visual arts. Experiences include further development of drawing skills through a variety of subject matter, processes, techniques and materials. Art appreciation could include an exposure to art forms from different cultures as well as individual artists. Students continue to develop skills in visual self-expression, problem solving and analysis, which are aligned to the Pennsylvania Art Standards in Education.

8th Grade - This culminating year for eighth-grade students will showcase their skills and knowledge of the visual arts. Students will continue to work towards mastery of drawing skills through a variety of subject matter, processes, techniques and materials. Exploration of art appreciation and skills in visual self-expression, problem solving and analysis will continue in this Pennsylvania Art Standards based curriculum.

Mixed Media:

6th Grade - This course provides a foundation for sixth-grade students to be successful throughout their Springton Lake Middle School art career. Exposure to works of art and artists will be emphasized through experimenting with a wide variety of materials, subject matter, techniques and processes which may include two-dimensional and three-dimensional art forms. Students will develop skills in visual self-expression, problem solving and analysis as stated in the Pennsylvania Art Standards in Education. The assignments are thought provoking, engaging and provide hands-on experience.

7th Grade – Seventh-grade Mixed Media class continues to engage students in the visual arts. Experiences include further exploration of a variety of art forms which may include two-dimensional and three-dimensional artwork using different processes, techniques and materials. Art appreciation could include an exposure to art forms from different cultures as well as individual artists. Students continue to develop skills in visual self-expression, problem solving and analysis, which are aligned to the Pennsylvania Art Standards in Education.

8th Grade - This culminating year for eighth-grade students will showcase their skills and knowledge of the visual arts. Students will continue to work towards gaining confidence experimenting with different art forms which may include two-dimensional and three-dimensional artwork through a variety of subject matter, processes, techniques and materials. Exploration of art appreciation and skills in visual self-expression, problem solving and analysis will continue in this Pennsylvania Art Standards based curriculum.

MUSIC

All students will choose at least one musical elective per year. Students with a strong interest in music may choose to combine participation in chorus with one of the instrumental ensembles - either band or orchestra.

Course Code: 738

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Music Lab

Music Lab is a non-performing class available for students who do not wish to participate in band, chorus, or orchestra. Students study musical styles and history. They create, perform in class, and listen to a variety of music genres. Students will have an opportunity to pursue various project-based assignments using available technology. Students learn about the instrument families, including opportunities to play piano keyboards, drums, and ukuleles. This class meets 3x/cycle for the entire school year.

Course Code: 748

8th Grade Chorus

Chorus meets four times each cycle. Three of these classes are small group sectionals and the fourth class is a full choral rehearsal. These rehearsals are conducted during the regular school day. The 8th grade chorus performs two evening concerts and two in-school assemblies each year, with additional performances for the school and community. They also finish the school year with an adjudication trip where they will receive feedback from professionals from the choral world. Chorus emphasizes vocal technique, music theory, stage presence, and responsibility to the performing group. In addition, 8th grade students will continue to sight-sing in solfege, sing with correct diction, perform in four-part harmony, and perform at least one song in a cappella style.

Course Code: 747

7th Grade Chorus

Chorus meets four times each cycle. Three of these classes are small group sectionals and the fourth class is a full choral rehearsal. These rehearsals are conducted during the regular school day. The 7th grade chorus performs two evening concerts and two in-school assemblies each year, with additional performances for the school and community. Chorus emphasizes vocal technique, music theory, stage presence, and responsibility to the performing group. Seventh grade students will sing in three-part harmony. In addition, 7th grade students will learn how to sight-sing in solfege, sing with correct diction, perform a medley of challenging songs in alternating keys and tempo, and perform at least one song by the Beatles.

Course Code: 746

6th Grade Chorus

Chorus meets four times each cycle. Three of these classes are small group sectionals and the fourth class is a full choral rehearsal. These rehearsals are conducted during the regular school day. The 6th grade chorus performs two evening concerts and two in-school assemblies each year, with additional performances for the school and community. Chorus emphasizes vocal technique, music literacy, stage presence, and responsibility to the performing group. Sixth grade students will perform a wide selection of music in two and three-part harmony.

Course Code: 758**8th Grade Concert Band**

Band students develop both their individual and ensemble skills in group lessons, as well as full-ensemble rehearsals. Band meets four times per cycle. Three of the classes are sectionals where students will meet with others who play the same or similar instrument. The fourth class is a large ensemble rehearsal where all band students in the grade meet. All rehearsals are conducted during the regular school day. Performance concepts are centered around Grade 2 to 3.5 level concert literature, as well as Level 3 of the *Tradition of Excellence Comprehensive Band Method* series as published by Kjos. The 8th grade band performs two evening concerts and two in-school assemblies each year. In addition to the concert activities, the 8th grade band explores the world of marching band in the months of September, October, and part of November. Marching band activities include marching in parades and playing at a football game with the Penncrest High School Band.

Course Code: 757**7th Grade Concert Band**

Band students develop both their individual and ensemble skills in group lessons, as well as full-ensemble rehearsals. Band meets four times per cycle. Three of the classes are sectionals where students will meet with others who play the same or similar instrument. The fourth class is a large ensemble rehearsal where all band students in the grade meet. Performance concepts are centered around Grade 1.5 to 2.5 level concert literature, as well as Level 2 of the *Tradition of Excellence Comprehensive Band Method* series as published by Kjos. All rehearsals are conducted during the regular school day. The 7th grade band performs two evening concerts and two in-school assemblies each year.

Course Code: 756**6th Grade Concert Band**

Band students develop both their individual and ensemble skills in group lessons, as well as full-ensemble rehearsals. Band meets four times per cycle. Three of the classes are sectionals where students will meet with others who play the same or similar instrument. The fourth class is a large ensemble rehearsal where all band students in the grade meet. Performance concepts are centered around Grade 1 to 2 level concert literature as well as Level 1 of the *Tradition of Excellence Comprehensive Band Method* series as published by Kjos. All rehearsals are conducted during the regular school day. The 6th grade band performs two evening concerts and two in-school assemblies each year.

Course Code: 768**8th Grade Orchestra**

Orchestra meets four times each cycle. Three of these classes are small group sectionals and the fourth class is a full-group rehearsal. These rehearsals are conducted during the regular school day. The orchestra performs two evening concerts per year and has the opportunity to perform at community functions. Eighth grade orchestra members focus on reading more difficult rhythms (including various meters,) learning the spiccato bow stroke, and reading/understanding note names in D, G, C, and F Major, B + D minor and the chromatic scale. Eighth grade students also learn more advanced shifting techniques. Repertoire for this group includes contemporary compositions and arrangements of classical and popular music.

Course Code: 767**7th Grade Orchestra**

Orchestra meets four times each cycle. Three of these classes are small group sectionals and the fourth class is a full-group rehearsal. These rehearsals are conducted during the regular school day. The orchestra performs two evening concerts per year and has the opportunity to perform at community functions. Seventh grade orchestra members focus on reading more difficult rhythms (including syncopations and dotted rhythms), playing with slurred, staccato and hooked bow strokes, and reading/understanding note names in D, G, and C Major, B minor, and the chromatic scale. Seventh grade repertoire includes contemporary compositions and arrangements of classical and popular music.

Course Code: 766**6th Grade Orchestra**

Orchestra meets four times each cycle. Three of these classes are small group sectionals and the fourth class is a full-group rehearsal. These rehearsals are conducted during the regular school day. The orchestra performs two evening concerts per year. Sixth grade orchestra members focus on posture (bow and violin holds,) playing three to four different parts within the ensemble, playing slurred/legato bow strokes, and reading/understanding note names in D, G, and C Major.

Course Code: 776, 777, & 778
6, 7, 8th Grade STEM

Through interdisciplinary infusion of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics,) students will be provided an environment that motivates and encourages curiosity, critical thinking, problem solving, and collaboration. The class is designed to promote high school, college and career readiness by utilizing activities in the fields of transportation, energy, automation & mechanics. The specific area of focus and exploration varies each year:

6th Grade - Students will focus on flight technologies to gain a better understanding of the following concepts: scientific method, aerodynamics, flight controls, tool safety, hand tool usage, design, ballistics, and team work skills.

7th Grade - Students will focus on problem solving, robotics, simple machines, mechanical advantage, mechanics, design, and team work skills.

8th Grade - Students will focus on hovering technologies, scale technical drawing, design, machine tool safety, machine tool usage, problem solving, and critical thinking,

This class will meet 3x/cycle for one marking period each year.

CORE EXTENSION

All students will have a daily period of Core Extension as a part of their class schedule. This time serves a different purpose for each student and is tailored to individual needs. In addition to serving as a time for students to receive services as outlined in their IEP (Individualized Education Plan) or GIEP (Gifted Individualized Education Plan) most students will be scheduled for Academic Workshop during the Core Extension period. Some students will work independently during Academic Workshop, while others will receive additional support and targeted interventions in areas such as mathematics and language arts. These targeted interventions will provide students with the opportunity to work in smaller groups for a set period of time and are based upon ongoing assessment data. One time per cycle, all students will be scheduled for Team Time.

Course Code: AW6, AW7, & AW8

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Academic Workshop

Academic Workshop provides a structured and supervised opportunity during the school day for students to work on assignments and projects, study, or read. Academic Workshop is also an opportunity where students may be able to receive additional help from their teachers. Depending upon need, students may be specifically assigned to meet with a teacher for the purpose of completing make-up work or to receive additional help.

Course Code: REDO6, REDO7, & REDO8

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Team Time

Students will attend Team Time one time per cycle – on Day #7. Students will be assigned to one of the teachers on their team. Team Time will provide a designated opportunity during the school day for students to re-do assignments or assessments as outlined in Springton Lake's Statement of Beliefs for Assessment and Grading. Depending upon individual student need, students may also utilize this time to seek extra assistance from their teachers and/or to complete assigned work. Students with IEPs may also utilize this time for additional work and instruction on identified IEP goals.

ACADEMICALLY GIFTED PROGRAM – AGP

The Academically Gifted Program (AGP) provides eligible students in grades 6, 7, & 8 with an opportunity to explore areas of strength and/or interest within the curriculum in greater depth and complexity. Annually, students will participate in two, semester-long enrichment seminars. Each seminar meets for two days out of the cycle during the Core Extension (CE) period. While student choice and interest will influence the specific experience within each seminar, the following descriptions are designed to provide students and parents with a general overview of what to expect. Seminars in 6th grade will be exclusive to 6th grade students. In the upper grades, seminars will be cross-graded.

Grade 6:

STEM

In this course, students will apply critical thinking and problem-solving skills to hands on learning activities. This inquiry-based course will connect all four of the STEM subjects. Students will collaborate with their peers to brainstorm, critique ideas and develop solutions to real-world problems. Students enrolled in this seminar will also participate in the Delaware County STEM Design Challenge. Students will work in teams to engineer and design a device that will accomplish a task that can fulfill real-world needs using K'Nex building materials.

Forensic Science

Forensic Science is a course designed for students to gain experience in the investigative techniques used by forensic scientists and crime scene investigators. Students will use their skills to investigate crime scenes and attempt to solve cases based on suspect interviews and forensic science techniques such as: observation skills; evidence collection; hair analysis; fiber analysis; handwriting analysis; fingerprint analysis; blood evidence; and impression evidence. Students will collaborate to apply these techniques in solving various cases throughout the course.

Spartan TV

As part of the Spartan TV crew, students will learn an awareness of different types of media and be responsible for brainstorming and pitching ideas, researching, writing scripts, organizing, editing, and producing multiple segments to be shown to a school-wide audience. Possible projects include interviews, school news, sports, music, world and local news, human interest stories (with potentially a social studies focus), weather, geography, biographical stories of historical figures, literary book and poetry reviews and projects, point-counterpoint debates, and short documentaries. iMovie, video cameras, the use of a large green screen, and other technology, including animation apps, can be used to create segments in the school's television studio. Provided that space is available, students may choose to take this course both semesters, with the expectation that they will take on a leadership role in the studio their second semester.

Grades 7 & 8:

Astronomy

Students in this seminar will develop and apply various science and engineering practices to analyze the history and mythology of constellations and the observable changes in the night sky. Additionally, students will compare and contrast gravitational and light properties of our own Milky Way to those of distant galaxies and their components. Finally, the students will explore current satellites and the implications and possibilities of future space travel. Various technological applications and models will play an integral role in the investigation of these topics. The course views astronomy through the historical, linguistic, and mathematical lens with topic flexibility that appeals to a variety of student interests.

Chemistry

The focus of this seminar is to discover how chemistry impacts our everyday lives. Students will investigate the world of atoms and molecules through hands-on and inquiry-based activities involving common phenomena. Participants will be able to ask scientific questions and investigate them during a given experiment, design and conduct experiments to explain a given topic, understand their observations on the molecular level, and record and communicate results. Students will also have an opportunity to compete in the *You be the Chemist* challenge academic competition. This is a local, regional, and national academic competition for students in grades 5-8. Students will receive the materials for the competition and time will be incorporated within the seminar to review and study the information.

Controversies, Conspiracies, and Cover-Ups

Students enrolled in this seminar will take a closer look at some of the more “unconventional” aspects of history. Students will examine historical events through a lens of potential conspiracy and controversy. The course will go beyond the “textbook” version of history and analyze what *really* happened. Potential topics include the JFK assassination, the Watergate Scandal, Area 51, and other cover-ups throughout human history. Students will examine primary sources, looking for evidence and clues in order to come up with their own conclusion. Does history unfold as told, or are there more sinister components at work?

Mathematics

Students in this seminar will participate in the *National Math Club* program that provides game instructions, math explorations, and problem sets that are enjoyed by students of all skill levels. Students are engaged in friendly competition through games that require problem solving and math skills to win. Students can explore various math topics where they will collaborate on hands-on, nontraditional math activities. Students can also target on specific math skills through solving a set of related problems. As an active group, students can help earn additional recognition by going for a Silver or Gold level status by completing additional program activities.

Rights, Camera, Action!

Throughout this seminar, students will read and analyze primary source documents from American History in order to gain historical understanding. Our rights as citizens will be closely examined by discussing current events and Supreme Court cases throughout history. The course will also feature a *History vs. Hollywood* component, allowing for students to investigate the historical accuracy of major motion pictures. *We Didn't Start the Fire*, but we will continue to fuel it as students get an opportunity to create new stanzas for Billy Joel's famous song. Students will close the semester by working on self-directed research projects in the area of history and politics, exercising their voice by choosing a project topic of personal interest. Students will submit a proposal, conduct research, and then design a creative and engaging means to present their work.

Robotics

This seminar will provide students with the opportunity to be involved in the First Lego League robotics program. Students will engage in research, problem-solving, coding, and engineering. In addition to investigating a real-world problem, students will learn the basics to program a LEGO robot that navigates the missions of a robot game. The theme of the challenge and robot game changes each year. Students in this seminar will have an opportunity to compete in a regional competition.

Spartan TV

This seminar is an extension of the 6th grade seminar; however, prior participation is not required. As part of the Spartan TV crew, students will learn an awareness of different types of media and be responsible for brainstorming and pitching ideas, researching, writing scripts, organizing, editing, and producing multiple segments to be shown to a school-wide audience. Students will create commercials and promotions for upcoming events at *The Lake*. Students may choose to be in front of the camera, behind the scenes, or both! Provided that space is available, students may choose to take this course both semesters, with the expectation that they will take on a leadership role in the studio their second semester.

STEM

This student-driven seminar will encompass the curricula of all STEM subjects, with a focus on engineering and design. Class sessions will include discussion of recent science related headlines, often through TED talks and scholarly websites. Students will complete design challenges including but not limited to Obstacle Design Competitions for well-known television programs. Students will also participate in the annual DCIU Stem Design Challenge. Each student will choose a STEM mini-lab to research and complete. Students will also identify an area of interest to them to research and present to the class in a form of their choosing. Activities will sometimes be done individually, but often completed in small collaborative groups. Students will have the opportunity to explore all topics of science, technology, engineering and mathematics in a classroom setting that is both flexible and accommodating.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Content Math:

This course makes use of Math 180 and is designed for students who need additional support in mathematics. Math 180's flexible instructional model maximizes classroom time, with clear organization for whole-class instruction, group/partner work, and individualized/differentiated independent learning using personalized online software. Students take the online Math Inventory, which allows teachers to group students based on specific strengths and needs. Math 180 helps meet each student's unique educational goals. The online resources track student progress and identify ongoing areas of strength and areas of need. The software allows students to move at their own pace, while also receiving individualized, targeted instruction from the teacher. The student's IEP team determines entrance into this class, and the curriculum is modified and/or adapted to meet the needs identified in each student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

Content Language Arts:

This course is designed for students who need additional support in the areas of reading comprehension and written expression. Students are instructed using the same standards as their grade level peers through the implementation of scientifically-research based programs. However, the class pace moves at a slower rate to allow students the time needed to attain a thorough understanding of the content. The student's IEP team determines entrance into this class, and the curriculum is modified and/or adapted to meet the needs identified in each student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

Resource Room:

Resource room occurs during the Core Extension period at least two days out of the seven-day cycle. Students participate in academic goal setting, progress monitoring, and self-management activities with an emphasis on improving their executive functioning skills. Activities are designed to allow students to practice/apply their skills in the areas of time management, work-completion, organization, and self-advocacy. The student's IEP team determines entrance into this class, and the curriculum is modified and/or adapted to meet the needs identified in each student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

Life Skills:

The Life Skills program helps students become functioning members of their communities to the fullest extent possible through a blend of functional academics and life skills. Topics include: self-assessment relating to others, careers, employment, consumerism, money management, housing, food, clothing choices and care. There is special emphasis on using the community as a classroom. This course gives the type of knowledge needed by everyone for everyday living. The student's IEP team determines entrance into this class and the curriculum is modified and/or adapted to meet the needs identified in each student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT (ELD) PROGRAM

Course Code: 529E

English Language Development

The English Language Development Program facilitates the acquisition of English language skills for students whose native language is not English or for students that need support developing their English language proficiency. Planned instruction includes listening, speaking, reading and writing at different levels of proficiency. The K-12 English Language Development (ELD) curriculum is standards-based, data-driven, adapted to meet the needs of individual students, and incorporates a variety of developmentally appropriate instructional materials based on researched-based best practices. English learners (ELs) are provided appropriate support to develop their social and academic language in order to effectively communicate information, ideas and concepts proficiently in English.

READING

Course Code: 616, 617, & 618 6, 7, 8th Grade Reading Lab

This class provides interventions for students who are performing below grade level in reading. Instruction and strategies in reading comprehension, reading fluency, vocabulary, spelling, and decoding are provided for students who need additional practice to perform at grade level. Identified students will also work with a scientifically research-based program that will directly address individual needs through differentiated instruction, adaptive instructional software, high-interest literature, and direct instruction in all of the areas noted above. Students will be evaluated at the beginning of the year and at the end of each marking period to monitor their progress in the program and to determine if any adjustments need to be made to their current instruction. Data from these evaluations will be used to determine which intervention program best serves each student's individual needs. Entrance into this class is determined by teacher recommendation and assessment data.